

# SNOWSPORT ENGLAND



## Alpine Committee Meeting

Saturday 22 July 2017 at 11:00 am

Sportpark, Loughborough

### Present:

**Bryan Thomas – Joint Chair (BT)**  
**Mary Calvert (MC)**  
**Mike Frith (MF)**  
**Peter Heath (PH)**  
**David Manns (DM)**  
**Nigel Vincent (NV)**

### By phone link

**Lloyd Jenkins – Joint Chair (LJ)**  
**Karen Conde (KC)**  
**Andrea Grant (AG)**

### 1. Apologies

Ian Roberts (IR)  
Chris Shelley (CS) - report received ([Appendix 1](#))  
Paul Telling (PT)  
Paul Lawrence (PL)

### 2. Declaration of Interests

There were no changes to declarations of interest.

### 3. Minutes from previous meeting

These had previously been agreed and published on 29 March 2017.

### 4. Action points from previous meeting not on agenda elsewhere

4.1 A lightweight portable PA system (which is able to be used for prizegiving – particularly at Chill Factor) has not yet been identified.

**Action: MF/BT to purchase 2 lightweight portable PA systems**

4.2 Bormio

- DM confirmed that no major items of equipment needed replacement for Bormio. Small items such as drill bits may be needed.
- A possible social event for parents would be discussed at the next ROC meeting.

4.3 Race Entry System Some feedback has gone into the system and changes made. NV suggested that a log of complaints be kept. PH confirmed that, if a request was made, competitor accounts could be linked. However, payment still needed to be made separately. This needs to be publicised.

**Action: BT to talk to Claire Pennell and ask for an update on the entry system to be given to members. (PH or DM to check this before it is distributed.)**

4.4 Victoria Crampton was not present to provide an update on attendance at events by non-sponsorship companies.

4.5 LJ had not yet sent the FIS gate judging files to Ryan Grewcock for inclusion in the level 1 online course

**Action: LJ to forward FIS gate judging files to Ryan Grewcock for inclusion in level 1 online course**

4.6 DM had added the chief of calcs to the race calendar on gbski when this information had been supplied. (gbski will have editing pages for KC and others to use in administering the calendar

for 2018 onwards.) NV will add a stipulation on the form used for race bids that COR and Race Sec must be specified before a race would be added to the calendar.

**Action: NV to include that COR and Race Sec must be named before an event can be added to the calendar**

## 5. Finance

PH presented the accounts for 2016 and provisional accounts for 2017 (up to 30 June). Overall, the actual figures were very close to the budgeted ones. The income from registrations is down this year (as it was last year). PH has raised this with Tim Fawke.

**Action: SSE to provide possible explanation of reduced registrations**

Bormio shows a satisfactory surplus of £3K plus. PH emphasised that this was a high risk event (as entries were not guaranteed, many received just before the closing date) and the event could suffer if snow conditions were poor. Sponsorship is still being sought. This is being led by Tim Fawke/Victoria Crampton.

PH noted that it may be necessary to raise entry fees for 2018.

PH noted that the BSA sponsorship money for the GBR Series had just been received and sought clarification on how it is to be spent.

*Post meeting note: Tim Fawke has confirmed that this will go towards the development costs of the new race entry system and having a staff member attend the GBR races.*

## 6. Alpine Committee Terms of Reference

The draft terms of reference prepared by BT/MC had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was generally agreed that the current committee was too large. LJ felt that 8 – 10 members would be more appropriate. It was suggested that those roles which provided representatives to the committee from other bodies (eg ASDA, Athletes' Rep, Board, Coaching, Regional Chairs) should submit regular reports to the committee but only attend as needed (but not less than once per year).

**Action: BT/MC to provide second draft for circulation and comments before the next Board meeting in September**

## 7. Officials' Training Role

7.1 IR was thanked for his work on Officials' Training. The appointment of Andrew Hjort (AH) as his successor was unanimously agreed. (The application had been made through a formal process to SSE.). IR will arrange to hand over the work done so far to Andrew.

**Action: BT to confirm Andrew Hjort's appointment  
IR will hand over to AH**

7.2 An officials' update day had previously been proposed to cater for artificial slope officials for whom a full FIS update is not necessary. A budget would need to be identified for this. Once appointed, it was suggested that AH be asked to look into this.

**Action: AH to look into possibility of an officials update day for artificial slope officials**

7.3 It was confirmed that a level 2 officials' course will be held at Loughborough on 25/26 November 2017. The course leader has not yet been designated.

**Action: DM to hand over appointment of tutors and other arrangements to AH**

7.4 There has been progress on the level 1 online course but it is not yet available for use. NV reported that SASA have asked for a basic/introductory officials training day in Southampton on 10 September 2017. He is happy to provide this.

## 8. Course Setting

There was no progress on update of the course setters' policy or the course setters list. No date was provided for a course setters' course. Simon Bannister (Aldershot Ski Race Club) had offered to be

responsible for the coordination of course setting lists. This offer was unanimously accepted. LJ confirmed that he would update the policy document.

**Action: LJ to progress update of the course setters' policy document and contact Simon Bannister to take over running of the course setters' list**

## 9. SSE Race Manual

The changes and additions concerning officials' development were approved by the committee. DM will progress the document and arrange for its publication.

**Action: DM to progress the revised SSE Race Manual**

## 10. Report from ASDA sub-committee (submitted by CS - Appendix 1)

The report was accepted. It was requested that the future proposals from the ASDA sub-committee be presented to the Alpine Committee in the spring. The ASDA sub-committee is made up of:

Chair	Chris Shelley – and link to Alpine Committee
Talent officer	Ian Findlay Strategy & policies
Squad Manager/Head Coach	James Knock
SSE Board Representative	Alison Eyre
Dryslope Ambassadors	Gareth Case - oversees Dryslope Ambassadors
Logistic Support	Gillian Poth - Help provide logistic support & link with office on bookings
Office support	Claire Pennell
CEO	Tim Fawke

**Action: CS to present the ASDA sub-committee plans for the future to the Alpine Committee in Spring 2018**

## 11. Review of Seeding Regulations for UK based races (Appendix 2)

DM had carried out a review of the current artificial slope seeding regulations. These would also need to be discussed by the other home nations and then be tabled back to the TD forum for approval. There are 4 levels of races – with minimum penalties of 0, 5, 10 and 40. There had been concerns expressed over the increase in 5 point races. It was felt that these should be limited to GBR races, Welsh and Irish Open Championships and the British University Championships.

**Action: DM to take the views of this committee on seeding regulations forward to the other home nations and then the TD forum**

**Post meeting note:** BUSC have decided that, mainly due to organisational and cost issues, their dry slope and snow Champs will no longer be seeded and will thus no longer require a TD

## 12. SSE Calendar Planning document (summary document Appendix 3)

The calendar planning document has been circulated to the committee and now will be taken forward to the other HNGBs, coaches and other selected individuals.

The bidding letters for the 2018 season will be issued. They will include an encouragement to ROCs that they seek ways to provide more racing opportunities to the competitors during the day. In order for time to be available for this, it is suggested that the race day timetable be reviewed and shortened where possible.

It was agreed that the 2018 invitations will include a requirement to provide information before an event is confirmed (e.g. Race Secretary, Chief of Race, Chief of Calcs, SGO, etc) and to re-state the expectations regarding late entries (including fees).

**Action: NV to circulate invitation letter and 2018 calendar (so far) to committee. Comments must be sent back within 5 days**  
**Action: NV to send out 2018 invitation letters to interested parties**

### 13. BSS Alpine Committee Report

This had been circulated to the committee. There were no issues.

### 14. FIS Licences

Tim Fawke had circulated a proposal for a change in the FIS licence criteria written by BSS. The proposal sets out to remove the need for performance criteria to award a FIS licence (limited to technical events) but requires athletes to have scored a minimum of 150 FIS points to be entered into FIS speed events. There is still an option to apply for a limited (GB) FIS licence.

There was concern over the revised proposals as they would seem to remove any check on competency for racers applying to enter FIS SL & GS events. If these racers are involved in an accident due to their lack of competence, there is a risk that BSS would be liable for having provided them with a licence to enter. It wasn't clear what the drive for the change was.

**Action: MC to ask Tim Fawke for more details on the proposals and clarification of the reasons behind them.**

*Post meeting note: Robin Kellen has provided more information and it is felt that, having raised the concerns of the SSE Alpine Committee to BSS, it is BSS's decision and responsibility.*

### 15. Late Entries

DM asked that late entry fees be applied for all races. There were an increasing number of late entries which caused problems for the race secretary as well as the seeder. It was agreed that the racing community needed to be educated about the problems which late entries cause. For GBR events, the online closing date will be the Friday 8/9 days before the event. After that, late entry fees will be applied. Online entries will be closed at midnight on the Wednesday before the event. CN race organising committees will be encouraged to take the same approach.

**Action: NV/KC to ensure that late entry and closing date enforcement details are included in the race bulletin for GBR races**

**Action: NV/KC to ask organisers of CN and other events to follow the GBR guidelines for late entries**

### 16. SSE Membership System

DM asked for an update on the current SSE membership system. It was confirmed that this was now being tested and should be set up in the next 2 weeks.

### 17. Any Other Business

17.1 PH asked if the SSE insurance covered racers in age categories younger than under 10. These racers compete in regional and schools races and need to be covered for third party insurance. MC reported that she had asked Tim Fawke this question some years ago in relation to Snowsport South races. He had responded that it was fine if the racers were younger than under 10 but the race organisers needed to make an assessment to confirm the individuals were competent to be racing and therefore safe.

17.2 It was confirmed that the Race Secretary's Booklet had been published on gbski in June.

17.3 MF reported that Gareth Case had asked that consideration be given to holding an International Head to Head Event on the Saturday of the All England Championships in 2018. There was support for this.

**Action: NV/KC to look into adding an International Head to Head event into the 2018 calendar.**

**The date for the next meeting was set for  
11:00am on Sunday 15 October 2017 at Sportpark.**

## ACTIONS

4.1	MF/BT	To purchase 2 lightweight portable PA systems	
4.3	BT	To talk to Claire Pennell and ask her to provide an update on the entry system for members. (PH or DM to check this before it is distributed.)	
4.5	LJ	To forward FIS gate judging files to Ryan Grewcock for inclusion in level 1 online course	
4.6	NV	To include that COR and Race Sec must be named before an event can be added to the calendar	
5	SSE office	SSE to provide possible explanation of reduced registrations	
6	BT/MC	To provide second draft of Alpine Committee TORs for circulation and comment before the next Board meeting in September	
7.1	BT	To confirm AH's appointment	
7.1	IR	To hand over to AH	
7.2	AH	To look into possibility of an officials update day for artificial slope officials	
7.3	DM	To hand over appointment of tutors and other arrangements for level 2 courses to AH	
8	LJ	To progress update of the course setters' policy document and contact Simon Bannister to take over running of the course setters' list	
9	DM	To progress the revised SSE Race Manual	
10	CS	To present the ASDA sub-committee plans for the future to the Alpine Committee in Spring 2018	
11	DM	To take the views of this committee on seeding regulations forward to the other home nations and then the TD forum	
12	NV	To circulate invitation letter and 2018 calendar (so far) to committee. Comments must be sent back within 5 days.	
12	NV	To send out invitation letters for 2018 to interested parties	
14	MC	To ask Tim Fawke for more details on the proposals to changes in FIS Licence criteria and clarification of the reasons behind them.	
15	NV/KC	To ensure that late entry and closing date enforcement details are included in the race bulletin for GBR races	
15	NV/KC	To ask organisers of CN and other events to follow the GBR guidelines for late entries	
17.3	NV/KC	To look into adding an International Head to Head event into the 2018 calendar	

## Appendix 1

### Alpine Squad and Dryslope Ambassador Committee

#### Update for Alpine Committee

**Author: Chris Shelley**

**Date: 12<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

Distribution: Alpine Committee

Copy to: ASDA Committee

#### 1. Committee Activities

The committee has held regular phone conference calls over the past few weeks in preparation for the first Alpine Squad weekend which was scheduled for the 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> July.

Following successful completion of the first weekend, Chris Shelley has now taken over as chair of the committee from Alison Eyre. Alison will remain on the ASDA committee, but this change will allow her to concentrate on other SSE responsibilities.

Now that this year's squad weekends are scheduled and arranged, focus will turn to evolving the programme for next year. The committee now has strong performance input, following the appointment of James Knock and the continued involvement of Ian Findlay, and hence the committee feel it is the right time to review the objectives of the Squad programme, to ensure it is achieving the desired aims for both the athletes and the sport in general.

Over the summer the committee will therefore be consulting on views around this, which will include canvassing opinions from the Alpine Committee. We will try to do this in a structured way to ensure that ideas and suggestions are practical and can be successfully implemented.

This work needs to be concluded before the winter season starts so any updates to the Squad criteria can be published in plenty of time.

#### 2. Alpine Squad

The first Alpine Squad weekend took place in Manchester on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> July. It was attended by around 35 athletes, of which a handful only attended one of the two days. The first day featured the ACE test, which had been slightly altered following review by the coaches and fitness instructors. The emphasis being shifted towards individual development rather than simply passing or failing tests. The second day featured the snow based skills drill along with talks on mountain first aid and social media. SCAT tests and FIS medicals, for those that requested them, were also carried out at this weekend.

Overall feedback was positive, with the athletes enjoying the new format. There were one or two minor logistical problems, but nothing that couldn't be overcome on the day by the team, and nothing that impacted the delivery of the weekend. Overall an excellent weekend run by a very strong team of SSE staff, outside professionals and volunteers.

The next weekend is scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> in RAF Northolt and Milton Keynes, where a larger (50+) turnout is expected.

The final weekend will take place in Loughborough on November 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>.

#### 3. Dryslope Ambassadors

This year's dryslope ambassadors have been appointed, and the committee have also agreed to offer senior ambassador places to two athletes (one male, one female). A dryslope training day for the ambassadors has been organised at Gloucester for the 27<sup>th</sup> August. It is hoped that as well as some coaching this will be a chance for the ambassadors to bond and develop as a group and to get their feedback on the Ambassador programme.

## Review of artificial slope seeding regulations

### Background

Seeding of artificial slope races is covered by the British rules, specifically BACR III. These races include a range of race formats both indoors and out. Only Slalom races are seeded, not least because slopes are only homologated for Slalom and no criteria currently exist to extend this to other event types. Competitions are categorised based on their format and 'level', and different minimum penalties or category adders are used to provide a kind of 'value scale' for the results.

### Race formats – outdoors

Standard two-run race on two different courses, aggregate (combined) time to count.

Club National format, three runs on the same course, best of first two runs plus third run to count.

Excel format, three runs on the same course, best single time to count.

### Race formats – indoors

Standard two-run race on two different courses, aggregate (combined) time to count.

Club National format, two separate single-run races on different courses.

### Minimum penalties

These are the minimum penalties currently ascribed to races as per BACR III:

- 0 Championship races. One indoor and one outdoor event per constituent group (English, Welsh, Scottish, Irish, British, European). At present, English and Welsh indoor is a shared event (Anglo-Welsh), and the European is staged outdoors only and not every year.
- 5 GBR Series, Welsh Closed, British University, SCI Slalom, LSRA and other standard two-run races.
- 10 Club National races.
- 40 Excel races.

### Category Adders

Only one category adder is currently applied for artificial race seeding:

- 5 British University Indoor Finals and Dry Slope championships.

### Discussion

The current application of minimum penalties is the area which is causing concern, specifically the wish to provide a clear separation between the GBR race series as a valued national event, and other races using the same two-run format.

Snowsport Wales for example have run a standard two-run Slalom for quite a few years which operates with a five point minimum penalty. There have also been occasional races elsewhere in the country also running at five points, such as the races at Silksworth which requested the use of this minimum on the grounds of making the race 'attractive' to uphold viability. As the rules stand, there are no grounds on which the application of a five point minimum can be refused.

Are the points acceptable as they are, or should they be changed? If so, what changes should be made? Any proposal for change would need to be discussed with the other stakeholders in the seeding system, then tabled for ratification at the TD Forum in November.

## 2018 Calendar Review Sub Committee Initial Findings

### Report Recommendations and Conclusions

- ✍ The performance Directors should be asked to review the current Schools/Regional/Excel/CN/GBR/Championship levels and confirm whether this development path meets the goals of the governing bodies.
- ✍ The calendar construction process should be constrained to a defined period which can be communicated (on GBSki) to ensure that, once the calendar is finalised, the dates are secured and other events cannot be added that clash.

Any requests for changes beyond the period should be ratified at a subcommittee of the TD Forum where the impact on TD availability and impact on events in the calendar can be considered before accepting new events onto the calendar.
- ✍ The Excel format should be maintained and encouragement provided to ROC's (particularly in areas where participation is lower) to consider the format as an alternative to a Club National.
- ✍ During the 2017 season, there should be an examination of the time taken to run a Club National to establish if there are opportunities to reduce time periods and open up the possibility of allowing more competition and slope time for athletes.
- ✍ Consider running two separate CN Series (indoor and outdoor)

This would provide a series where indoor clubs, in particular, can aim for the series title without being disadvantaged by the number of competitions available. It would also enable the possibility of "allowable clashes" on the calendar where Indoor and Outdoor races could be run on the same day due to limited crossover of athletes (currently).
- ✍ Consider amending the series such that the best 3 scores added together for Outdoor and the best 2 for indoor rather than all races added together are the basis for the overall points.

This would increase interest in the series for clubs less willing to travel.
- ✍ Consideration should be given to how a single British slalom seedlist system could be introduced. This should cover all surfaces, all venues from schools racing all the way to the British Alpine Championships
- ✍ Participation at GBR Indoor should be an area to look to grow but there are no indicators that the series would need any material changes.

The development path may be aided by introducing more indoor Club Nationals and the need for a three layer hierarchy (CN, GBR and Championship) could be reviewed if attendance does not grow over the next 2-3 years.
- ✍ Input was divided over whether it was better to have GBR/GBR double headers over the weekend or whether the CN/GBR combination would be better in order to encourage more athletes into the GBR format. This is naturally limited by the availability of homologated GBR slopes. It is recommended that both combinations are retained to cater for the split preferences within the racing community
- ✍ The 'Crystal Globe' concept is already well established within FIS and it is recommended that the same points approach be adopted over multiple disciplines, all contributing to an overall competition.

Proportional weighting would need to be given and 'best' results should count rather than volume undertaken and to equalise the potential between indoor and outdoor.

- ✍ It is recommended that the idea of using seed point categories be considered for the Excel races. This would need discussion with Snowsport Wales in the first instance as they currently run the only Excel on the calendar.
- ✍ It is recommended that GBR races continue to be run by the HNGBs rather than be distributed out to the Clubs/Regions. However, consideration should be given to how to increase their influence in these races.
- ✍ It is recommended that participation remains open to U10 / U12 athletes for Club Nationals and GBR races. Their participation at Championship races should be reviewed as awarding a 'National Champion' label to an individual at too young an age could be counterproductive.

It is unlikely to be popular to deny their entry and the benefits are small and un-verifiable. However, a better liaison with coaches should be developed to assist them in educating children (and parents) on the drawbacks of too much competitive skiing at the cost of training.

### **Next Steps**

- ✍ These Conclusions and Recommendations should be shared with a wider community in the first instance
  - SSE Alpine Committee
  - TD Forum
  - Snowsport Scotland and Snowsport Wales
  - Academy Representatives
  - Heads of Regions
- ✍ It is unlikely that all of these changes will be implementable for the 2018 season so we should seek to prioritise the initiatives based on feedback, achievability and strategic direction.
- ✍ The ideas to be taken forward can then be put to the wider racing community with focussed questions to validate the input from the CORs and Race Secs
- ✍ We should seek to provide an opportunity for comment at the Coaches Conference in September this year when any data to support proposals can be collected from the 2017 calendar events.