



Alpine Strategy and Planning Committee Meeting

10:00 Sunday 13 March 2016

Teleconference

Present:

Bryan Thomas - Chair (BT)
Lloyd Jenkins – Deputy Chair (LJ)
Mary Calvert (MC)
Alison Eyre (AE)
Peter Heath (PH)
David Manns (DM)

Apologies

Elly Cockcroft (EC)
Paul Telling (PT)

1. In advance of the meeting, Alan Bullock tendered his resignation from the committee due to personal concerns regarding a lack of coordinated actions and communications relating to his committee responsibilities and respect to him and other committee members. Also his commitments as a key race official were demanding enough on his time as a volunteer. The chair expressed regret on AB leaving the committee but proposed a vote of thanks for all of his efforts on their behalf.

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. 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. **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 PT and EC.

3. **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 PT and EC.

4. Actions from previous meeting not elsewhere on agenda

- (i) Costs for the BASS races at Landgraaf were still unconfirmed. Dermot Flahive (AEC) is awaiting a response from Landgraaf. This is now becoming very urgent.
- (ii) Review of 2015 season was not completed.

Action: LJ to update on these by next meeting

5. Course Setters Policy/List

- (i) This discussion related to PT's previous suggestion that guidelines be set regarding the nature and standard of courses at various events so that a progression could be seen from Regional events through to National Championships. (LJ confirmed that the current Course Setters Policy, as published on gbski.com, is up to date and fit for purpose.) LJ would have further discussions with PT and guidelines would be produced for the nature and standard of courses.

Action: LJ to liaise with PT over guidelines for nature and standard of courses

- (ii) DM asked who "owned" the course setters list. LJ confirmed this was ASPC. There was general concern that the current list was out of date (published Oct 2014) and there were known inaccuracies and omissions on it. It was agreed that the chair (LJ) would confirm additions/deletions to the list with the secretary (MC) who would maintain the list and ensure gbski.com knew of all updates.

**Action: LJ to inform MC of any changes to current Course Setters List
MC to ensure gbski.com is kept updated of changes to the course setters list**

6. Finance (including Bormio) PH gave an overview of the current financial situation. As yet, not all the expenses for Bormio have been received so some adjustments may be needed. PH estimated that the surplus income from Bormio would be £5-7K.

BT reported that the overall Snowsport England accounts for last year showed a small surplus of ~£3K for income over expenditure. The year 2015 incurred significant unplanned expenses relating to office staff replacement, training and below budget surpluses in coaching and schools advisory departments.

7. Bormio Report

- (i) DM presented a report on this year's English Alpine Championships (Appendix 1). Overall, the event was a great success. Areas for consideration for future years were
- Succession planning of the organising committee
 - Need for more officials generally
 - Tackling issues of the race programme and time-tabling in the light of a huge increase in entry numbers

Action: MC to circulate the Champs report to the Board

- (ii) MC is in the process of producing a summary booklet on the organisation/running of the Alpine Championships to help with continuity for future organising committees. The first draft of this will be circulated to the current organising committee by the beginning of April.

Action: MC to circulate first draft of Alpine Champs summary booklet to organising committee by April 2016

8. Officials training plan/programme

- (i) As Alan Bullock has stood down from ASPC, a replacement is needed to take over the lead on Officials training. MC has offered to provide back up for the administrative side of the role. In line with SSE policy, all vacant voluntary posts must now be advertised.

Action: BT/LJ to liaise with Tim Fawke to recruit new committee member

- (ii) There is a level 2 course scheduled at SportPark on 2/3 April 2016. There are 3 confirmed attendees plus 3 further "possibles". It is proposed that, for the future, a level 2 course is held every November. The course content/delivery is being reviewed – Alan Bullock has already had some discussion with Ian Roberts (TD forum). It is felt it would be helpful if the course were split into 2 units (each of one day) which could be done separately to give attendees more flexibility. Ian Roberts and DM are delivering the course in April (and BT will be attending). It is proposed that they have a discussion and that DM puts forward a review/proposal to ASPC meeting as soon as possible.

**Action: BT/DM/Ian Roberts to discuss level 2 course delivery in April
DM to report back to ASPC as soon as possible**

- (iii) There have been proposals in the past from Snowsport England, that the level 1 officials course be moved online. The meeting felt it would be useful to have an introductory module online for new

racers/parents which included an explanation of the various types of races. However, it was strongly felt that a practical aspect “on the hill” was also necessary. This would give the added benefit of attendees meeting and being able to interact with each other.

Action: BT to liaise with Ryan Grewcock asking for a review on level 1 officials courses to be provided as soon as possible

9. Artificial Squad Proposal LJ reported that he had not had any further communication from Tania Barton concerning the Artificial Squad since the weekend of the last ASPC meeting. He presented an updated proposal (Appendix 2). He had received a request from outside the committee that the requirement for U21 and above squad members to complete a UKCP Level 1 be dropped. However, he felt that, because these courses only took 1 ½ days and were easily available, the requirement should stay. The Squad would be selected at the beginning of the season based on the previous year’s seed list. Applications would be invited from those who met the criteria.

PH asked for clarification of the purpose of the squad. LJ confirmed it was to:

- Provide a team to compete in Home Nations team events
- Form a squad which would encourage racers to go into coaching and support national events

PH felt that any team should consist of the best racers at an event on the day – regardless of whether they were squad members or not. He asked that the proposal be altered to reflect this. The meeting felt that it was unlikely this situation would arise – but agreed to amend the proposal to allow for flexibility.

A coach/squad manager would be needed. In line with SSE policy, this post must now be advertised.

Action: LJ to liaise with Tim Fawke and Tania Barton regarding the artificial squad coach/manager

10. Update on event/calendar planning

- (i) It was confirmed that entry fees for this summer’s GBR races would be £22 for outdoor events and £29 for indoor. Entry fees for inter-regional events would remain unchanged at £105 per team. Entry fees for club/open teams at the All England Championships would also be unchanged at £60 per team.

Action: MC to confirm entry fees to Karen Conde (AEC)

- (ii) DM indicated that there was a potential problem providing a TD for the Ravens CN on Sat 14 May as this event clashed with the TD forum. He suggested that Ravens be asked if the NESA club race scheduled for Sunday 15 May and the Ravens CN could be swapped round.

Action: LJ to contact Maureen Mearns (Ravens) to ask for the events on 14/15 May to be swapped

Post meeting note - Since the meeting DM has spoken to Maureen Mearns, who has confirmed that they need to run a ‘double header’ seeded weekend to get any chance of a reasonable turnout. Thus there is nothing to be gained by swapping the days over; a TD will be required for both days.

11. Regional questionnaire/ inter regional events Paul Lawrence (AEC) is putting together a questionnaire to go out to regions and clubs. This is aimed at changes for the 2017 season. LJ/BT would liaise with Paul Lawrence through AEC. LJ will provide BT/Paul Lawrence with the results of the 2013 race survey.

Action: LJ to liaise with BT/Paul Lawrence (AEC) regarding the racing questionnaire including details of the 2013 survey

12. Communication between the Alpine Management Group and ASPC BT is in discussion with Jeremy Eaton about this. The meeting agreed that a link between the Alpine Committees and the Alpine Management Group was essential to provide greater integration. It was suggested that Jo Ryding (AEC) provide this link. It was also felt that there needed to be recorded minutes available for the Alpine Management Group. BT will talk to Tania Barton.

Action: BT to talk to Tania Barton regarding the Alpine Management Group and report back to ASPC

13. Update on IT Strategy Group BT reported that the Board was moving forward on the IT Strategy Group and that Jeremy Eaton and Nick Ogden were meeting next week. PH emphasised that it was important for the Board

to sort the situation out as the main websites currently used by the racing community were run by volunteers with no contractual commitment.

Action: BT to report back on the IT Strategy Group at the next meeting

14. AOB

MC asked for confirmation on whether the helmet regulations were to be strictly enforced for this summer season. LJ confirmed that they were (as laid out in the Guide to Helmets for Alpine Ski Racing published by the TD forum in November 2015). MC asked that this be reiterated in the invitations for all races this summer.

Action: MC to ask Karen Conde (AEC) to include a note on helmet regulations (with a link to the Nov 2015 Guide) on all race invitations.

The next meeting was set for Sunday 12 June 2016 at 10:00am by teleconference.

Actions:

1	BT/LJ/MC	to review management of actions within the committee	
2	MC	to check declarations of interest with PT and EC	
3	MC	to confirm agreement to Code of Conduct and Standing Orders with PT and EC	
4 (i) & (i)	LJ	to update on these items by next meeting	
5 (i)	LJ	to liaise with PT over guidelines for nature and standard of courses	
5 (ii)	LJ	to inform MC of any changes to current Course Setters List	
5 (ii)	MC	to ensure gbski.com is kept updated of changes to the course setters list	
7 (i)	MC	to circulate the Alpine Champs report to the Board	done
7 (ii)	MC	to circulate first draft of Alpine Champs summary booklet to the organising committee by April	
8 (i)	BT/LJ	to liaise with Tim Fawke to recruit new committee member	
8 (ii)	DM/Ian Roberts	to discuss level 2 course delivery in April	
8 (ii)	DM	to report back to ASPC on level 2 courses as soon as possible	
8 (iii)	BT	to liaise with Ryan Grewcock asking for a review on level 1 officials courses to be provided as soon as possible	
9	LJ	to liaise with Tim Fawke and Tania Barton regarding the artificial squad coach/manager	
10 (i)	MC	to confirm entry fees to Karen Conde (AEC)	done
10 (ii)	LJ	to contact Maureen Mearns at Ravens to ask for the events on 14/15 May to be swapped	DM has confirmed TD needed on both days
11	LJ/BT	to liaise with Paul Lawrence (AEC) regarding the racing questionnaire including details of the 2013 survey	
12	BT	to talk with Tania Barton about the Alpine Management Group and report back to ASPC	
13	BT	to report back on the IT Strategy Group at the next meeting	
14	MC	to ask Karen Conde (AEC) to include a note on helmet regulations (with a link to the Nov 2015 Guide) on all race invitations	done



**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



SSE Artificial Slope Squad 2016

The SSE Artificial Slope Squad embraces racing on both outdoor and indoor surfaces. Selection to the Squad provides the opportunity for athletes to compete in Home Nation dual slalom team events and/or attend Squad training sessions.

Squad Selection Application Date

All applications from SSE registered athletes who meet the selection criteria must be submitted to the Squad Manager before 15th April 2016 using the required application form (which will be accessible on the Snowsport England & Britski websites).

Squad selection will be announced during the week commencing Monday, 25th April 2016.

Squad Selection Criteria

Males: 50 BARTS race points (Indoor or Outdoor) or below scored from at least 3 events (carrying a minimum penalty of 5 or 0 points) during the 2015 season between April and November.

Females: 35 BARTS race points (Indoor or Outdoor) or below scored from at least 3 events (carrying a minimum penalty of 5 or 0 points) during the 2015 season between April and November.

This provides all potential Squad members with the opportunity to achieve the required minimum 3 sets of points from 18 events – 12 outdoor events and 6 indoor events (as per the 2015 summer race calendar).

If the full criteria have not been achieved then applicants may submit results for events with penalties higher than 5 with top 4 finishes for girls and top 8 finishes for boys.

In addition to the above, all selected athletes must be committed to competing and/or training with the Squad during 2016.

Please note that selection to the Squad does not mean that all athletes will automatically be selected to represent England at any of the Home Nation dual slalom events (as this will depend on the number of England teams entered at each event and the Squad members available). However, all Squad applicants will be put on to a reserves list and will be considered for selection should places become available at any event.

Development

It is the intention to run training/fitness days during the 2016 squad period. These sessions will be held on both outdoor and indoor surfaces at appropriate geographical locations. Details of the dates, locations and coaches will be announced in due course.

It is expected that all squad members in U21 category and above should complete a UKCP Level 1 course during 2016 if they haven't done so. Some financial support may be available.

Additionally, all squad members must be prepared to represent SSE at up to 2 non-seeded race events during 2016. (Events to be confirmed)

Squad Kit

All Squad members will be provided with an England team t-shirt. In addition, other England Squad items such as tracksuit trousers, extra T-shirts and hoody may be available to be purchased – further details to be communicated in due course.

Squad Manager

TBC

Any queries contact xxxxxxxx on the following details; Email: