

SNOWSPORT ENGLAND



Alpine Strategy and Planning Committee Meeting

9:00 Sunday 10 July 2016

Teleconference

Present:

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

1. Apologies - Ian Roberts (IR)

2. BT welcomed IR as a valuable new member to the committee. He takes over from Alan Bullock on officials' training. BT also announced that Nigel Vincent would be joining AEC and taking over from Dermot Flahive.

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

Action: MC to send IR code of conduct and declaration of interest forms.

4. **Actions from previous minutes not on the agenda elsewhere**

- **Ambassador Programme** - Since the last ASPC meeting, the Ambassador Programme has been launched independently of this committee due to a breakdown in communications. However, ASPC support the programme and are very pleased to support the athletes selected to it.
- **AMG/IT Strategy Group** – BT reported that there were still no minutes available for these groups and nothing lodged on the website. This is a concern that the board is aware of.

5. **Budget Update** – PH reported on the 2015 and 2016 (first quarter) profit and loss as well as the management accounts for 2016 (first quarter). There were a few corrections needed as some of the spends had not been allocated to the same line as their budget. However, overall, the financial position was positive with Bormio making a surplus of ~£5300 (a few expenses have not been submitted yet).

LJ had not had an opportunity to look at the report so would report back to PH/BT after the meeting.

Action: LJ to look at finance reports and feedback to PH

6. **Officials' Training Courses** – BT/LJ had been in discussion with IR.

So far in 2016, there has been a level 2 course at Loughborough in April as well as a local level 1 course. (2 further level 1 courses have been requested.) A level 2 course is planned for 12/13 November in Loughborough.

The level 2 course is being reorganised into 2 modules. This will allow it to be taken either on 2 consecutive days or spread out over 2 separate occasions. DM reported that the TD forum working group recognised the work being done on SSE courses but was continuing to work on plans for their own course material.

Action: BT/LJ to liaise with IR concerning level 2 courses

Ryan Grewcock is developing an online version of the level 1 course. (BT/LJ have been in discussion with him but have not yet seen the prototype.) It is planned that this would be available to clubs as an aid for informing new racers/parents of the basic elements of running races and the continuing need for new race officials.

7. TD Forum Update – Appendix 1 gives DM’s notes from the TD Forum.

8. Calendar Update – PH and MC had circulated documents indicating the current budget and attendance data for the 2016 artificial race season. Overall the budget situation for 2016 is healthy – however, this is largely due to the increase in entries to the BASS races at Landgraaf. The Board have agreed that there will be no increase in entry fees for 2017.

The inter regional event needs a minimum of 16 teams to be viable. (There were 12 this year so it will probably have run at a loss.)

There was discussion on the appropriate number of seeded races which should take place each year and how these should be allocated.

LJ felt that there should not be additional 5 point penalty races and that seeded races should progress from Club Nationals (10 point), through GBR (5 point) to Championships. PH felt that organisers should bid to hold races – and that only a set number of bids should be accepted. PT emphasised the need to maintain the value of races to the racers. He felt that races should be promoted accordingly so that the correct amount of kudos was attached to each. EC agreed that a schedule needed to be in place and communications improved to promote it.

BT suggested that a subcommittee from ASPC/AEC should be set up to look at the calendar and recommend a clear structure for 2018.

Action: BT/LJ/DM to discuss with AEC and set up a group to look at calendar planning for 2018

9. Nature and standard of courses/course setters list – LJ reported that there were still comments being made around the race circuit on the relative standard of courses for the various events. There was often no clear progression from Regional level through Club National to GBR and Championships.

The meeting asked that PT liaise with Jo Ryding (AEC) to consider this problem. Ideally, guidelines would be available as to the technical standards appropriate for each level (eg gate pitch, off set, technical difficulty). However, PT pointed out that the “on the day” conditions would also affect the suitability of a course (eg rain, wind) and it would be impossible to incorporate these in the guidelines. He felt that more of this knowledge should be included in the central coaching structure – and suggested separate discussions with UKCP. He felt that improving the registration requirements and making it harder to be signed off as a course setter would help the situation.

BT asked that PT/JR give consideration to the problem and report back to the next ASPC/AEC meetings.

**Actions: LJ to speak to Jo Ryding (AEC) re course setting policies
PT/Jo Ryding to liaise and report to the next ASPC/AEC meetings on course setting policies**

10. AOB

It was agreed that teleconference meetings could take place on weekday evenings (probably a Monday or Tuesday). The next meeting would be by teleconference before the Snowsport England AGM.

A face to face meeting in Loughborough would be scheduled before the end of the year.

Action: MC to check everyone’s availability for future meetings

No date was set for the next meeting

Actions:

3	MC	to send IR code of conduct and declaration of interest forms	
5	LJ	to look at finance reports and feedback to PH	
6	BT/LJ	to liaise with IR concerning level 2 courses	
8	BT/LJ/DM	to discuss with AEC and set up a group to look at calendar planning for 2018	
9	LJ	to speak to Jo Ryding (AEC) re course setting policies	
9	PT/Jo Ryding	to liaise and report to the next ASPC/AEC meetings on course setting policies	
10	MC	to check everyone’s availability for future meetings	

Appendix 1

ASPC 10-July-2016 Meeting by teleconference.

Agenda item 7 - TD Forum update/feedback

Official's courses

The working group within the forum are still ploughing forward slowly with the plan to produce a level 2 course from their own material/sources, rather than adopting and adapting the existing SSE course. This seems short-sighted, but I have too much going on to fight this one any more.

Artificial Slope Homologation

I am attempting (and largely failing so far this season) to collect EMA forms so that they can be added to the homologation file, as medical requirements and facilities at artificial slopes hardly change from year to year. I will need to make a list of those that are missing and will be chasing them up.

There is still an intention within the Safety and Security SC of the Forum to look in more detail at H&S and Risk Assessments for racing on artificial slopes, as this appears to be a little understood area.

TD Changes

Maud Instone retired as a TD with immediate effect just prior to the Forum meeting after many years' service.

Andy du Plessis (a candidate TD sponsored by SSE) successfully completed his practical examination at the Stoke GBR race, and (subject to final ratification by the Forum) is now a fully-fledged Technical Delegate for artificial races. He has been quickly pressed into service, and will take his first solo flight at the indoor Anglo-Welsh/British weekend next month. The plan after that is for him to attend the necessary events in the Alps as soon as possible in order to add the snow qualifications to his licence.

Calendar

Following Maud's resignation, the post of Chair of the Calendar SC fell vacant. Tristan Cole has volunteered to take that on, and has been busy working with ROCs and BSS to process calendar applications for next winter. He is putting into place a process for managing the applications which could potentially be used for the artificial calendar as well, although I don't at this point have much detail about how that works.

Clearly the recent conflicts over the British Artificial Championships has raised the profile of the artificial calendar and how it is managed. There are some races and ROCs that think they have to go direct to the Forum as for a winter race, others take part in the informal negotiation managed by SSE AEC, and some don't appear to have much of a clue how it works. There are mutterings in the wings about pressing for a process a little closer to that used for winter races, possibly using the TDF Calendar SC as an impartial arbiter of any conflicts, or making the new tools for calendar management available for use in compiling and managing the artificial calendar.

Race Structure

There are moves towards work on a proposal for Winter races that would try to take into account the different levels at which these races operate. It is clear that entry-level races such as the Schoolboys and Schoolgirls with large numbers of unregistered competitors are very different from English or British Championships, yet we still impose the same level of rules and regulations.

The plan is to work on this over the summer and table a working proposal for discussion at the November meeting. Clearly this is too late to have any effect for winter 2016/17, so the current rules and regulations will apply for races this coming winter.

Rules

No significant changes in rules were agreed. Ban on catsuits for U10/12 will remain in place, as will the current rules on forerunners stepping into other age groups/categories.

The question of equipment for “GS” races on artificial slopes was discussed. Designating the races as GS could leave the organisers (and potentially the TD) liable to issues with insurance should an incident occur during a race on a slope that has only been homologated for SL, and using SL equipment. It was agreed that the term “GS” should be avoided, that SL skis are fine, but helmets must not have chin guards. Slopes will be reviewed for suitability for extending homologation to cover GS, once appropriate criteria have been agreed.

TD Insurance

Lots of discussion around this point for TDs both at FIS and national level. From the BSS perspective, there are moves towards insisting that all TDs undergo some kind of medical examination and/or physical test, as well as a ‘competency test’ to verify continued application of knowledge.