

SNOWSPORT ENGLAND

Alpine Committee Meeting

Sunday 15 October 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)
Tim Fawke (TF)
Claire Pennell (CP)

By phone link:

Lloyd Jenkins – Joint Chair (LJ)
Paul Telling (PT)

1. Apologies

Andrea Grant (AG)
Andrew Hjort (AH)
Karen Conde (KC)
Chris Shelley (CS - report received)

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 9 August 2017.

4. Action points from previous meeting not on agenda elsewhere

4.1 CP updated the meeting on the new registration system. There has already been a soft launch to 200 members which had gone well. It is hoped a full launch to non-linked accounts (ie without multiple registrations on one account) will be launched on 19/10. The system will be opened to linked accounts one week later. An email will be sent to all current members and past members (for about 5 years). Club registrations will go live on 8 Nov and clubs will have 1 month to complete. DM asked that he be given access to the registration list for seeding purposes.

Action: CP to give DM access to the registration list for seeding purposes

4.2 LJ has forwarded the FIS gate judging files to Ryan Grewcock. A level 1 course review is due and these will be included in it.

4.3 TF confirmed that registrations appear to be down by 10%. However, it is not clear yet what the cause of this is although it may in part be due to a changeover in the systems being used. TF will provide a further report (which will go to all SSE committees) for the next meeting.

Action: TF to provide report on reduced SSE registration numbers

4.4 DM reported that he was awaiting finalisation of race officials' accreditation before completing the revision of the SSE Race Manual. He confirmed that there were no rule changes which affected the race rules.

5. Update from CEO

TF reported that the Board are looking at all of the SSE committees to ensure that the correct structure is in place to deliver the SSE (and Sport England) strategies. It was noted that the Alpine Committee (AC) had undergone recent changes and was reviewing its terms of reference. However, there is still a need to review how information from the committee is communicated to the membership, other committees and the SSE staff. MC offered to provide a summary of the AC minutes once they had been agreed and published. This would be sent to Gareth Vogan (as Communications Lead for SSE) and copied to CP (as Operations Manager for SSE).

Action: MC to provide SSE Communications Lead and Operations Manager with a summary of the Alpine Committee minutes once published - highlighting key points

TF also discussed SSE's main objectives regarding Participation, Talent and Commercial Issues. He confirmed that the Sport England grant to SSE had been reduced and that both new revenue and improvements in cost effectiveness were needed.

TF confirmed that the BSA sponsorship of the GBR race series has been extended for a further 2 years. BSA will also provide some sponsorship for the All England and Welsh Outdoor artificial slope championships.

TF asked that all general notices to members be sent out via SSE email addresses. It was also required that any databases be "owned" by SSE. This affects both Course Setting and Officials' Training communications. CP will set up the necessary facilities for Simon Bannister and AH.

Action: CP to contact Simon Bannister and AH with email addresses and facilities for SSE to hold any data lists they produce

6. Review of Alpine Committee Terms of Reference

BT/LJ had previously circulated a draft review of the AC Terms of Reference and Members' Roles for discussion. BT emphasised that this committee has in recent times made excellent progress in a number of key areas. He thanked all those involved for their time and effort.

MF confirmed that he would be happy to continue with the job of overseeing equipment. He reported that the snow equipment was held between Kevin Webb, AG, DM and TF. He asked that the Bormio committee provide an inventory so that any need for replacements could be identified. The artificial slope equipment was held between AG and MF.

Action: MF to contact DM, AG, TF and Kevin Webb in order to compile inventory of alpine equipment

It was suggested that the Athletes' Representative Role be fulfilled by the SSE Ambassadors (as a group) as this would give input from a geographically diverse group. Gareth Case (as the overseer of this group within ASDA) would be asked to facilitate this link.

Action: MC to ask Gareth Case to act as link for Athletes' representation to the committee

The revised draft document, which was accepted, is Appendix 1. It will be submitted to the Board for approval.

Action: BT to submit revised TOR document to the Board

7. Finance

PH reported that, although the September accounts were not quite complete, overall they would be close to budget. He confirmed that the SSE service charge would be going up in 2018 so an increase in revenue from events compared to 2017 would be needed.

8. Review of 2017 Artificial Season

LJ presented a review of the 2017 artificial slope season (appendix 2). He reported that numbers for the All England Championships had held up this year as had Club National entries. MC asked if it was

possible to obtain figures for “unique” entries to events. (ie how many individuals were participating across all races). DM agreed to look into this.

Action: DM to look into unique entry numbers for the artificial race season events

9. Calendar Planning for 2018

NV confirmed that bids for the GBR races have been received from most venues. There is concern that there will be a lack of variety for indoor races as only one slope has so far submitted affordable bids. CP and NV will look into this

Action: CP/NV to seek further affordable bids for indoor races

The outdoor SSE GBR events will be held at Chatham and Stoke. The Stoke event will be over the early May Bank Holiday weekend and be linked with the Inter Regional event. (There will be a CN on the Saturday, GBR on Sunday and Inter Regional on Monday.) The All England will be held at Sunderland over the late August Bank Holiday weekend. It is hoped that a second zero point event as well as the Inter Club event can be held over the same weekend.

TF confirmed that the entry fees would remain the same for 2018. BT emphasised that an increase needed to be considered for 2019.

DM asked that, once the calendar was published, KC put it directly onto gbski (rather than as an updated pdf). NV hopes that this will be possible by 30 October.

Action: DM to arrange for KC/NV to have access to upload the summer race calendar directly onto gbski

10. Update on Officials' Training

AH had sent an update for the meeting. BT thanked him for the excellent progress he had made so far.

10.1 A level 2 course will be held at Loughborough on Nov 25/26. The tutors will be Richard Dawe and Ian Roberts. Bookings can be made via the SSE office or the UKCP website.

10.2 AH had asked who is allowed to deliver level 1 courses. It was confirmed that this could be any accredited Level 2 official (or, with AC approval, any other suitably experienced official). The AC (via AH) should be informed of any courses taking place and given details of venue, tutor and participants.

10.3 More progress is needed on accreditation of level 2 alpine officials. DM agreed to discuss this with TF, MF and AH. The other home nations will also need to be involved.

Action: DM to lead discussion with TF, MF and AH on level 2 officials' accreditation

10.4 There was support for an Officials Update day being held before the start of the summer season. It was felt that Loughborough should be the venue for this. It would be open to all officials and coaches. If there was demand, Race Sec and/or Calcs training could be held at the same time. A date of Sunday 18 March 2018 was set. MC will make a provisional room booking for this date. DM agreed to put together a framework for the day which would then be passed to AH who would organise the day.

**Action: DM to put together framework for officials' update day
AH to organise update day
MC to book room at Loughborough for update day Sunday 18 March**

11. Update on Course Setting Policy

PT and Simon Bannister (SB) have made good progress with both the course setting policy and course setters' list and have liaised with LJ. SB will attend the next AC meeting.

SB emphasised the importance of the course setting policy being adhered to by all race organisers. This should ensure that only suitably qualified (ie “A” list) setters are used at GBR and Championship events. At CN events, less experienced setters not on the “B” list must be overseen by “A” list setters.

He asked that this be highlighted in letters to the race organising committees for the 2018 season. Chiefs of Race should contact SB for guidance.

Action: NV to include details of new course setting policy in letters to race organisers

SB is keen for more course setters' courses to take place. He is in discussion with Ryan Grewcock about this

12. ASDA Update

CS submitted a report from the ASDA subcommittee (Appendix 3). BT thanked him for his continuing work.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 MF asked for confirmation that nominated first aid cover would be provided for all races. This needs to be signed off by the TD when the race is being set up. NV will include this in the letter which is sent out to all race organising committees (via the Chief of Race). DM will raise the subject at the TD forum

**Action: NV to include need for signed off first aid cover in letter to race organising committees
DM to raise "first aid cover" for races at TD forum
NV/DM to report back on first aid cover at next AC meeting**

13.2 There was a request for a link to gbski to be provided on the SSE website as this is the site where all alpine seeding information and rules are published. (There is already a link from gbski to the SSE site.)

Action: TF to arrange for a link to be set up from the SSE website to gbski

13.3 DM reported that he had contacted the other home nations regarding the issue of 5 point penalty races. It was agreed that these should be limited to the GBR series and Welsh and Irish Open Championships. He has had agreement from Wales but has not yet heard from Scotland.

Action: DM to confirm at next meeting the outcome on 5 point penalty races

13.4 MF asked for clarification as to whether an international head to head event would take place in 2018. NV hoped that this would be possible – perhaps linked with the All England at Sunderland. He would confirm at the next meeting.

Action: NV to confirm in February whether an international head to head event will take place in 2018

13.5 MF asked that race organisers ensure that forerunners names were included on race documentation. This would ensure that, even if they were no longer members of SSE or an SSE registered club, they would be covered under the SSE insurance policy.

Action: NV to add that "forerunners should be included on race documentation" to the letter sent out to race organisers

**The date of the next meeting is
Sunday 4 February 2018 at 11:00 am at Sportpark.**

ACTIONS

4.1	CP	to give DM access to the registration list for seeding purposes
4.3	TF	to provide report on reduced SSE registration numbers
5	MC	to provide SSE Communications Lead and Operations Manager with a summary of the Alpine Committee minutes once published - highlighting key points
5	CP	to contact Simon Bannister and AH with email addresses and facilities for SSE to hold any data lists they produce
6	MF	to contact DM, AG, TF and Kevin Webb in order to compile inventory of alpine equipment
6	MC	to ask Gareth Case to act as link for Athletes' representation to the committee
6	BT	to submit revised TOR document to the Board
8	DM	to look into unique entry numbers for the artificial race season events
9	CP/NV	to seek further affordable bids for indoor races
9	DM	to arrange for KC/NV to have access to upload the summer race calendar directly onto gbski
10.3	DM	to lead discussion with TF, MF and AH on level 2 officials' accreditation
10.4	DM	to put together framework for officials' update day
10.4	AH	to organise officials' update day
10.4	MC	to book room at Loughborough for officials' update day - Sunday 18 March
11	NV	to include details of new course setting policy in letters to race organisers
13.1	NV	to include need for signed off first aid cover in letter to race organising committees
13.1	DM	to raise "first aid cover" for races at TD forum
13.1	NV/DM	to report back on first aid cover at next AC meeting
13.2	TF	to arrange for a link to be set up from the SSE website to gbski
13.3	DM	to confirm at next meeting the outcome on 5 point penalty races
13.4	NV	to confirm in February whether an international head to head event will take place in 2018
13.5	NV	to add that "forerunners should be included on race documentation" to the letter sent out to race organisers

Appendix 1

ALPINE COMMITTEE

Draft Roles and Responsibilities 2017

Joint Chairmen Lloyd Jenkins & Bryan Thomas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To chair the meetings To act as the SSE link to BSS To report on the Talent Pathway and the Alpine Speed and Telemark committee To attend Board meetings as required by the Board To provide overall lead on strategy for all SSE race events to ensure the committee moves forward and delivers what is needed. Reporting to the board All meetings to be 10 -15 days before SSE Board if possible and report added to agenda
Secretary Mary Calvert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To formulate and circulate an agenda prior to each meeting To ensure that all meetings are minuted To ensure that minutes are approved by the committee and sent to the SSE board within 21 days of the meeting
Finance Peter Heath	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist with the preparation of the Alpine budgets for approval by the SSE board (by the end of October each year) To monitor the approval and control of income and expenditure To prepare management reports on income and expenditure for the Alpine Committee
Technical David Manns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To communicate and work with the TD forum To publish and ensure that the Race Manual is updated for use by those involved in race organisation, in conjunction with TD Forum To coordinate the iBarts, oBarts and BASS seeding lists
Officials Training Andrew Hjort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To administer the recruitment, training and registration of race officials to ensure continuity of a supply of volunteers To develop training resources accordingly
Snow events Andrea Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To lead on snow events calendar structure To provide progression planning for snow race secretary To recruit and train race officials for alpine events
Artificial surface events Nigel Vincent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be the lead for the organisation and running of events on artificial surfaces including Landgraaf To lead on artificial surface events calendar structure
Regional Representative Mike Frith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To communicate with regions and clubs and include them in decision making feedback when required To act as a conduit for liaison with SSE Regions – particularly those which have less activity

These roles are not full members of the committee but attend as needed and/or to represent other bodies.

ASDA (Squad) Representative Chris Shelley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link with ASDA
Athletes' Representation Gareth Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To act as a conduit for liaison with athletes (particularly the SSE Ambassadors), both to and from the Committee.
Coaching Paul Telling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To liaise with the Coaching Committee (and coaches) ensuring they are included in decision making feedback when required
Coordination of Summer Race Calendar Karen Conde	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To coordinate and publish the summer events calendar including regional events To liaise with Regions and Clubs to formulate the Events calendar
Course Setting Simon Bannister	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain the course setters' policy and training To review submissions from coaches for inclusion on the course setters list.
Equipment Mike Frith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To take responsibility for race equipment purchased by Snowsport England To manage and track all race equipment To prepare and recommend a plan for replacement of race equipment as required
SSE Office Representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link with SSE communications Gareth Vogan Link with SSE commercialisation Victoria Crampton

Draft Outline Terms of Reference

- To develop and support the SSE Strategy for Alpine racing
- To provide and develop technical support for Alpine racing
- To organise and administer SSE Alpine ski racing events on snow and artificial slopes
- To support other Snowsport England alpine events such as training on snow and artificial slopes as appropriate
- To set and manage the SSE Alpine budget
- To develop participation in these events
- To develop a clear pathway for athletes to progress from grass roots to BSS
- To liaise with Regions and Clubs as needed for the running of their events
- To recruit and allocate officials and other volunteers to events
- All members must be signed up to the SSE Code of Conduct

A register of officials should be kept by the SSE office – and race secretaries should be asked to submit their list of officials after each race so that the list can be kept up to date.

An equipment inventory should be maintained by the SSE office – but the equipment officer will be responsible for ensuring that the necessary equipment is available at events.

Events such as race training days may be organised by this committee – but they will need to be delivered by coaching staff.

Support required from SSE Office

- Communications support
- It is hoped that in due course the routine management reporting of the accounts using SAGE can be transferred to the SSE office.
- Administration support for management of training records, database management and course setters list

Appendix 2

2017 Artificial Season Report

I have done a quick analysis of the entry numbers which is attached. It is pleasing to report that, in general, entry numbers have been sustained across the season in almost all of the events.

I have listed the highlighted the key points below:

Club Nationals

- Similar average entry numbers have been recorded for both Indoor and Outdoor Club National events. The female entry numbers appear to be slightly higher for outdoor CNs.
- U10/U12 entries are higher on indoor CN events
- The largest entries for Club Nationals were at Hemel CN and Midlands CN
- The lowest race entries were recorded at Silksworth, for both the Ravens CN and NESA Slalom race

GBR Events

- When looking at the GBR events it is clear that entry numbers are ~10% higher for Indoor GBR races
- U10/U12 entry numbers are the same for both indoor and outdoor GBR events
- The largest entry numbers were at GBR Indoor 1 & 2, and GBR Outdoor 2
- The lowest entry numbers were recorded and GBR Indoor 4 & 5 and GBR Outdoor
- BSA were very active in supporting all of the events and I would like to thank them for sponsoring the GBR series in 2017 and am delighted that they are to continue their sponsorship of the GBR Series in 2018

It is also clear that we have strong entry levels of U10/U12 at all events and we need to encourage this as it bodes well for future race entries if this is sustained.

It was encouraging to see a stronger representation at the Inter-Regional Event at Gloucester with 15 teams entering in 2017.

The All England Championships saw a very strong entry in terms of numbers and standard of racing. The Slalom event had 145 entries plus a further 33 U10/U12s and this was despite the Scottish Championships being held on the same weekend. It was also pleasing to see a strong entry of teams in the Inter Club and Open Team events.

Lloyd Jenkins

2017 Artificial Season

Date	Event	Others				Club Nationals				GBR				Championships			
		Females	Males	Total	U10/U12	Females	Males	Total	U10/U12	Females	Males	Total	U10/U12	Females	Males	Total	U10/U12
22-Apr-17	SSW Slalom	39	41	80	17												
23-Apr-17	Excel Race, Pembrey	28	26	54	14												
22-Apr-17	Telford Indoor CN					20	40	60	22								
23-Apr-17	MSR Indoor CN					30	47	77	31								
29-Apr-17	Pendle Outdoor CN					42	55	97	23								
30-Apr-17	GBR Outdoor 1, Pendle									38	51	89	23				
06-May-17	GBR Indoor 1, Chill Factore									49	75	124	46				
07-May-17	GBR Indoor 2, Chill Factore									49	75	124	49				
20-May-17	Norfolk Outdoor CN					35	58	93	29								
21-May-17	Vikings Outdoor CN					34	56	90	34								
27-May-17	Ravens Outdoor CN					19	34	53	13								
28-May-17	NESA Slalom	14	24	38	9												
03-Jun-17	GBR Outdoor 2 Fir Park									43	61	104	65				
04-Jun-17	Twin Peaks Hillend	39	61	100	65												
04-Jun-17	Lions Indoor CN					29	45	74	25								
04-Jun-17	Southampton Outdoor CN					35	39	74	31								
10-Jun-17	Hemel Indoor CN					42	77	119	67								
11-Jun-17	ERSA Outdoor CN, Welwyn					40	50	90	25								
17-Jun-17	GBR Indoor 3, Braehead									46	74	120	20				
18-Jun-17	Scottish Indoor Champs													56	74	130	22
24-Jun-17	GBR Outdoor 3, Gloucester									48	61	109	27				
25-Jun-17	Inter-Regional, Gloucester			15 Teams													
01-Jul-17	GBR Outdoor 4, Pontypool									32	53	85	26				
02-Jul-17	GBR Outdoor 5, Pontypool									29	49	78	26				
08-Jul-17	Midlands Outdoor CN, Glouc					56	58	114	25								
09-Jul-17	Gloucester Outdoor CN, Glouc					53	52	105	28								
15-Jul-17	GBR Indoor 4, Castleford									32	41	73	26				
16-Jul-17	GBR Indoor 5, Castleford									33	44	77	26				
12-Aug-17	Anglo-Welsh Indoor, Chill Factore													36	48	84	37
13-Aug-17	British Indoor Champs, Chill Factore													32	40	72	34
02-Sep-17	All England Champs Norfolk													63	82	145	33
02-Sep-17	Scottish Champs Hillend													27	42	69	52
03-Sep-17	Inter Club, Norfolk																
09-Sep-17	Welsh National, Pontypool													31	40	71	20
10-Sep-17	Welsh Champs, Pontypool													28	35	63	18
23-Sep-17	British Outdoor Champs, Hillend													34	51	85	51
30-Sep-17	International Slalom, Kiltiernan													29	45	74	27
01-Oct-17	Irish Champs Slalom, Kiltiernan													29	45	74	24

Totals	435	611	1046	353	399	584	983	334	365	502	867	318
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Totals (Outdoor)	314	402	716	208
Average (Outdoor)	39	50	90	26

Totals (Indoor)	121	209	330	145
Average (Indoor)	30	52	83	36

Totals (GBR Outdoor)	190	275	465	167
Average (GBR Outdoor)	38	55	93	33

Totals (GBR Indoor)	209	309	518	167
Average (GBR Indoor)	42	62	104	33

Appendix 3

Summary: Snowsport England ASDA (Alpine Squad and Dryslope Ambassador) Committee

This year we have held two successful Squad weekends, with a third one due in November.

The weekends have been well attended and generally positive feedback has been received from those that have participated and their parents.

The final weekend is on the 11th/12th November, to be held in Loughborough and includes the ACE fitness test and a team building event.

Some issues that have arisen include:

- This year we removed the pass/fail criteria from the ACE test, and this has changed the atmosphere at the events and the attitude of some (but by no means all) of the participants. This decision needs revisiting for next season.
- A successful ACE test is still (as far as we know) criteria for GBR selection. We have seen a handful of squad members seeking to undertake “private” ACE tests and avoid attendance at the Squad weekends. This has a number of detrimental effects, including reducing squad cohesion and consistency of the ACE testing, as well as reducing the amount of data we are collecting.
- We still don’t have a consistent and clear policy on athletes who are based abroad and the extent to which they must attend Squad weekends and events.
- The date of the first weekend was at the start of the private school holidays and clashed with a number of Academy ski camps, and this adversely affected attendance.
- The date of the first weekend was after the FIS medical early reduced fee cut off. Last year we included FIS medicals at the weekend, this year, although it was offered it was too late for most athletes.
- We did not bring first year Under 14s into the Squad this year. This reduced numbers and we need to review this decision, or look at other ways to ensure the numbers remain at a level to make the weekends cost effective (i.e. breakeven).

A Squad committee meeting is due now, but not yet organised. The agenda will be:

- The Committee name
- Objectives of the Squad - Why do we have a squad, what are we trying to deliver?
- Squad Selection policy for next year
- The ACE test - thoughts on new format
- Squad weekend structure for next year
- Clothing
- Budgets
- Structure and working of the committee for next year (who and how, i.e what is the best way for us to meet, plan and communicate with each other)

Ideally we need some feedback from BSS on their selection process and what they would like to see from the Squad to help influence these debates.

Chris Shelley, 15th October 2017