

SNOWSPORT ENGLAND



Alpine Events Committee Meeting

13:00 Sunday 13 March 2016

Teleconference

Present:

Lloyd Jenkins – Chair (LJ)
Bryan Thomas (BT)
Mary Calvert (MC)
Dermot Flahive (DF)
Andrea Grant (AG)
Alison Eyres (AE) in attendance

Apologies:

Karen Conde (KC)
Mike Frith (MF)
Paul Lawrence (PL))
Jo Ryding (JR)

1. Before the meeting officially opened BT referred to his latest Board report and to his personal concerns as circulated regarding the alpine committees since he stepped in as chair of ASPC. There were some concerns expressed in disagreement with his disappointment on lack of timely actions and regular communication to the membership. BT, LJ and MC will review how this can be overcome.

Action: BT/LJ/MC to review management of actions within the committee

2. **Amendment to item 2 of the AEC minutes 6 December 2016** This should read:

The minutes of the meeting on 25 October 2015 had been approved and published. It was noted that, for personal reasons, 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.

It was also noted that following the publication of these previous minutes regarding Nick Ogden's resignation, he disagreed with the recorded minutes. By mutual agreement, the reason for his resignation will be recorded as due to a disagreement over the availability of telephone conferencing facilities for the first AEC meeting dated the 25th October 2015.

3. **Declaration of Interests** Everyone present confirmed that there were no changes to their previous declarations of interest.

Action: MC to check declarations of interest with KC, MF, PL and JR.

4. **Amended Code of Conduct and SSE Standing Orders** These had been circulated to all members before the meeting. BT explained that the main change to the code of conduct related to confidentiality of discussions at meetings until the final minutes had been published. All those present confirmed that they agreed to abide by these documents.

Action: MC to confirm agreement to Code of Conduct and Standing Orders with KC, MF, PL and JR.

5. **Actions from previous meeting not elsewhere on agenda** There were none.

6. **Bormio Report** Tim Fawke, David Manns and AG had produced an excellent report on the recent English Alpine Championships at Bormio (Appendix 1). BT recorded the Board's approval of this and also their thanks to everyone who had worked to make the Championships so successful. AG said that, although there were still some expenses to come in, she expected that there would be a surplus of ~£5-7K. BT emphasised the need to get more volunteers involved in helping with the event.

7. Update on event delivery DF reported that there had been little progress since the last meeting. There is a desperate need for new volunteers to come forward to be trained and then shadow existing officials. Local regions/clubs should be prepared to provide officials for events in their areas, including CORs and Race Secretaries.

BT recommended that this be brought in as a requirement for GBR races (as has been introduced for CNs). AE suggested that, if the host slope couldn't arrange for officials, they should pay the expense of the officials who needed to travel to the event.

**Actions: BT/LJ to put together a plan for the future and present it to the next meeting
MC to ask the Snowsport South attendees at the Nov level 2 course to volunteer for GBR races**

8. Update on Summer Calendar

- (i) KC sent in a report stating that most of the fixtures have been finalised but COR's, Race Secretaries and Safeguarding officials need to be allocated for all SSE events. AG and DF may do COR for the Norwich events and MF may be able to cover Stoke and the Inter-regional. BT will ask CESA officials if they are able to help.

Action: BT to contact CESA race officials

- (ii) DF reported that he is still awaiting a reply from Landgraaf to confirm the pricing for the BASS races at the end of May. It has been promised for 14/03/2016. Without this, he cannot publish the race invitation (which is otherwise ready to go out). Jon Louth (Hemel) has asked for confirmation that the event is taking place as the club has already booked to take a large group.

**Actions: LJ to contact Jon Louth
DF to publish race bulletin for Landgraaf BASS races as soon as possible**

9. Update on Regional Review BT had circulated a draft questionnaire which PL had produced to conduct a survey to help plan the 2017 summer season. LJ felt a lot more work needed to be done on the questionnaire before it could be sent out. LJ would send the results of the survey carried out 2 years ago to PL (cc BT). PT could then report back at the next meeting.

**Action: LJ to send PT (cc BT) the results of the race survey carried out in 2013
PL to present the questionnaire at the next meeting**

10. Ambition Sponsorship Proposal

There was ongoing discussion regarding the generous offer from Ambition Racing to provide sponsorship for the GBR Series. There was general agreement that this offer should be taken up. BT (in liaison with LJ/DF if needed) will discuss the details with Tim Fawke so that a contract can be drawn up between SSE and Ambition.

Action: BT to discuss Ambition proposal with Tim Fawke

11. Quotations for 2016 Trophies Trophies for the GBR series Races will be the same as 2015. This will allow the spare trophies from last year to be used and costs minimised. Other suppliers would be asked for quotes for trophies for the overall Series awards, Inter-regional, Anglo Welsh, British Indoor and All England events.

**Action: DF to send AG last year's trophy costs
AG to obtain further quotes**

12. Possible Skills Quest at Landgraaf BASS races The meeting was happy for JR and Tania Barton to run this. It could be scheduled on Monday afternoon (racing finishes around midday) or possibly on Saturday alongside training (particularly if it was scheduled for early am or late pm). LJ emphasised that it must not compromise training.

**Action: LJ to confirm with JR/Tania Barton that they can hold a
Skills Quest linked to the BASS races at Landgraaf**

13. University Student Fees LJ has not discussed this with Tim Fawke yet.

Action: LJ/BT to speak to Tim Fawke regarding registration fees for University students

14. Equipment Update/Requirements

- (i) BT will look into the purchase of a portable PA system that is lightweight but doesn't compromise performance. He will circulate details and get approval.
- (ii) BT will ask Tim Fawke to purchase universal SSE banners for use at events.
- (iii) LJ will speak to MF about the purchase of a new set of radios (~£250)

Actions: BT and LJ to progress orders of a PA system, banners and new radios

15. AOB There were no other items raised.

The next meeting was set for Sunday 12 June at 12:30pm by teleconference.

Actions:

1	BT/LJ/MC	to review management of actions within the committee	
3	MC	to check declarations of interest with KC, MF, PL and JR	
4	MC	to confirm agreement to Code of Conduct and Standing Orders with KC, MF, PL and JR	
7	BT/LJ	to put together a plan for the future and present it to the next meeting	
7	MC	to ask the Snowsport South attendees at the Nov level 2 course to volunteer for GBR races	
8(i)	BT	to contact CESA race officials	
8(ii)	LJ	to contact Jon Louth	
8(ii)	DF	to publish race bulletin for Landgraaf BASS races as soon as possible	
9	LJ	to send PT (cc BT) the results of the race survey carried out in 2013	
9	PL	to present the questionnaire at the next meeting	
10	BT	to discuss Ambition proposal with Tim Fawke	
11	DF	to send AG last year's trophy costs	
11	AG	to obtain further quotes for trophies	
12	LJ	to confirm with JR/Tania Barton that they can hold a Skills Quest linked to the BASS races at Landgraaf	
13	LJ/BT	to speak to Tim Fawke regarding registration fees for University students	
14	BT/LJ	to progress orders of a PA system, banners and new radios	

Appendix 1



Snowsport England English Alpine Championships Report to ASPC March 2016



Team

The team this year was a mix of regulars and first-timers. We had a strong media and publicity team on board this time who produced a large amount of coverage across a range of media (see below). There were some challenges around finding experienced course crew to take out with us, in the end only one of the six had previously worked at this event, but as usual they all (illness notwithstanding) stepped up to the task and performed admirably. We had one new member on the 'hill' part of the team as well, taking his first steps into the roles of Start and Finish Referee on snow, hopefully he will be a useful resource for future competitions.

Prior to the event we had offered up the opportunity for people to come and shadow officials on the hill, as a way of starting to gain/widen experience or insight into how race officials work at an Alpine race to, but no-one really came forward. Of those who made ad hoc offers of "I'm in resort if there is anything I can do to help", only a proportion actually turned up to do so, but their assistance in a range of areas was much appreciated. This is an area that is in need of work for future competitions, as we continue to rely to the same small group of experienced people to run races – across the British calendar, not just in Bormio.

Related to this, a credible plan to develop successors for the ROC roles needs to be created and executed. Although the current ROC are intending to continue for at least one more year, there is no guarantee that this will continue indefinitely. A case could be made anyway for changing ROC members from time to time as a way of introducing fresh ideas, and there is also an inherent risk in relying on specific people without a good backup plan.

Logistics & Facilities

Repeating the pattern from last year, three people drove a van full of kit to arrive on Thursday, whilst an advance party of four flew out to arrive on the same day. The intention of this early arrival is to allow time to set up key parts of the infrastructure (including radios and internet) on Friday during normal business hours so that there is time to rectify significant issues before everything closes for the weekend. The rest of the team mostly arrived by air and self-drive on Friday from various locations.

Our base this year was once more the Hotel Olimpia, but for the last time as they are changing their regime and will no longer offer the half-board arrangement that we need. Discussion is already under way with a likely replacement which we hope to finalise soon, which may even turn out to be slightly cheaper.

In general, the facilities provided by the resort were fine, although several specific areas will need to be addressed for next year. The 'last minute' approach to equipment provision by the resort meant for example that around an hour was lost at the start of the first race due to insufficient poles being made available on the race hill. There were also problems with their petrol drill; they only have one despite it almost always being needed on both hills, and it began the week in a temperamental state and before too long broke down completely, resulting in a desperate search round nearby resorts for a replacement.

Race Programme

The competition began as usual with the Opening Parade, a valuable opportunity for the communities of town and race to meet up and celebrate the sporting achievements to come. Unfortunately due to a

logistical issue with the town representatives bringing the refreshments this part of the parade didn't actually happen (a problem that will not be repeated next year), but this did not appear to detract from the excitement. An overwhelming majority of those present welcomed the opportunity to take part in an activity which is unique amongst British calendar races.

Once again we embarked upon an ambitious race programme with six FIS, four U14/16 and two U10/12 races over six days of racing, as well as the night parallel slalom which has established itself as a firm favourite. New to the programme this year was an Alpine Combined race (one Super-G and one Slalom run), a rare opportunity for our racers to acquire Combined seed points.

Aside from the weather causing us to lose part of one FIS GS, the rest of the programme was completed, although the record entry numbers (FIS around 160, U14/16 around 220, U10/12 around 110) along with our full list of races meant long days back-to-back for all concerned. Some of the negative feedback was focussed around this issue, too many races and days that are too long. Part of this might be addressable by better timetabling, but we do have to take great care when planning for next year, and when contemplating how we can improve what we offer. With a range of demands for more (or less, or different) races across the age groups, it will always be difficult to achieve a balanced programme that keeps within the time constraints of the half term break, but with care it should be possible to balance the 'championship' and 'participation' elements.

Media

Following some difficulties with the web site we have used for the past few years, an alternative arrangement was sought, and the new site was online in a short space of time. A few points may need improving but on the whole the site did what it needed to.

The media team made a good job of creating web content throughout the week, keeping everyone informed. Some traffic analysis reports have since been generated, covering the period February 7th through March 8th. These show some interesting figures:

- Over 7,700 sessions from nearly 2,500 users
- A shade over 50% using iOS with Windows at 27% and Android at 12%
- 65% of visitors in UK, 16% Italy, 4% France, then small percentages from Austria, Switzerland, Czech Republic, UAE, Ireland, USA and New Zealand
- By far the majority of the sessions fell within the period around 13-21 February
- Most popular pages after the home page were results and programme
- Of the 63% attributable to a specific device, almost all were iPhone or iPad

From this it would appear that the majority of visitors were UK-based, visiting the site for result and programme information, from mobile devices. This should tell us that the site for next year needs to be re-designed to be fully mobile-friendly and easy to use from hand-held devices.

The team also generated a lot of social media activity through Twitter and other channels.

This year we were also trialling a 'live results' service through Pete Calvert (skiresults.co.uk) to allow races to be followed in real time via a live feed to his web site. After a few teething problems this worked very well, and was certainly well-received by racers, parents and particularly coaches on the hill. We hope to repeat this next year, and will be looking at ways to integrate the live results feed directly into the Championships web site. The traffic analysis for this site is less detailed than for our own site, but still shows a sudden ramp-up in visitors during race week, with 600-800 visitors each day.

Getting exposure in the press was a key part of the media effort this year through SportsBeat, producing a large amount of UK press coverage. Almost 1200 items were produced, 88 print titles were reached, encompassing a total print readership of 8m and over 1000 online uses.

Finance

Some financial challenges were faced this year. Significant increases in flight and hotel costs were unavoidable, but with careful management of the budget by the ROC and the invaluable support of our sponsors, it was possible to control costs to the extent that a small surplus was achieved. At least part of this should be ring-fenced for on-going maintenance and replacement of essential competition equipment.

Feedback

Feedback received from racers, parents and coaches through various channels – including the online survey – has been overwhelmingly positive. However, as already mentioned, some logistical and time-tabling issues resulted in some negative comments which we do have to take on board.

Feedback has also been elicited from within the team, so that our own 'internal' performance and activities can be improved. Some useful comments have been received, largely relating to some elements of locally-sourced facilities (e.g. photo-copier), making sure all team members are sufficiently briefed on what they are required to do at various stages of the event, and ensuring that information reaches everyone.

Future

Clearly there were some frustrations over some scheduling and on-hill issues that resulted in a less than perfect experience, which we already know we need to address for future competitions. These largely result from insufficient preparation of equipment by the SIB team, erratic performance our locally sourced course crew, and the intense pressure on timetabling when trying to cope with our largest ever entry.

A contract for the next three years has been signed, at a modest increase of €2000 to €16000 per annum. As part of this contract, we have negotiated an increase in the number and type of lift passes provided for the team, the provision of six course crew to replace the somewhat ineffectual lads we have been sourcing through local contacts, and a cap on the cost of lift passes for FIS racers at the current level.

For our part, at our suggestion we have agreed to supply a detailed race-by-race list of our requirements for poles and gate flags, in an attempt to prevent the problems we had this year.

The main debates for future competitions will however centre around succession planning, and tackling the issues of race programme and time-tabling. In doing this, we need to bear in mind the looming deadlines for FIS calendar applications, so we need to submit at least an outline application before too long.

Tim Fawke
Chief of Championships

Andrea Grant
Race Secretary

David Manns
Chief Race Director

English Alpine Championships
11-Mar-2016