

# SNOWSPORT ENGLAND



## Alpine Strategy and Planning Committee Meeting

10:00 Sunday 6 December 2015

Sportpark, Loughborough

### Present:

Bryan Thomas - Chair (BT)  
Lloyd Jenkins – Deputy Chair (LJ)  
Alan Bullock (AB)  
Mary Calvert (MC)  
Peter Heath (PH)  
David Manns (DM)

### 1. Apologies:

Elly Cockcroft (EC)  
Alison Eyre (AE)  
Paul Telling (PT) submitted comments for discussion (appendix 1)

**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.

### 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. This was particularly in relation to clause 2.5 on confidentiality. PH commented that he thought the document was poorly written.

**Action: BT would speak to TF about the updating of the code of conduct**

BT emphasised the need for confidentiality of the minutes until they had been published on the SSE website. MC agreed to let all committee members know when this was taking place.

**Action: MC to inform all committee members of publication of the minutes**

### 4. Bormio Update

DM presented his report (appendix 2). There was still a shortage of course crew for the event but these could be recruited locally if needed.

There was general agreement that sponsorship of the event was something which the committee expected the Board to obtain.

BT asked what the current situation was regarding succession planning. DM confirmed that there were no potential candidates at the moment. PT had submitted comments which related to this. He proposed more encouragement be given at club, regional and national level to encourage parents to become involved in officiating. BT proposed that a time was set aside at Bormio to invite parents to join the SSE team and learn how alpine races and events were run and explain the pressing need for more trained volunteers without whom we will have difficulty in running such races.

**Action: BT to propose a race organisation session for parents at Bormio (with JE)**

### 5. Review of 2015 Season

LJ gave a brief report on the 2015 season

- Entries up – particularly indoor
- All England entries down – held at Sunderland as most competitive bid and wanted to have an event in the north

- Inter-regional - only 3 regions entered.
- CN's making a loss were Pendle, Sunderland and Southampton

Due to low entry numbers, there was concern over the financial viability of the outdoor inter regional competition. This will be reviewed after the 2016 season's event.

**Action: LJ to provide detailed report on 2015 season**  
**Action: via AEC to ask Paul Lawrence to discuss the future of the inter regional competition with the regions**

## 6. Calendar Planning for 2017

AB presented his report (appendix 3) which included a proposal for an indoor team event. This was supported by those present and there was agreement to push for this to take place in 2017 even if there was a risk of it running at a slight loss. AB also suggested that one weekend per month should be kept free in the National calendar to enable regions to schedule their events.

**Action: AB to liaise with Karen Conde on AEC regarding an indoor inter regional event for 2017 and calendar scheduling**

BT confirmed that a promotional budget had been set up to help with event delivery. Tim Fawke would be purchasing banners, flags etc for use at events. It was agreed that the regions should be asked (via Paul Lawrence and AEC) what changes/additions they feel would be appropriate to make race days "more fun" for the competitors and spectators. PT had commented (appendix 1) that he felt there needed to be coaches' involvement in this planning process.

**Action: via AEC to ask Paul Lawrence to canvas the regions for possible changes to race days**

## 7. Recruitment of Officials

AB presented 3 reports (appendix 4). To increase recruitments of officials, he suggested having a presentation which could be given at CN and regional events. He proposed that the CoR and Race Secretary for these events should always be someone from that club/region (who should be named at the time the calendar bid was made). This was agreed.

**Action: via AEC to ask Karen Conde to promote that CoR and Race Sec should come from the club/region making a calendar bid**

AB outlined a proposal for delivery of the level 2 officials course as 2 modules which could be attended on separate occasions. DM felt that this would be possible.

**Action: AB to submit a proposal to Ian Roberts for the level 2 officials course to consist of 2 modules**

A successful level 2 course had been held at Aldershot in November with 12 attendees. These attendees would be encouraged to contact the CoR of any events they would be attending to gain experience in the different level 2 roles (either by shadowing or being mentored). AB will reinstate a regular annual level 2 course to be held in November.

## 8. Budget Review

BT gave an update on the alpine budget which showed an overall surplus of ~£8K. For the coming season, race entry fees would be increased by £1 to £22 for outdoor events and £29 for indoor. The CN levy would be increased from £4.70 to £5 per racer.

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

## 9. TD Forum report

DM presented his report on the TD forum held in mid-November (appendix 5). An updated guide to helmets for alpine racing has just been published on gbski.com

## 10. Review of Regional Structure

This review is being undertaken by the AEC and will consider the membership numbers, activity and slope availability within each of the existing regions from the medium and long term view. AEC will send a report back to ASPC in due course. PH pointed out that the regions consider themselves as autonomous organisations and may not readily agree to changes proposed by SSE.

## 11. 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 committee members had been asked to comment and LJ then sent a reply to TB. (The proposal and response are in appendix 6.) LJ received a response from TB yesterday afternoon which he circulated at the meeting. All present at the meeting confirmed their continued agreement with the response sent by LJ to TB.

**Action: LJ and BT to send a further response to TB regarding the artificial slope squad reiterating the ASPC position**

PH asked that there be more clarity of communication between ASPC and the Alpine Management Committee (AMC). It was suggested that AMC circulate their minutes to ASPC. ASPC is the delegated committee of SSE dealing with alpine disciplines and should be involved and aware of all policies relating to it.

**Action: BT was asked to discuss communication between AMC and ASPC with the Board**

## 12. Annual ASPC Agenda/Calendar

DM asked that proposals for rules changes be brought forward to Q3. PH asked that confirmation of the race calendar also be brought forward as this information was needed to produce the draft budget for the Board each November.

**Action: MC to adjust Annual Agenda/Calendar and circulate to the committee (appendix 7)**

## 13. Any Other Business

**13.1** PT's email (appendix 1) only arrived yesterday. Committee members were asked to look at the points raised and send any comments through to LJ/BT by 14 Dec 2015. LJ/BT would then contact PT by conference call and discuss the issues raised.

**Action: All to send comments on PT's email to LJ/BT by 14 December  
Action: LJ/BT to respond to PT in December**

**13.2** There is no entry in the budget yet for the May BASS races at Landgraaf. Dermot Flahive (AEC) would be asked to provide these.

**Action: via AEC Dermot Flahive to be asked to provide costs for the BASS races at Landgraaf in May**

**13.3** PH confirmed that all race entries (including the snow races) were going through the ERSA system. This was working very well and PH recorded thanks to Bernie Wright for making this possible.

PH had concerns as to whether there was a formal agreement between SSE and ERSA. Approximately £200K goes through the entry system per annum. It is important that there is full, clear accountability of this.

**Action: BT to review the need for an Agreement regarding the overall arrangement with ERSA**

There was general concern that no information had been published from or about the IT strategy group which was set up by the Board in the summer. PH and DM were both at the initial meeting at the end of July but had heard nothing since. It was felt that the remit, members and minutes of the group should be openly published avoiding any possible governance issues.

**Action: BT to report ASPC's concern re the IT Strategy Group to the Board**

**13.4** PH reported issues with the SSE CRM system. The current BASS lists are missing information on some racers' club affiliation – approx. 21% of affiliations are missing. This will produce issues for the upcoming snow races.

**Action: PH to contact Tim Fawke and Claire Pennell (cc BT) regarding the membership database**

**The date of the next meeting is Sunday 28 February 2016 at 10:00 at Sportpark, Loughborough.**

It was agreed that, if an additional meeting was needed before the English Championships in February, it would be by teleconference.

## Actions

Action	Assigned to	Due date
3. To speak to TF about the updating of the code of conduct	BT	
3. To inform all committee members of publication of the minutes	MC	
4. To propose a race organisation session for parents at Bormio (with JE)	BT	
5. To provide detailed report on 2015 season	LJ	
5. via AEC to ask Paul Lawrence to discuss the future of the inter regional competition with the regions	LJ	complete
6. To liaise with Karen Conde on AEC regarding an indoor inter regional event for 2017 and calendar scheduling	AB	
6. via AEC to ask Paul Lawrence to canvas the regions for possible changes to race days	AB	
7. via AEC to ask Karen Conde to promote that CoR and Race Sec should come from the club/region making a calendar bid	AB	
7. To submit a proposal to Ian Roberts for the level 2 officials course to consist of 2 modules	AB	
8. To circulate budget statements to all committee members	MC	complete
11. To send a further response to TB regarding the artificial slope squad reiterating the ASPC stance	LJ/BT	
11. To discuss communication between AMC and ASPC with the Board	BT	
12. To adjust Annual Agenda/Calendar and circulate to the committee	MC	Attached as appendix 7
13.1 To send comments on PT's email to LJ/BT	All	14 Dec
13.1 To respond to PT in December	LJ/BT	Before Christmas break
13.2 via AEC Dermot Flahive to be asked to provide costs for the BASS races at Landgraaf in May	LJ	
13.3 To review the need for an Agreement regarding the overall arrangement with ERSA	BT	
13.3 To report ASPC's concern re the IT Strategy Group to the Board	BT	
13.4 To contact Tim Fawke and Claire Pennell (cc BT) regarding the membership database	PH	

# Appendix 1

Email to ASPC from Paul Telling 5 December 2015

As with the previous meeting, and no doubt with most this winter, I will be unable to attend tomorrow as I am coaching in Austria,

Unfortunately I am also unable to conference call tomorrow as I will be on the slope until 3pm your time.

I appreciate the timings and dates are designed to suit the greatest number of attendees, but as mentioned previously and for future planning, it is a lot easier for me to make myself available from 3pm onwards (7 days a week) when athletes are in school and I am off the slope and have phone signal / internet access.

As such, I will not be involved in tomorrow's meeting, but would be interested in seeing the minutes again as soon as possible.

Based on the very helpful and concise information I have read in the documents that I have received from Mary, David & Alan so far there does not seem to be a lot that is asking for my input as a coaches rep, however I would raise the following points or ask the following questions;

- Any decisions for the future planning of the 2017 calendar should be done with far greater input from coaches who are clear and understanding of what pathway we are trying to create. At present between indoor, outdoor, alpine, schools, clubs, regions and nationals we have a lot that happens with the buzzword "pathway" but no actual unity in what an overall pathway looks like and which elements are / should deliver which events as part of this total development. This is surely SSEs job to define this pathway and have the others buy into this through leadership and involvement, and for good planning for 2017 you need to start to involve those parties now. It is felt by the majority of higher end coaches that I have consulted with that the bulk of SSE events are planned with a scattergun approach and based on slope availability etc (understandably) rather than to form part of a pathway. If we (SSE) were to decide what this pathway was to begin with then you can fit events in to make this work. It would require taking ownership of more of the schools events and working alongside the regions but I am sure this is all obvious anyway. I would also think it would help with other aspects you have raised, such as educating officials through the pathway at the same time.
- If you are planning on restructuring / inventing the GBR series is this not something that coaches should have some say on? This wasn't mentioned on the minutes I was sent, but I have seen a separate proposal relating to it?
- Most coaches also struggle with the opportunity to encourage parent education, and feel that if there was further parent education as to how the sport works then there would be more opportunities to involve them in officiating or understanding decisions made in training. The opportunity to run regional or central "parent education" weekends with guest speakers can be tied in to other events and kill two birds with one stone.
- There is no mention of course setters policy? Could this be supplied to me? Should we have all coaches that are working at a level whereby they would be course setting nationally on the same page for not just the rules, but for what we as a country are trying to achieve in these events - e.g are we trying to challenge a racer in a GBR race or encourage them to enjoy themselves in a schools race. Sometimes I am not sure if those setting know what they are trying to achieve in setting, and this concerns me as to what is being set in training sessions. How do we educate them throughout the season - at events or through coaching conferences (which at present has minimal to do with elements like course setting)
- Is there a reason why there is a lack of transparency in what we discuss as a committee? I can't help but feel the more people I discuss this with, the more people seem to have no idea about the work that is done behind the scenes by people in these kind of groups. Surely more clarity with open publishing of minutes and who is working on what would lead to more involvement and discussion from key members of the sport. After all, we don't have to listen to that input, but I have had good points raised by coaches and race organisers that I certainly would not have come up with on my own.

From my perspective (as a coach), the key areas of activity - UK Calendars, Regional Structures, Officials being trained, increased participation at a base level and increased high end performances inc Artificial squads and Alpine Champs - would all be served through having a better structured, more concise and directed pathway throughout the sport from entry level to competition through to National Championships with each existing organisation / committee / region / Association etc giving up a little bit of what they currently do and taking on a bit more of something else. However, this would involve real change rather than just tweaks to an already existing structure. It would require ownership and direction to be taken by SSE and the support of the coaches and regions / clubs / associations who then delivery they areas. This can not be done now or for summer 2016 - this is planning for the future and would require open discussion. I am not sure if the Federation actually wants that much change!?

I hope this triggers some discussion for your meeting, even if it is just to tell me that change isn't that easy. But at least I am raising the points on what the sports higher end coaches want - unity and direction from grass roots through to the National Teams, rather than clashing events and a mess of conflicting information and options. SSE is the Governing Body and it should lead, and if we are on this "Strategy and Planning" Committee I feel that we should at least be discussing new strategies and trying to plan for change.

Thanks for reading all that, hope the meeting goes well,

Cheers,

Paul

Paul Telling

Team Evolution Programme Director,  
Team GB Youth Olympic Coach

## Appendix 2

### Alpine Strategy and Planning Committee

6<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Bormio Report

David Manns

#### Competition Programme

The programme, as currently published on various web sites, is broadly similar to last time but with one of the Super-G races 'up-rated' to an Alpine Combined. This is another new development for us which will doubtless provide its own technical challenges on the hill, but the ROC felt that it was important to continue to find ways to improve what is offered.

	FIS races	GBR races
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	NJR Slalom	U14/16 Giant Slalom
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	FIS Slalom	U10/12 Giant Slalom
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	NJR Giant Slalom	U14/16 Super-G
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	FIS Giant Slalom	U14/16 Super-G
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Alpine Combined	U10/12 Combi
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Super-G (BARSC)	U14/16 Slalom

There is also a repeat of the popular team parallel slalom under floodlight on Tuesday evening, the opening parade on Saturday afternoon, and the invitation-only drinks reception on Wednesday evening as usual.

#### Team

This time we have a slightly different mix of people on the team, although ROC and Calcs are unchanged from last time. David Eaves will be joining the hill team for his first taste of officiating on snow, and we have a course crew who are almost entirely new to the hill.

It is this last group that continues to be difficult to find – there is no shortage of 'senior' people to take on the on-hill roles such as Start and Finish Referee, but finding a capable crew of fit and experienced people who know what course maintenance is all about has proved harder than ever.

We are only able to find six rather than the hoped-for eight crew, only two have real experience of course maintenance, and we will have to rely more heavily on local helpers to do the grunt work. We may be aided in this last task by having on our crew an Italian chap who is actually from Bormio but is currently working in Scotland – he will at least be able to speak the lingo!

#### Budget

Although some of the numbers are difficult to predict accurately, the latest budget shows a small surplus of just over £3000 (just over 6% of turnover).

Flights this year have turned out to be noticeably more expensive than last time. Entry numbers are notoriously difficult to predict, although we are in a better position than most races on the calendar due not only to the alignment with half-term holidays but also to the attraction of the programme that is on offer.

#### Accommodation

For several years the Hotel Olimpia has been our home in Bormio. Over the summer they have been busy renovating, and although they officially no longer offer half-board they have agreed to put together a package for us as a one-off.

Possible alternative accommodation for next time is already being investigated, with the intention of visiting some of them and securing a deal for 2017 during our 2016 visit.

### **Contract**

Our current contract is for 2016 only, so plans are already being laid for negotiating a contract for 2017 onwards. The current feeling is that there is nothing compelling us to look elsewhere; Bormio ticks so many boxes for us in terms of service, price, and simply wanting us to be there, that unless the service starts to slide, they demand a ridiculous price, or an unsolicited bid is received from elsewhere, there is no reason not to sign a contract for a further three years.

Although contract negotiations – and the service given to us by the resort – are largely done on an informal basis, a more detailed ‘service agreement’ is being prepared which will be sent to the resort ahead of our visit. Although this is unlikely to stipulate anything more than we are currently getting, it will form a more business-like basis for discussion, and will also act as a starting point as and when discussion might take place with alternative venues.

### **Succession**

The small matter of finding successors for the key positions remains one of the most difficult issues on the task list. Although it is clearly not going to be resolved quickly, each year that goes by is another lost opportunity to have someone ‘shadow’ key roles at the event.

## Appendix 3

### Alpine Strategy and Planning Committee 2017 Calendar Planning Proposal

This is work in progress I've not done as much on this I had hoped.

I have started by going back to the findings of the consultation process in the summer of 2013 in which we had 315 responses and found that generally the type of events and structure of the race calendar required very little amendment from what we had been doing in the years leading up to 2013.

The main changes made as a result of this consultation were:

- The Lion races integrated into SSE series
- Separate BARTS seed lists for indoor and outdoor artificial events
- To hold artificial seeded events during the winter period.
- Change the start times of certain event to allow for travelling to the event in the same day to save on overnight costs.
- To provide more racing on the day by adding pro slalom events etc. giving more value for money.

All of these points were introduced from 2014 onwards

The conclusion from the review of the 2015 is:

- That numbers are slightly up in line with the upturn in the economy.
- Need to closely monitor the Inter Regional as numbers have been dwindling over the past few years, this was exaggerated this year holding it at Pendle.
- Very few athletes do both indoor and outdoor artificial surfaces which is creating a divide in the sport

A lesson to be learnt from 2015 is whilst we must remain keen to run events in the North of the country on hindsight knowing the numbers would be lower the All England and Inter Regional should never be run in the north in the same year.

We need to promote what we have better – I have been saying for a long time the events are not very engaging with the athletes and are very boring compared with a freestyle event or example.

The changes proposed by the Events Committee should start to address this and we need to take a view as the 2016 season progresses. This will involve a lot of extra work – even more officials are needed to set up and take down, and then there is the issue to transport this around the country.

#### Proposals

An additional event - Indoor Team event

To run at Chill Factor, budget costs are:

- Slope Hire Costs £76 per team of 4
- Trophy £200
- Paperwork/officials lunches £200
- TD Costs £100

Based on charging £100.00 per team - £24 per team would go towards overheads therefore we would need 21 teams to break even.

As a comparison the BARSC event had 16 teams, and 2 University teams.

A format to be sorted

Agreement needed to possibly make a small loss to trial the event.

It would need to be linked with another indoor event to make a weekend

The structure of the clubs is changing with academies growing in popularity and more emphasis appears to be on athletes to compete abroad.

To carry out another full consultation with the whole racing community to enable us to deliver what the 'customer' wants taking us forward for the next 2 -3 years

Alan Bullock, 6 December 2015

## Appendix 4

### Alpine Strategy and Planning Committee

#### A. Proposal for recruitment and retention of officials.

##### Level 1 Officials Training

To maintain the current method of setting up courses for regions or clubs locally as requested.  
Look at running level 1 courses on race days if the venue permits.

##### Level 2 Officials and Race Secretaries Training

I propose to schedule L2 and RS course in November each year at Loughborough.  
A Level 2 Officials course in April 2016 to attempt to increase participation numbers, again at Loughborough subject to a minimum of 6 attendees.

##### Method to encourage interest

- Continue to promote courses through BritSki, SSE Website, Weekly bulletin, plus any other media SSE set up as time goes on.
- Actively promote courses and encourage new officials at events by the commentator - give them a script.
- Develop a 5/10 minute presentation on role of/becoming an official to be delivered at some point during race days
- A data collection sheet included in the officials paper work pack to record the names and emails of interested people and make it part of the CoR role to ensure that the sheet is returned electronically.
- Get the message out better that all the races are run by volunteers and a hard message that without new volunteers the sport can't continue and every club / academy needs to do their bit.
- Promote courses to all regional committees and race club committees better.
- Tighten up on the need to have a CoR and RS from the organizing club in place before any Excel or CN race is accepted onto the calendar. (may need to softly tighten up on this over the 2016 seasons and implement for the 2017 season).
- Ensure we allow new people to shadow experienced officials - this is a barrier, people are not putting themselves forward as they are concerned they will make a mistake particularly gate judging and backup timing.

##### Additional resources that would help with the recruitment of Officials

- An online mechanism to enable all clubs and regions or an individual to show their interest in attending any of the courses without setting up a course.
- Leaflet detailing how to get involved and the progression pathway available to distribute to interested parties at every event, and send to all race clubs.
- Electronic information sheet detailing each course to be emailed to interested parties.
- Recognition of these volunteers better - make people feel valued.
- Finish off the IT system to include different level of officials.

##### Possible changes to the current L2 course to encourage participation.

Split the course into 2 separate parts

Part 1	Part 2
Start Ref	Chief of Race
Finish Ref	Referee
Understanding Courses	Jury Course Inspection
Race Entries/Race Sec Overview	The Jury, Jury meetings, Jury minutes, protests
Chief Gate Judge	The Jury Demo scenario
All the paperwork for the above roles	All paperwork for the above roles

All still to be delivered over 2 days - part 1 on first day and part 2 on the second day.

A person can attend both days as we do currently or just attend part 1 and then attend part 2 at the next training course.

Will need to attend the part 1 before they can attend part 2.

Will need to have attended both parts and carry out the roles as currently before they can be assessed as a level 2 official.

Advantages of this format.

- Eliminate and remove the barrier for the need for someone to stop overnight to attend the L2 course.
- Encourage people to do just the part 1 carry out the roles of chief gate judge, start, finish ref etc. which might get them hooked and then they will hopefully return to complete the part 2 and become a full level 2 official.

## **B. Report on Level 2 Officials course 28-29 November 2015**

**Venue:** Ash Vale Scout Hall, Aldershot

**Number of attendees:** 12

**Tutors:** Ian Roberts and Richard Dawe

Although I was not present the general feedback on course arrangements and venue has been positive and has come in under budget.

Course content- a few comments were noted on the feedback forms and Ian is looking at tweaking the level 2 package for the delivery of future courses.

There were a couple comments made that would indicate some attendees lacked experience in level one roles, possibly for future courses we need to increase the criteria for attendance at a level 2 to ensure they get the most out of the course and not be frightened away because of a lack of experience.

Statements/feedback made:

*Many attendees want to gain further experience –either shadow/undertake roles but 2 potential issues*

*A. Number of races*

*B. Difficult to be appointed. Can there be an officials database where we can “apply” for roles in upcoming races so COR can see who is available.*

*How do we find out about associated courses- could there be an advanced timetable of courses in the year to help plan attendance?*

*It would have been good to have a slope based activity.*

*Overview of timekeeping and back up timing.*

*A little more on course structure and setting.*

*None to the course but a central mechanism to volunteer at seeded races it would make volunteering easier.*

*To have regular top up courses.*

One form had several comments on but mainly criticising the course for being snow based and not just artificial. I have not included these comments.

## C. Level 2 Course Income and Expenditure

Level 2 Officials Training Course - Snow Sport South Aldershot 28-29 November 2015

		Budget		Actual	
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Room Hire Costs					
Room hire		£	150.00	£	100.00
Tutor Costs					
Travel - Ian	miles (approx.)		220		240
	rate	£0.45	£ 99.00	£	108.00
Travel - Richard	miles (approx.)		340		320
	rate	£0.45	£ 153.00	£	144.00
Accommodation	rate		£56.50		£54.50
	2 tutors for 2 nights	4	£ 226.00	£	218.00
Breakfast			£7.50		£8.75
		4	£ 30.00	£	35.00
Evening meal			£25.00		
	2 tutors for 2 nights	4	£ 100.00	£	74.97
Printing Costs					
Copying and paper			£ 20.00	£	26.25
Materials	flip chart paper, pens			£	16.98
Postage				£	17.48
Catering					
Tea, Coffee, Lunch	per day		£75.00		£68.98
		2	£ 150.00	£	137.96
<b>Total Expenditure</b>			<b>£ 928.00</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>878.64</b>

<b>Income</b>					
Attendees		10		12	
Charge rate		£50.00	£ 500.00	£	600.00
Other income					
<b>Total Income</b>			<b>£ 500.00</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>600.00</b>
Contribution from SSE - upto £500			£ 428.00	£	278.64

Alan Bullock, 6 December 2015

## **Appendix 5**

### **Alpine Strategy and Planning Committee**

#### **TD Forum Report**

#### **David Manns 6<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

#### **Rule changes**

BACR III rule 10.3: proposal by SSE to alter the regulations for calculation of seed points, to remove the requirement for 'average of best two results' to be from different venues, was passed without comment as expected. This change will therefore take effect from the start of the 2016 season, and will apply as agreed to both indoor and outdoor lists for consistency.

BCR 1002.4: staging U14/16 Super-G on courses which are not homologated for Super-G must now be approved in advance by the TD Forum as part of the Calendar Application., and will require a specific approval by a FIS Inspector. This change has been made on safety grounds, and removes the existing possibility of 'on site' approval by the appointed TD on arrival at the venue.

Equipment 2.4: dispensation on ski conformance that applied in 2014-15 has now expired as previously published. All current FIS equipment regulations for skis will now be applied to British events.

Equipment 6.2.4: helmet regulations (as per ICR N.H. Precisions 2015-16) clearly stipulate that no post-manufacture modifications to helmets are allowed, including stickers and camera mounts. This is an important safety issue, not only because the mount breaks the smooth 'sliding' surface of the shell but also because the adhesives have the potential to degrade the shell itself. The rules will of course apply as published at all FIS races, although for British non-FIS races this continues to be an educational process as it is recognised that some competitions (e.g. several seeded Schools races) may be somewhat behind the curve in terms of updating equipment. The Forum was anxious to avoid the situation where inexperienced school racers were sent away from the start due to a stuck-on camera mount, only to be found trying to lever them off using a screwdriver. ROCs will be encouraged to highlight the rules in their bulletins, and Team Captains' Meetings will be fully briefed on the obligations of competitors to arrive at the start with fully conformant equipment.

Other highlights from the ICR Precisions (available on the Rules page of GBSKI):

- single pole courses can now be used at all levels of FIS race;
- parallel courses can now be more than 8m apart;
- the limit on the number of starts in technical events for first year U18 has been removed;
- new status "Not Permitted to Start" (NPS) for those prevented from starting due to equipment or other infringements;

#### **Artificial slope homologation**

Following the (relatively) recent re-vamping of the homologation process, ten of the 23 slopes have been re-inspected. Of the 13 remaining, homologation for Milton Keynes has expired (although no races are scheduled for that venue in 2016) and one (Southampton) is due for re-inspection anyway as the validity period of the homologation certificate has expired. These will all be dealt with in due course, most likely by inspections tagged onto TD race assignments as we did this year.

There is yet more work on homologation requirements under way in the Safety & Security SC of the TD Forum. Discussions are on-going about how to determine minimum medical requirements, and what level of risk assessment is appropriate, but nothing concrete to report on that so far.

## **GBSKI.COM calendar, seeding and result processing**

Work continues (albeit sporadically) on developing the site to take over from Britski for the publication of detailed race calendars and results, and calculation and publication of seed lists.

The current plan is for Britski and BASS seeding to continue to operate as-is for this winter, with the 2016 artificial slope season going fully online. By that time it will be possible to publish all race documents (invitations, bulletins, start lists, etc.) via the automated system on GBSKI, and all result validation and seeding processes will be online.

Note that this work does not encompass the huge quantity of legacy data currently available on Britski, which is a whole other story!

## **FIS Calendar applications**

Applications to stage FIS races on slopes in other countries have to be submitted through BSS. This process has not been clearly understood by ROCs and BSS until recently, and there have been some issues with acquiring the necessary permission from the host country (e.g. from FISU for the English Alpine Champs, and from SwissSki for the Welsh) to stage races. FIS have re-iterated that this negotiation has to be NSA-to-NSA, it is not the task of the race organiser. BSS are now fully up to speed with the requirements and should be able to handle this for 2016-17 applications without the issues we had initially for 2015-16.

## **TD appointments**

Barring a couple of gaps at Army-run events, TDs were appointed to all winter races. Appointments of particular interest to us are Ross McMillan for the Ambition races in Leogang, and Dick Dawe for Bormio.

Andy du Plessis continues his journey as a Candidate TD (sponsored by SSE), hopefully taking his practical assessment this winter and his examination next summer. This will give him his TD Licence, albeit initially only qualified for artificial slope events, which he then plans to up-rate next winter with a further practical examination at a race in the Alps.

Although not raised at the Forum meeting (as the artificial calendar appointments are handled outside of the Forum), it was disappointing to discover that the 2016 draft artificial slope calendar includes a race weekend that clashes with the May Forum meeting. This is despite the fact that the date of that meeting was published some 18 months in advance to give plenty of notice. With the small number of TDs operating at artificial slopes in England it is hard enough to manage the assignments on a normal weekend, but having to get someone to agree to miss the meeting makes it all the more difficult. It is understood that this happened as the result of a genuine oversight, but if at all possible this calendar clash should be looked at again. The work of the Forum becomes ever more complex with most of 'our' TDs playing an active part in Forum or sub-committee business, and having to remove one of those few TDs from the process is far from ideal.

## **TD retirement**

Larry Young has decided to hang up his TD license and retire. Those of you who have come across Larry on the winter race circuit over the years will doubtless echo the vote of thanks given by the Forum for all his hard work. Larry now becomes the second recipient of the recently-created

position of “TD Emeritus”, which allows him to continue to contribute to discussions should he wish to do so, and allows us to continue to tap into his knowledge and experience. FYI the first recipient was Martin Leach, who retired last year due to ill-health.

Completely unrelated to this, some questions have arisen over where we stand with respect to the current FIS recommendation of 65 as the maximum age for a Technical Delegate, and most importantly what implications this has for insurance. The matter has been discussed with BSS, resulting in the TD Forum being asked to devise an appropriate method of objective assessment which can be applied to provide documentary evidence of our due diligence in determining competence to continue to take that role beyond that recommended maximum age. A small working group has been set up to review this, aiming to have something to bring to the May Forum meeting for discussion and ratification before passing it to BSS.

### **Future race development**

At the FIS meetings in the summer, Christophe Lemeire (BEL) tabled a proposal to put together a small series of FIS races to be staged in indoor snow halls outside of the current FIS calendar period. Although a similar attempt last year was strongly rebuffed, this latest proposal received a surprising level of support, resulting in the creation of a Working Group to investigate the issues and come up with a detailed proposal. I have been asked to join that Working Group to contribute the UK’s experience of running indoor events to the discussion.

## **Appendix 6**

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/Rossendale. 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 7 Alpine Strategy and Planning Committee Annual Agenda Calendar

Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4	
<p>Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update from Board</li> <li>Update from Events</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>Finance report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress against budget</li> <li>Circulation of budget info</li> <li>Alpine Champs initial budget</li> </ul> <p>BSS – AST report</p> <p>Officials training level 1 &amp; 2 courses/ rewards / licence</p>		<p>Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update from Board</li> <li>Update from Events</li> </ul> <p>Finance Report</p> <p>Alpine Champs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outline budget for next season</li> <li>Finalisation of recent budget and accounts</li> </ul> <p>Race calendar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>any updates for current season</li> <li>Promotion of summer events</li> <li>Agree structure to work to for next year's race calendar and communicate to all stakeholders</li> </ul> <p>BSS – AST report</p>		<p>Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update from Board</li> <li>Update from Events</li> </ul> <p>Finance   Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalised budget for Alpine Champs</li> <li>Draft budget for next year complete for board comment (some elements will not be finalised)</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>Confirm race calendar structure/rules for next summer</li> </ul> <p>BSS – AST report</p>		<p>Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update from Board</li> <li>Update from Events</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>Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalise budget submission to SSE board</li> <li>Report on current year's finances</li> </ul> <p>Race Calendar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>winter calendar plans for a year's time</li> </ul> <p>BSS – AST report</p> <p>Official courses – Dates for course in 2016 agreed &amp; published</p>	
<b>Board requirements and board dates</b>							
<b>Jan</b>		<b>March</b>		<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	