

# ENGLISH SKI COUNCIL LTD

(t/a SNOWSPORT ENGLAND)

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## Minutes of a Board Meeting held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2012 at 2pm at SportPark, Loughborough

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Present:	Jeremy Eaton	Director – in the Chair
	Jemima Barnes	Director
	Karen Richardson	Director
	Andrea Grant	Alpine Committee Leader
	Tim Fawke	Chief Executive
	Peter Heath	Company Secretary
By telephone	Dan Hardie	Director
	Muriel Ryding	Alpine Team Manager
Apologies:	Jennifer Denning	
	Nigel Matthews	

### 932 **Agenda**

#### England Alpine Team

1. Update of info received in Bormio and reason for seeking views of parents
2. Review of feedback received
3. Discuss actions required immediately
4. Review options for 2012-13
5. Actions for 2012-13

### 933 **Team Update**

Following the discussion at the last Board meeting (minute 927), Tim sought the views of a number of Team parents at Bormio on the Team programme – camps, admin, logistics etc. This was followed by an online questionnaire to all Team parents asking for some 20 elements of the current programme to be rated and seeking their views on what improvements/changes they would like to see for the future.

### 934 **Review of Feedback**

The following were circulated to the Board before the meeting:

- An analysis of the ratings responses
- Detailed responses from a number of parents
- Reports from Team Coaches - Chris Park and Jo Ryding
- Proposal – SSE Talent Pathway – submitted by Muriel Ryding & Karen Richardson

Written comments on the papers were received from Jennifer.

The main themes of the feedback were:

- Very limited communication with parents and with athletes between camps
- More admin/marketing support required to allow coaches to concentrate on coaching
- Younger team athletes have different coaching requirements & expectations and may need a different approach, separate coaching etc. This may change next season as the minimum age for FIS racing goes up by one year.

**Review Options for 2012-13**

The Board acknowledged that, as the National Governing Body, SSE has a fundamental responsibility to establish and support a pathway for English athletes which leads to British Team selection. Intervention 3 of the current Sport England grant programme provides funding to facilitate this.

Various options were discussed - including:

- Select only the best English athletes and concentrate on providing a high quality strengthening and conditioning programme and a speed camp, allowing athletes to train independently outside this programme or together perhaps with an academy.
- Pre-select a team in April, confirming selection only after achieving agreed standards at fitness and strengthening camps
- Negotiate with Scotland and Wales to provide joint development and elite programmes
- Maintain a similar programme to this season's, but with extra support.
- Broaden the current selection criteria, perhaps including coaches' recommendations.
- Provide a home-based training programme for U16 age category athletes with joint fitness/strengthening camps.
- Base a team training programme at one of the existing academies.
- Concentrate on putting a quality programme in place for 2013/14

With team selection for next season due in April, the Board accepted that it would not be practicable to devise an adequate programme and support structure before the selection process and that an interim solution would be required for the 2012/13 season.

With no new athletes moving into the FIS age groups next season and a number of current team athletes indicating that they would be unlikely to follow a 2012/13 England Team programme, the Board questioned the viability of an England Junior Team programme using the current selection criteria. For a cost-effective full training and racing programme, a committed group of 16-18 athletes is required.

Concern was expressed that, if there were no England Team programme for the 2012/13 season, it could seriously undermine what we have been striving to achieve over a number of years and make it harder to convince Sport England that we are serious about providing a talent pathway for English athletes.

It was noted that the SSE Talent Pathway proposal includes a draft job description for a England Alpine Head Coach who would be pivotal to the development and implementation of the SSE Alpine Talent Pathway.

The Board agreed the following proposal:

Year 1 2012/13

- Broaden the selection criteria and seek out those with potential and commitment
- Extend programme options to allow athletes more flexibility to fit training around their educational commitments
- Provide foundation training – indoor snow fitness, skills for U16 athletes
- Consider including U16 athletes on summer/autumn training camps.

Year 2 2013/14

- Discuss with the other Home Nations the possibility of running a joint alpine team development programme

**936**      **Discuss actions required immediately**

Tim to discuss the Board's proposals with Chris Park next week and ask if he is willing to commit to the Year 1 proposal and attract sufficient athletes to make the team programme financially viable.

Chris to be asked what additional support he needs to enable him to deliver the programme

Following Muriel's request at the December Board meeting for a replacement Team Manager to be appointed in the near future, Karen's husband, Dave Richardson has volunteered to help Muriel with the management of the team and, with her support and guidance, to take over progressively as Team Manager.  
Dave's offer was gratefully accepted by the Board.

**937**      **Actions for 2012-13**

To be agreed when the outcome of next week's meeting with Chris is known.

**938**      **Note**

Although Dan and Muriel are listed as attending the meeting by telephone, there were significant technical problems which meant that they missed some parts of the meeting.

**939**      **Next Meetings**

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May at Chill Factore  
AGM – 26<sup>th</sup> May at SportPark, Loughborough

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 4.00pm.