

ENGLISH SKI COUNCIL LTD

(t/a SNOWSPORT ENGLAND)

Minutes of a Board Meeting held on Friday 18th January 2008 at 7pm
by conference call

Present: Stewart Smith Chairman
 David Hart Director
 Nigel Matthews Director
 Barry Spouge Director

 Tim Fawke Head of Operations & Development
 Peter Heath Company Secretary

Apologies: Peter Stratton

604 Nick Parr

Stewart reported that Nick Parr had resigned as Director due to pressure of other work, though he would still be available to offer advice on disability issues, if required. Stewart to write a letter of thanks on behalf of the Board.

ACTION SS

605 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th November 2007 were confirmed as a true and accurate record thereof and will be signed by the Chairman as soon as possible.

606 Matters Arising – not on agenda

Development Plan – SS to speak to KCLs re progress

ACTION SS

Clubmark/Snomark – Kendal has passed subject to 1 referral – awaiting reply from Kendal. Norfolk has passed, subject to 2008 affiliation – to be completed next week. TF to write article for The Piste

ACTION TF

Facilities – Stewart to write a document, but has spoken to Alan Jones.

ACTION SS

ESSkia – Tim and Tony Archbold have met – seeking ways of working more closely with ESSkiA to bring more schools into skiing. Ongoing.

607 Head of Operations Report – to be circulated

TASS – discussed with Mark Simmers – arrangements the same for next year.

HSBC – Tim & Ian had a positive meeting with the new relationship manager – HSBC to review online charges and discuss with their IT dept how we can distinguish between payment by credit or debit card at the time of payment so that we can apply the relevant charge. Awaiting response from HSBC.

Chill Factore corporate event – planned for Thurs evening 5th June in partnership with SSGB to raise money for the Alpine teams. Ongoing meetings with Mark Simmers. Peter Stratton to be invited to next meeting.

ACTION TF

* inserted into the minute book for record purposes.

Staffing – interviews to be held on 21st Jan for part time admin assistant. Currently a six week backlog on dealing with renewals (database updated ok, but delay in sending out paperwork).

Website – all staff now trained to update the web site. Modifications in hand to make the home page more attractive.

Bingo Lotto – to be launched end of February. Details to go on web site.

608

Strategic Matters

a) UK Coaching Award Scheme

Coaching Technical Panel meeting held 15th Dec, then HN meeting in Edinburgh on 17th Dec. Documentation authors have been identified & tasks allocated – Chris Exall, Robin Kellen, Tim, & others. Need a working group to ensure that the English launch goes ahead as planned. Kenny King (National Development Manager) is now the main contact in Snowsport Scotland – being briefed by Chris on the detail. Draft documentation to be circulated for comment when complete.

Governance – aiming to have the scheme run by the HNs initially; with the formation of a separate coaching association to follow – perhaps after a year. Agreed that the launch of the technical content is the priority for this May. Planning separate launches in each HN over a weekend, inviting all coaching scheme members to attend. – perhaps at Braehead, Castleford & Milton Keynes. These to be followed by a roadshow to regions & clubs. David to discuss with Tim how he can help with this. Tim to discuss the launch at the next HN meeting (conference call).

ACTION TF

b) CCPR funding A grant has been offered and accepted for Regional Development & Communications. Stewart to circulate a copy of the detailed application which is the basis for the grant.

The second application (to support club instructor initiation) was not approved.

ACTION SS

c) Database Development

Concentrix to demonstrate their system at Halesowen on 25th Jan. Their hosting & backup proposal seems more than required and very expensive, but there are other hosting options. Tim has information on an alternative web-based database system – will send details to Stewart. Need to make a decision at next Board meeting regarding the CCPR grant to be spent by end March.

d) Sponsorship and Marketing

Next issue of The Piste almost ready. Barry in discussion with a car manufacturer. Inghams have accepted ASC's proposals on spending their sponsorship money. Inghams have also approved the design of the new race bibs – hoping to have them available in time for the Alpine Championships.

609

Finance

The accounts and finance report to 31st November have been circulated to the Board. The 2007 year end forecast balance sheet figures have been used as the start point for the 2008 budget.

These, together with improvements in the 2008 budget achieved by the Finance Group, suggest that the reserves at the end of 2008 could be over the minimum specified by the Board at the last meeting. A more accurate forecast will be possible when the December accounts are available. Thanks to Clive, Ian and the members of the finance group for their work on producing the budget.

Alpine Championships 2008 – Due to the change of date and venue, the 2008 budget includes a cautious estimate of entry income. As at today, income is already over this with two weeks to go before the closing date.

Late and incomplete registrations/renewals have been a major issue this winter, causing the office staff and race secretaries a lot of extra work trying to ensure that all entrants are properly registered – one of the issues being the £5 BASS fee, which many fail to pay. There is a need for a much simpler payment structure for 2009.

610 Key Committees

Minutes of recent meetings have been circulated to Board members

a) Alpine

Alpine Championships - Stewart updated the Board on the situation regarding the two allegations of malpractice. Discussions are ongoing.

b) Schools

First meeting with Martin Tomlinson as Chairman scheduled for 9th February. Tim has been invited to the meeting, but cannot attend (in Bormio). Nigel also away. Stewart hopes to attend and asked to be copied in on any schools committee related papers.

ACTION NM

b) Coaching

Nigel has run 3 ASCL courses using the new material – well received. New logbook pages currently being printed.
Coaching Scheme Conference 2008. Venue to be booked provisionally for Saturday 20th September, on condition that it can be cancelled without cost. However, the conference may be replaced by other activities to promote the new UK Coaching Scheme.

ACTION NM

611 Sport England

Tim has replied to a Sport England strategy questionnaire – we await their decision on whether skiing will become a priority sport in future. In the meantime, we should continue to fulfil their requirements/criteria where possible. Movement to regional funding appears to have been suspended in view of the increasing national requirement to support the 2012 Olympics.

612 Snowsport GB

A partnership deal has been agreed with Land Rover to provide a fleet of Range Rover and Discovery vehicles for the British ski and snowboard teams.

Concern was expressed that no Board minutes/reports have been published since April 2006, or Alpine Exec minutes since Nov 2006 – this will possibly be resolved when their new web site is launched.

613 **AOB**

Letter going out to all Directors and Key Committee Leaders asking them to confirm by Monday 25th February whether they are willing to stand for re-election at the AGM on 17th May.

There will be an article in the next issue of The Piste inviting anyone interested in becoming a Director to make sure their nominations are submitted, or to contact Stewart initially for more information. This should also be placed on the web site.

It was noted that Nigel has served 8 consecutive years and is not eligible for re-election unless decided otherwise by ordinary resolution at the AGM. Agreed that the Board would only propose this if by the closing date for nominations there were insufficient nominations to fill the available places.

614 **Next Meetings**

Wednesday 27th February – conference call - provisional
Saturday 19th April – Rugby area – provisional – important pre-AGM

Peter to seek confirmation of members' attendance on these dates.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 2030.