

# SNOWSPORT ENGLAND



## Alpine Events Committee Meeting

13:00 Sunday 6 December 2015

Sportpark, Loughborough

### Present:

Lloyd Jenkins – Chair (LJ)

Bryan Thomas (BT)

Mary Calvert (MC)

Dermot Flahive (DF)

Mike Frith (MF)

Andrea Grant (AG)

Paul Lawrence (PL)

Jo Ryding (JR)

### 1. Apologies:

Karen Conde (KC)

**Please note: the attached appendices are an integral part of the minutes.**

2. The minutes of the meeting on 25 October 2015 had been approved and published. It was noted that, for personal reasons, Nick Ogden and Steve Lambert had resigned from the Alpine Events Committee. It was agreed that, although in the future it may be necessary to appoint a second regional representative, for the time being PL would lead on this.

### 3. Code of Conduct

BT reported that the current code of conduct used by SSE (which is based on that used by BSS) was being reviewed particularly in relation to confidentiality, clause 2.5 and would be re-issued. Everyone on the committee except JR had previously signed up to the code of conduct and she agreed to sign up to it.

### 4. Finance

BT reported that he had reviewed the alpine budget with LJ. Entry fees are to increase by £1 (outdoor £22, indoor £29), the CN levy to increase from £4.70 to £5, team entry fees and those for the All England to remain unchanged. BT emphasised that the Bormio budget should show an excess of at least £5K. AG stated that the flight costs had been higher this year and that there were still some adjustments to be made.

**Action: MC to circulate latest budget statements to all committee members**

BT confirmed that a capital budget for equipment had been set up of £5K. This was to be used for items such as easily portable PA systems. Consideration needed to be given to the logistics of having the equipment available at races spread around the country. Banners and flags would also be purchased by SSE centrally and be considered as consumable items.

### 5. Review of 2015 Season

LJ is to produce and circulate a summary of the 2015 season post the meeting. (He had previously circulated the raw data from 2015 which DM had provided.) Entry numbers were up in 2015 – particularly for indoor races. The All England entries were down. (The event had been held at Sunderland as it provided the most competitive bid and also allowed the Northeast to host a major event.) Only 3 regions (NW, CESA and Snowsport South) had entered the inter regional team event this year and concerns were expressed over its viability if entries do not increase in the 2016 season.

**Action: LJ to produce and circulate a summary of the 2015 season  
PL/DF to include the inter regional event in the**

## 6. Calendar 2016

The 2016 calendar has been set. The Landgraaf dates in May will stay as originally planned as the clubs who supported the event had not been keen on the proposed change (outlined in the previous minutes). Tania Barton had requested the change so that a skills quest could be held ahead of the racing. JR suggested that the skills quest be held on the Monday afternoon after the racing was completed. Coaches would need to be available to run this.

**Action: JR to liaise with Tania Barton re: a skills quest at the Landgraaf races in May**

DF asked whether the slope at Stoke was now homologated. LJ confirmed that David Manns had received some information advising that all necessary works were being progressed. He was just awaiting photographs for confirmation. Outdoor GBR 3 and the inter regional event are being held there in 2016.

There was confusion over the dates of the Yorkshire Championships and Club National as they seemed to appear twice on the calendar. The BARSC races were not yet listed.

**Action: MC to check with KC when the Yorkshire events and BARSC Indoor Championships were taking place**

It was being planned that all the trophies for the 2016 season could be purchased as one order.

**Action: AG/DF/KC to coordinate ordering of 2016 trophies**

## 7. Delivery of Events for Future Seasons

DF presented a report highlighting the areas for consideration in future seasons (appendix 1) – not everyone had seen this report before the meeting. He stressed the importance of making events more fun and generally raising the profile of the GBR Series. He suggested that, during the “free time” between runs (whilst waiting for protocol and start lists to be drawn), other activities could be scheduled. He emphasised that these activities should take place within the existing day and not extend it. It was recognised that extra volunteers would be needed to organise the activities.

For the 2016 season, DF proposed that a dual slalom team event be added to each of the GBR events. This would be for the top 48 racers (36 male and 12 female) entered in that event.

**Action: All to review DF's event delivery proposal and provide comments by 14 Dec  
DF to update his event delivery proposal for inclusion in these minutes**

LJ reported that, at the ASPC meeting, Alan Bullock had proposed an indoor team event be held – similar to that held at the BARSC Championships. The venue would need to be easily accessible and the event scheduled at a time when the academies could attend. University teams should also be targeted to enter (but SSE membership fees might be an issue for some of them).

**Action: LJ to speak to TF regarding reduced membership fees for university students  
MC to send DF a copy of Alan Bullock's proposal  
DF to discuss indoor team events with Michelle Quaile (BARSC)**

For 2017, it would be a requirement of submitting a bid for an event that the CoR and Race Secretary came from the club/region making the bid and were named at the time of the bid.

## 8. Review of Regional Structure Working Group

The working group of PL, DF and MF are looking at race activity within the regions and what factors affect whether regional racers progress to the national circuit. They would be sending out a questionnaire in early January to the regional chairs (as a follow on from the regional chairs meeting in November). This would cover a number of points including asking what events the racing community wanted.

PL proposed that regions be encouraged to hold Excel races in 2017. They should be offered help with the scheduling and running of these. MF proposed that an Excel race be held in the Northwest (possibly at Rossendale) in early 2017 as there is no seeded race scheduled in the Northwest in 2016.

**Action: Working Group to provide progress report on regional structure review for the next meeting**

## 9. Artificial Slope Squad

Tania Barton (TB) had sent a proposal to LJ (as chair of ASPC) prior to the last ASPC meeting concerning the future of the artificial slope squad. All ASPC committee members had been asked to comment and LJ then sent a reply to TB. (The proposal and response are in appendix 2.) LJ received a response from TB yesterday afternoon which he outlined to the meeting. He confirmed that, at the morning's ASPC meeting, all those present were still in agreement with the original response which had been sent to TB.

There were some concerns raised over the cost to the athletes of the proposed ACE camps. JR suggested that only one weekend may be needed.

LJ and BT would be replying to TB (via ASPC) and hoped to be able to issue a response to the athletes by Christmas. This would either be as an Alpine Racing Bulletin or as a link from it.

#### **10. Annual AEC Agenda/Calendar**

It was agreed that promotion of the summer events needed to be moved forward in the calendar plan.

**Action: MC to adjust Annual Agenda/Calendar and circulate to the committee (appendix 3)**

#### **11. Any Other Business**

##### **11.1 GBR Series Sponsorship**

Tim Fawke had forwarded to the committee a proposal from Ambition Racing to provide sponsorship of the GBR Series in 2016/17. Not everyone had seen this document prior to the meeting. Whilst welcoming the offer of sponsorship, the committee felt there were a number of points which needed discussion and clarification. It was agreed that all committee members would review the proposal and send their comments to LJ in the next week. He would then be able to respond to TF Ambition Racing.

**Action: MC to circulate Ambition Racing's proposal to all committee members  
All to send comments on Ambition Racing's proposal to LJ by 14 December  
LJ to respond to TF regarding Ambition's proposal**

**11.2** BT suggested that a session be held at the Alpine Championships in Bormio for parents to meet race officials and members of the SSE Board. The aim would be to encourage more parents to become involved in helping to organise events and training as officials without which it will be difficult to run such races.

**Action: BT to liaise with AG re: the possibility of a parents' session at Bormio**

**The date of the next meeting is Sunday 28 February 2016 at 13:00 at Sportpark Loughborough.**

## Actions

Action	Assigned to	Due Date
4. To circulate latest budget statements to all committee members	MC	complete
5. To produce and circulate a summary of the 2015 season	LJ	
5. To include the inter regional event in the questionnaire to be sent out to the regions	PL/DF	
6. To liaise with Tania Barton re: a skills quest at the Landgraaf races in May	JR	
6. To check with KC when the Yorkshire events and BARSC Indoor Championships were taking place.	MC	complete - both Yorkshire dates correct BARSC dates not yet known
6. To coordinate ordering of 2016 trophies	AG/DF/KC	
7. To review DF's event delivery proposal and provide comments	All	14 Dec
7. To update his event delivery proposal for inclusion in these minutes	DF	
7. To speak to TF regarding reduced membership fees for university students	LJ	
7. To send DF a copy of Alan Bullock's proposal	MC	complete
7. To discuss indoor team events with Michelle Quaile (BARSC)	DF	
8. To provide progress report on regional structure review for the next AEC meeting	PL/DF/MF	Next meeting
10. To adjust Annual Agenda/Calendar and circulate to the committee (appendix 3)	MC	complete
11.1 To circulate Ambition Racing's proposal to all committee members	MC	complete
11.1 To send comments on Ambition Racing's proposal to LJ	All	14 December
11.1 To respond to TF regarding Ambition's proposal	LJ	
11.2 To liaise with AG re: the possibility of a parents' session at Bormio	BT	

## **Appendix 1      Artificial Events Planning 2016**

### **Objectives**

Deliver events that are more attractive to competitors and parents.  
Offer more varied racing, better value for money.  
Raise the profile of GBR series.  
Make use of free time during the day.  
Offer better prizes.

### **Proposals**

Purchase a PA system that can be used at events, particularly at prize giving.  
Generate more atmosphere by increasing intervals as we approach the leading racers (top 15).  
Allow the commentator more time to generate more atmosphere rather than focusing solely on completing the runs in the shortest time.  
Allows gaps for commentators to summarize the results overall and age groups.  
Make better use of 'down time' during the day.  
Use 'down' time to entertain/inform the racers while we wait for prizegiving.  
Use guest commentators to add variety to the commentary.  
Go back to using commentator slips and get commentators to do some research on competitor's achievements/progress etc.  
Appoint an 'Event Co-ordinator' at all events – encourage Committee and Board members to take on this role.  
Aim to appoint the 'event Co-ordinator at the same time as Chief of Race and Race Secretary.  
Play music through the PA system to generate better atmosphere  
Use well known music to signal start of practice, course setting, inspection, event runs, prize giving etc

### **Event Format**

Offer an additional event (team dual slalom format) at each event.  
Limit the numbers that compete in these events – make them something that has to be achieved.  
Pre-allocate the teams based on series rankings from competitors that enter by acceptance date – use previous end of season rankings for first event – use series ranking points for subsequent events.  
Event will be straight knockout format with 8 teams of 6 (2 Females and 4 Males).  
Prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> at each event – no trophies.  
Look for series sponsor (Indoor/Outdoor) or have local sponsors for each event – approach on site or local shops/clubs/individuals.

### **Series Sponsorship and Promotion**

Work with Board to seek series/event sponsors  
Promote sponsors at events; display sponsor flags and promotional material – encourage sponsors to setup stands.  
Offer sponsors opportunities at events to promote their services and products.  
Seek material prizes from potential sponsors.  
Look at a wider range of sponsors not just equipment suppliers but don't ignore organisations/individuals who have supported us previously.

Prizes don't have to be expensive – Socks, Ski ties etc are fine  
Limit the use of vouchers

Consider multiple sponsors

- Different sponsors for Indoor and outdoor
- Different sponsors for Age Groups (split into U10/U12, U14/U16, U18 and above)

### **Better use of free time**

Organise lunchtime presentations on specific topics:

English Alpine Championships – Tim Fawke/David Manns

Welsh Alpine Championships – Robin Kellen

England Team – Gillian Poth / Jo Ryding

Ski Preparation – look for a volunteer

British Squad /Selection process – Lloyd Jenkins

Parents getting involved as officials – Alan Bullock

Fitness - Jo Ryding

Keep these presentations short and focused.

Have material to handout as appropriate

Flyers/handouts, wrist bands, Posters, Pens etc

Get a racer, parent, coach or organizer to contribute to presentations

The Event Co-ordinator will organize the presentations and liaise with the presenters.

Invite academies and other appropriate organisations to come and do a presentation.

We would charge a modest fee or maybe they could sponsor the dual event.

The sponsoring organisations would then be free to promote their services and products.

## **Appendix 2**

Proposal from TB

### **UK RACING SLOPE PROPOSAL 2016**

#### **England Dry Slope Ski Race Team**

First Uk slope race = 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016

Last Uk slope race = 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2016

**Criteria stage 1** - attached list of what this looks like but bit wrong as some snow athletes got OBarts points when the conversion was done .

U14 - Boys and Girls Under 120 points

U16 – Girls Under 40 points Boys Under 70 points

U18 – Girls Under 30 points Boys Under 50 points

U21 - Girls Under 10 points Boys Under 20 points

Seniors – Girls Under 15 points Boys Under 15 points

**Criteria stage 2** – We can complete this in the first two weeks of December

Dry slope skills quest – exactly the same as the alpine one

**Criteria stage 3** – We can complete this in the first two weeks of December

Ace test based on the Norwegian system of points.

Minimum pass level of accumulated points

#### **Criteria stage 4**

All U18 and above age groups must commit to helping at an event during 2016 i.e schools race etc by giving out prizes etc etc

All U21 must have completed a level 1 coaching course which will be partly refunded when completed – to be completed by October 2016

#### **Pathway events :**

GBR race series

Inter regional events

Then we need to create a dry slope event where England , Ireland , Scotland and Wales take part with their best athletes . Our squad athletes would need to commit to this event to qualify for their place on the team .

## Response from LJ on behalf of ASPC 24 November 2015

Having received Tania's outline proposal for the Artificial Squad in mid-October, we discussed and reviewed the proposal at the Strategy and Planning Committee at the end of October.

We discussed the objectives of the Artificial Squad and recognised that the race community who participate in the artificial races see the Artificial Squad as an important recognition of achievement for those selected to the squad. The committee also recognised that it would be appropriate to have some alignment with the approach taken for the SSE Alpine Squad.

The initial response to the proposal tabled by Tania was generally supportive with one major difference of opinion, that of the 'Criteria Stage 1'. All of those present at the meeting felt that it was unnecessary to have criteria for U14 and U16 athletes as the objective of selecting an Artificial Squad is to select our best athletes to the squad and enable teams to be selected from the squad to represent SSE at events where Home Nations teams compete in dual slalom events. There is no requirement to be inclusive of all age categories as we are simply seeking to enable the selection of our strongest team(s).

The Artificial Squads that have been selected over the years have primarily been made up of U18 and U21 athletes with a small number of Seniors and very few U16 athletes. This is not surprising as we are invariably selecting from those athletes with the lowest seedpoints. The previously stated criteria achieved this by setting out the following criteria:

Males: 50 BARTS race points or below scored from at least 3 events (carrying a minimum penalty of 5 or 0 points) within the race year

Females: 35 BARTS race points or below scored from at least 3 events (carrying a minimum penalty of 5 or 0 points) within the race year.

Typically, this provides all potential Squad members with the opportunity to achieve the required minimum 3 sets of points from a good range of both outdoor and indoor events

We also asked Paul Telling to give a coaches' perspective and he concurred that for the initial selection, that the initial selection should be based upon meeting a points criteria from the previous season and this could be undertaken on the publication of the final oBARTS and iBARTS seedlist(s) published in early December (this year it is 8<sup>th</sup> December). Paul went on to suggest that it could be as simple as selecting the top ranked 5 or 10 from each gender, or to continue with the previous criteria and also concurred that there was no requirement to have different points criteria for age categories, simply a points criteria to be eligible for selection.

Criteria Stages 2 and 3 were felt to be appropriate. These could be held during the winter period for the artificial athletes, or at least one event could/should be. It would be potentially beneficial to have one or two events where both the Artificial and Alpine Squads attend.

The skills quest should be carried out on both indoor and outdoor surfaces and it should be possible to base these at locations with both facilities close by so they could be combined with an ACE event, as per those used for Alpine Squad selection. Examples could be Hemel/Welwyn or Chill Factore/Rosendale. This would allow the selection of the Artificial Squad by the start of the season in April, which was also endorsed by Paul Telling.

Paul Telling's views is that this would be an Artificial Squad and that efforts should be made to encourage more racers to compete on both surfaces. However, recent seasons would suggest that

The Committee had no issues on Criteria Stage 4.

The pathway events, is those with minimum penalties of 5 or less are as follows:

GBR Race Series, Indoor and Outdoor.

Championship Events, Indoor and Outdoor.

Based upon the above we feel that it should be possible to refine and simplify the proposal, which captures the key elements proposed by Tania and sets out a robust basis for selection of the Artificial Squad in 2016 and beyond.

I am quite happy to be involved in drafting the final criteria, if required.

Regards

Lloyd

## Appendix 3

January	March	May	July	September	December
<p>Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update from Board</li> <li>Update from Alpine Strategy Committee</li> </ul> <p>Alpine Champs</p>	<p>Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update from Board</li> <li>Update from Alpine Strategy Committee</li> </ul> <p>Alpine champs (just held)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feedback</li> <li>Initial Budget</li> </ul> <p>Communication report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social media / Website</li> <li>Info to clubs/athlete</li> <li>Weekly mailer</li> <li>Link with comms officer</li> </ul> <p>Race Calendar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Winter calendar applications discussed and agreed</li> <li>Confirm publication</li> <li>Any updates</li> </ul> <p>Online competition entry system</p> <p>Sponsorship</p>	<p>Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update from Board</li> <li>Update from Alpine Strategy Committee</li> </ul> <p>Alpine Champs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outline plan and draft budget for next season</li> <li>Finalisation of recent budget and accounts</li> <li>Sponsorship next season</li> <li>Promotion of summer events</li> </ul>	<p>Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update from Board</li> <li>Update from Alpine Strategy Committee</li> </ul> <p>Alpine Champs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key personnel</li> <li>Finalisation of recent budget and accounts</li> <li>Sponsorship next season</li> </ul> <p>Race calendar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>any updates for current season</li> <li>plans summer for next season</li> </ul>	<p>Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update from Board</li> <li>Update from Alpine Strategy Committee</li> </ul> <p>Alpine Champs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalised budget</li> <li>Update on planning</li> </ul> <p>Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide info for SSE annual review</li> </ul> <p>Race Calendar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agree structure to work to for next year's race calendar and communicate to all stakeholders</li> </ul>	<p>Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update from Board</li> <li>Update from Alpine Strategy Committee</li> <li>Agree meetings dates for next year</li> <li>Review roles and committee members</li> <li>Agree annual plan for next year</li> </ul> <p>Alpine Champs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on team and plans</li> <li>Succession and planning for championships in 16 months</li> </ul> <p>Race Calendar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirm race calendar for next summer</li> <li>winter calendar plans for a year's time</li> </ul>
<b>Board requirements and board dates</b>					
<b>January</b>	<b>March</b> Report on Alpine Championships		<b>June</b> Draft budget / plan for alpine champs		<b>September</b>
					<b>November</b> Agree budgets for following year Set out annual plan for following year