

SNOWSPORT ENGLAND

ARC Meeting

19:00 Wednesday 7 May, 2014

Teleconference



Present:

Lloyd Jenkins (LJ) – Chair
Jeremy Eaton (JE) – Chair, SSE
Ian Findlay (IF) – Talent Pathway Officer, SSE
Dermot Flahive (DF) – Chair, ROTP
Peter Heath (PH) – Finance
Mary Calvert (MC) – Secretary
Taryn Archbold (TA) – Coaches' Liaison Officer
Tim Fawke (TF) – CEO, SSE
David Manns (DM) – Chair, STP
Andrea Grant (AG)

Minutes:

1. Apologies were received from:

- Steve Lambert – Regional Rep
- John Harrington has advised that he is standing down from ARC. A new ESSKIA rep will be invited to sit on ARC.

Action: LJ will discuss ESSKIA rep with JE

2. Conflict of Interest Declaration

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

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting – 12 January 2014

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

4. Matters Arising

4.1 TA has reviewed the Course Setters policy with regard to changes in terminology of races and coaching levels. LJ will send an updated Course Setters List to TA.

Action: LJ to send TA updated Course Setters List

A Course Setters Course was held at Aldershot on April 6 with 12 attendees. Two of these have now set at regional/club national level. An Indoor Snow Course is still needed.

4.2 There are no scheduled races at Milton Keynes this year because of the high charges at the slope.

Action: TF to talk to Milton Keynes

5. Financial Update

PH reported that the January 2014 figures were based on the September 2013 accounts. There are no formal December accounts yet as they are with the auditors. The draft figures show an Alpine surplus of £398 against a budget surplus of £362. Some of the Bormio figures are yet to come in (cash spend and some credit card payments). TF reported that the overall surplus was likely to be £5 – 7 K.

Over £147K has been collected through the race entry system to date for this year's races. This includes fees for the BARSC, British and Scottish Championships.

The 2014 budget has now been approved and shows a small surplus. The figures to the end of March will be available shortly.

6. England Alpine Squad Selection 2014

All U16/U14 athletes have been written to re selection. They have been invited to an ACE (athletic capacity evaluation) camp at Reading on 17 May. The final squad will be announced after this has been completed – IF expects most athletes to pass the evaluation. (The BSS squad will be doing the test on the same day but their selection criteria are unclear.)

The U18/U21 athletes will be written to by 11 May and their selection will be by the same process. Their ACE camp will take place on the weekend of 28/29 June (venue tbc).

7. Artificial Races to date

DF reported that there was a full calendar this season. The entries for the Telford CN at Manchester were down by 20% although those for the Manchester CN the next day were the same as 2013. Entries for the outdoor weekend at Pendle were also down (CN 10%, GBR 30%). He pointed out that the CN clashed with the Kings Finals. Numbers for Pontypool on 18/19 May are expected to be >10% down. The race at Silksworth was cancelled last year and this year lower numbers than Pendle are expected. However, the slope costs are favourable.

He considered that his concerns were being born out and he questioned the viability of running small events. He said that the number of GBR outdoor races in 2015 will have to be reduced if numbers continue to fall.

However, grass roots skiing appears to be thriving. LJ reported that ERSA ran a schools race at Ipswich with 280 entries and NWSA had a similar event. There was some concern that clubs were not converting schools entries to CN entries.

MC reported that SRSA have had a significant increase in entry numbers this year. It is hoped that the Southampton weekend at the end of July with a regional race on the Saturday followed by a CN on the Sunday might encourage some new racers into the CN.

Landgraaf entries were also up this year (20%) – although there were no foreign entries as they were competing elsewhere. There were no seniors and few U18/U21. It was suggested that the event be run as BARTS rather than BASS in the future.

A further survey of the racing community may be needed regarding CN/GBR races. TF thought this might be better achieved by going to events rather than another Survey Monkey request. JE emphasised the need to embrace the new wave of racers coming through the schools and regional races. It is important to find out what the barriers are to entry and what would make the races more attractive.

Action: DF to discuss the matter at ROTP

8. Training Review

The TD forum has raised the issue of level 2 officials training courses. They want these to be taken over by a subcommittee of the TD forum. The meeting considered that these courses should continue to have ARC as their principal provider.

LJ felt that the course should return to a 2 day format and cover both snow and artificial surfaces. BARSC and other relevant groups should be canvassed for their views. Other Home Nations should be involved. There was also a need to update the Calcs Course.

TF emphasised the need to get the right balance between course time and experience. He stressed that more new officials were needed and volunteering was to be encouraged.

JE pointed out the need to continue engagement after the training courses. Level 1 courses can be more easily accessed but there was a need for a pathway to be put into place following on from these.

He favours an online approach but appreciates that not everyone agrees with this. He suggested it might be trialled.

LJ asked DF to discuss the matter at the next ROTP meeting and report back before the next board meeting.

PH confirmed that the next TD forum had the relevant items on the agenda. DM was asked to put ARC's view forward that ARC should remain the major stakeholder in officials' training.

**Action: DF to report ROTP discussion to LJ
DM to put ARC's views to TD Forum**

9. Any Other Business

9.1 DF raised the possibility of a Lowland Indoor Championship being held. He had discussed this with the Belgians and, to a lesser extent, the Dutch. The Belgians are keen to host an initial race – and a 2 day event over the weekend of 20/21 September has been proposed. The proposed venue is Snow Valley which has a 235 m slope with very good snow conditions reported. This would clash with the ESSKIA regional races but no national races. The entry limit would be 300 – probably 100 each for Belgium, the Netherlands and GB. There is a possibility that Luxembourg would also be interested – but they would only have 20 racers. So far, GB discussions have only been held with SSE – although DF knows that BARSC would also like to be involved.

The Belgians are developing literature for the event and it should be available at the end of this week. They would be inviting their best racers and then advertising the event to others if there were spaces left. SSE would probably advertise their places on a first come first served basis although TF suggested a 100 seed point cut off. There are 2 potential issues with the U10/U12 age groups. The other countries race these groups through full poles and allow them to wear catsuits. The SSE view would be that U10/U12 racers shouldn't be included.

TF was very supportive of the event. JE asked if, when it was GB's turn to host, GBR or the Home Nations or SSE on its own would be the host. He emphasised that the event was more likely to be supported if it was seen as a championship that was to be held every year. LJ said discussions would need to take place with SSW and SSS. He suggested the venue would be Chill Factore and that he would discuss this with Belgium and the Netherlands this year.

DF wants SSE to host in 2015. He said that the Dutch and Belgians would be fielding their strongest racers and that we needed to do the same – and needed to encourage Wales and Scotland to enter their squad racers. LJ said the target for this year's race would be to have all the Home Nation and BSS squads entered

LJ will liaise with BSS to keep them in the picture.

**Action: DF/LJ to discuss with Belgium
LJ to liaise with BSS**

9.2 TF reported an issue with the U10/U12 races at Pendle. The best two runs of three were counted instead of the best one. PH commented that this rule was omitted from the BACR/BCR rules. DM confirmed this and said that an updated invitation for Club Nationals had been issued – but only recently. LJ will issue an update to the February Race Bulletin covering this. DM will ensure that all TDs are aware of the rule at the TD forum next week.

**Action: LJ to issue update to Race Bulletin
DM to ensure TDs are aware of U10/U12 race format**

9.3 TF had met with Chill Factore and they want to agree a programme over the next three years (ie towards the next Olympics). This may allow a discounted or fixed rate to be achieved. DF felt that Castleford, Milton Keynes and Hemel should also be considered before any agreement was made. He feels that it is important for there to be some events in the south each year.

Action: DF to canvas opinion from ROTP

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 25 June 2014 at 19:00 by teleconference.