

SNOWSPORT ENGLAND

ARC Meeting

Sunday 2nd June 2013

SportPark, Loughborough



Present:

Lloyd Jenkins (LJ) - Chair
Taryn Archbold (TA) – Coaches' Liaison Officer
Tim Fawke (TF) – CEO, SSE
Darren Fellows (DFe) – Communications Rep
Ian Findlay (IF) – Talent Pathway Officer, SSE
Dermot Flahive (DFI) – Chair ROTP
Peter Heath (PH) – Finance
David Manns (DM) – Chair STP
Mary Calvert (MC) – Secretary

Minutes:

1. Apologies were received from:

Jemima Barnes – England Team Manager
Jeremy Eaton – Interim Chair, SSE
Charlotte Gould – Racers' Rep
Andrea Grant
John Harrington – Schools' Rep
Steve Lambert – Regional Rep

2. Conflict of Interest Declaration

All those committee members present confirmed there were no changes to their conflict of interest declarations.

3. Minutes of Previous meeting – 3 March 2013

These had been confirmed by the chair and committee as accurate when published in March.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 TF reported that the race at the Gloucester Ski Slope had run smoothly and it was felt that future races could go ahead as planned. It was accepted that sponsors would regrettably not be able to be present at the events.

4.2 There is a plan for 2 course setters courses to take place – one in the north and one in the south. The current course setters list is published on www.gbski.com (on the info page). There is also a copy of the course setter policy 2008/9 on the rules page of this website. TA will be reviewing both the policy and the list with a view to publishing a revised list for use next season.

Action: TA to look into courses and review policy and list

4.3 IF reported that the England squads would be published next week.

4.4 TF reported that the SSE Board were looking at fund raising generally as well as specifically for Alpine. Some funding was being gained through the Skiers' Trust and Karen Conde was talking to Richard Berry about this. SSE were working with BSS and the Talent Pathway.

5. Financial Update - Peter Heath

PH presented the Alpine accounts for 2012 and the first quarter of 2013 (which cover the period until after the Championships in Bormio).

In 2012, there was a shortfall of £404. For 2013, it is already £3800. This is primarily due to the deficit of £2570 on the Alpine Championships compared with the budgeted surplus of £2740. The budgeting for these had not taken into account the effect which the changes in age groups would have on the number of races individuals were entering. Although the total number of racers participating increased, the income from entries fell.

PH explained the allocation of overheads to each event. This is made to cover the deficit between income from membership fees and the Alpine Committee's contribution to Head Office costs plus insurance premiums, online bank charges, committee expenses etc. The total deficit is divided by the number of event days in the year, then allocated to all events pro rata. For 2012, this daily charge was £509 (£15787 deficit/31 event days). The budgeted daily charge for 2013 is £373 per event day (£11931 deficit/32 days).

For some years, there has been an extra £1 levy on the entry fee for all English races which has gone towards funding the Alpine Squad Programme. This has raised approximately £3000 per year. Following the Board's decision not to provide a 2012/13 winter training programme for the Squad, it was proposed last November that this levy be reallocated to support much needed training of race officials. It was felt by the committee that this change would not be appropriate and that the levy should continue to be used for the Alpine Squad Programme via the Talented Athlete Pathway. IF and TF are responsible for "squad" budgets made up of two parts; the first from Grant money and the second as part of the SSE budget. It is the latter that the £1 race levy income will be added to.

Action: PH to arrange appropriate transfer of the £1 race entry levy

6. Feedback from Coaches' meeting at British Championships in Meribel April 2013 – Taryn Archbold/Ian Findlay

TA and IF were both at this meeting which was originally called to discuss the children's team and had 36 attendees. Unfortunately, the minutes published following the meeting were inaccurate and clarification on some points needs to be made.

Coaches' Reps attend the BSS meeting (Benn Hall and Finlay Mickel) and there is representation on the National Championships organising committee. These processes (which the minutes indicated were being proposed) are therefore already in place.

The coaches unanimously agreed that the U10/U12 races should involve 3 runs with the best to count.

The minutes of the meeting reported that there should be no restriction on clothing for U10/U12 racers. However, at the meeting it was agreed that U10 racers should not be allowed to wear catsuits but that for U12 racers there should be no restriction – although a final decision could be made at the Team Captains' meeting dependant on the weather conditions.

Action: LJ would report this to the BSS Alpine Committee and report back to ARC

Regarding the use of Stubbies, variation was to be encouraged especially in the U14 events. They should not just be one race of 2 runs of Stubbies. There were suggestions that a race could be mixed with 1 x run of Stubbies and 1 x run with 25 mm pro slalom gates. Alternatively, a Stubbies race could be added as an additional discipline as well as a full gate slalom race. U14's could have Stubbies at selected races in the British calendar and full gates at others for variation. If Stubbies slalom was successful, it could be introduced in the U12 category to run in addition to GS Stubbies.

The terrain being used for the races needs to be discussed by the organising committee early on. This would avoid some problems at the Team Captains' meeting.

The U14 and U16 races need, if possible, to be on separate courses for Slalom and GS to enable the difficulty levels to progress. In races with small entries, this might create problems with seeding.

The minutes indicate that the Children's Team selection was agreed. There was some agreement but it was not unanimous and there was no conclusion. For the BSS U16 selection, 38 racers were put forward at stage A. 10 of these have gone forward to stage B (5 racers were injured and 23 racers were not selected.) There had been some misunderstanding of the stages by the athletes and it was felt that better communication was needed. The minutes also stated that there was agreement that there was no need for Children's Teams as such. However, this was very much still under discussion. Overall, the coaches' meeting was felt to be a good idea at main championship events. TA has started a SSE Alpine Coaches Facebook Group.

7. Feedback from TD Forum meeting May 18 - David Manns

DM reported that there are some rule changes in the pipeline which will be announced at the FIS Council Conference. There will be new regulations for helmets (and they will need to have the appropriate mark on them to show compliance). Any modifications to helmets, such as stickers or helmet cams, will render their warrantee invalid. This will also apply to faceguards where the fixing points have not been created in the factory. The full details will be laid out in the FIS precisions. Manufacturers have guaranteed they can meet the demand for all FIS registered racers.

Ski lengths with the official radius are now needed to have been marked on the top of the skis by the manufacturers. Skis will be inspected at the start of all FIS races.

8. Interim Review of 2013 Summer Race Season (including an overview of a planned review of race structure and formats) - Dermot Flahive

DFI reported that entries were slightly down this year so far. A working group of Lloyd Jenkins, Robin Kellen, Alan Bullock, Dermot Flahive and David Manns had been set up to look into this. They are to conduct a survey of racers, coaches, parents and other interested parties to canvass opinion and hopefully instigate changes which might improve the entry levels. The survey will be available on the SSE website and also be sent out via SSE. The SSE Board were aware of the situation. TF asked that IF be involved to link with the Talented Athlete Pathway. He suggested that other disciplines might also contribute.

DFI reported that the BASS races at Landgraaf had been a success with 99 entries (including 14 from Belgian racers). There was discussion at the event on the possibility of setting up a "Lowland" Championship with Belgium and the Netherlands in the autumn at Peer, Belgium.

Action: DFI to report back to ARC in August with the results of the racing survey

9. GB U14 Alpine Team Nominations – Lloyd Jenkins

At Meribel it was announced that the U14 teams were to be selected by the Home Nations. However, the Home Nations have no guidelines and none were given by BSS. IF confirmed that the nominated athletes would hear by 3rd June but that the next part of the process was not yet in place. IF also confirmed that the U18/21 athletes would be announced after the fitness test at the end of June. This fitness test was not the same as that described by the BSS but SSE were working towards alignment.

Action: IF to keep ARC in the loop re selections and selection policy

10. Race Officials' Training – Dermot Flahive

DFI reported that there had been two level 1 courses recently – one in Manchester run by Alan Bullock and one at Sunderland run by Piet Van Kempem. Further level 1 courses had been requested by Lions and Ski Milton Keynes.

The level 2 course at Gloucester was cancelled as there were only 2 applicants. A level 2 course was held at Loughborough on 1st June for BUSC and had 8 participants.

DFI stressed the urgent need to increase the pool of level 2 qualified officials.

11. Relationship between Lions Indoor Race Series and National Calendar Racing – David Manns

Graham Beck had spoken with DM and asked him to look at the possibility of integrating the seeding systems for the Lions Indoor Race Series and National Calendar racing. There are two general areas that need to be considered for this to be possible – parity of seed points between the two systems and TD's. TF was keen for these races to be included in the SSE system and for a root to their integration to be found. It was suggested that it may be that separate seed lists for indoor and outdoor artificial surfaces needs to be considered. PH queried whether this was really necessary.

Action: LJ to liaise with Graham Beck to discuss the options

12. Homologation of artificial slopes (new and existing) – David Manns

DM said that he was looking at the homologation rule for slopes – particularly with regard to safety. He was also looking at the status regarding inspections. He would present his findings at the TD forum in November and envisaged that a small group would be set up to relook at all slopes.

Action: DM to keep ARC informed of the situation

13. CN racer levy – Darren Fellows

This had already been covered in the financial report.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 DFe suggested that rather than charging late entry fees for races, a reduction be offered for early booking. He felt the process would feel less negative. DFI agreed to include this in the overall race entry review – but felt that the increase in the nominal entry fee needed to provide a discount could be considered equally negative.

14.2 TF asked everyone to publicise the SSE AGM on Saturday 29 June. He reported that SSE would be carrying out a membership survey soon. It is being put together by TF and Bryan Thomas and will go out to all individual members and a slightly different version to clubs. There is a clubs and facilities conference next week with 80 attendees from ~40 clubs. He would mention the racing survey there. He asked members to help promote the David Ryding master classes to be held on Wed/Thurs 19/20 June at Pendle and Stoke.

14.3 TF reported that SSE are looking at replacements for their current database and have looked at 4 options already. The new system will do registrations, affiliations and courses as well as allowing specific groups to be identified more easily and communicated with. It needs to have the ability to link to a race entry system or provide a new race entry system but this would be in a 2nd phase of development.

14.4 TF reported that there had been a proposal from the SSE board to create a pathway to encourage transition from artificial surfaces to snow. As a part of this, it had been proposed that the English Artificial Squad would no longer exist – but that, if a team was needed, a squad would be selected at the event. The meeting as a whole strongly disagreed with this principle. They felt that the Squad had a place in its current form. Its members took pride in being a part of the Squad and there were races where a team was needed.

TF reported that the Board had felt that there needed to be positive encouragement for Artificial Championship winners to progress to the Alpine Championships – such as waiving of entry fees for the age group winners. The meeting felt that this was too late a point in an athlete's career to expect a progression. Incentives and encouragement needed to happen much earlier.

PH had concerns about the SSE Board dominating a decision which should be made by ARC.

Action: LJ to respond to the SSE Board, setting out ARC's views and proposing a way forward.

DFe proposed that the current criteria for the English Artificial Squad be maintained and stressed that these criteria need to be announced.

Action: LJ to look into this

14.5 DM reported that there was to be a National Referee Qualification. This would enable coaches to progress to being TDs. BASI had asked for this recognition. It was envisaged that it would involve attending a TD update seminar and being a referee at three events – one of which should be on outdoor snow.

Action: DM would provide further details of this

14.6 DM reported that the results of the Club National races at Milton Keynes had been questioned. There was an objection that both runs had been used for seeding despite both being on the same course. A sub group of the TD forum had looked into the situation and it was decided that the second race would NOT be used for seeding. (The combined times were still to be used for the CN Series Team results.)

Action: the TD Forum would be making a public announcement in the next few days

14.6 DM reported that he was developing a system to do race results more easily and more comprehensively - in a similar way to FIS. He had also talked with Adrian Perry about including Telemark in the system.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Sunday 18 August at 1pm at SportPark, Loughborough.