



The English Ski Council

Alpine Racing Committee
Minutes of the 88th meeting held at 10.30am on Saturday 23rd June 2001
at Swadlincote Ski Centre

PRESENT:

Graham Beck - acting Chairman	GB	Sue McGregor-Ogden	SM
Alan Ashfield (left at 1.00pm)	AA	Derek Metters	DM
Gordon Cole	GC	Kelly Morris	KM
Gillian Gilyead	GG	Sandra Palmer - Secretary	SP
Peter Heath	PH	Alan West	AW
Paul Hothersall	PH^		
Ali Jubb - observer	AJ	Des Pirkhoffer - observer	DP

APOLOGIES: George Kirov, Ian Roberts, John Williams.

Action

88.1.0 **MINUTES** (already circulated)

Minutes of the 87th meeting were approved and signed. A copy of the definitive minutes is attached to these minutes.

88.2.0 **MATTERS ARISING**

88.2.1 **Ski Racing leaflet**

Still in draft and needs more work. This provides guidance to new racers attending their first event. Noted that ERSA and SRSA both have good leaflets. SM to get copies and compare to the one being worked on. **SM**

Noted that the leaflets issued by the office to anyone enquiring about ski racing need updating. Also a leaflet is required for new racers to explain the principles of race entry, seeding, regional & national squads etc. AJ volunteered to work on these. **AJ**

88.2.2 **Newsletter**

The latest newsletter is due out next week. Next issue due in October. Deadline for articles due by end of September. AJ to get information on all top current racers for this issue. **AJ**

Now the newsletter is being published again, we need regular input from ARC members.

88.2.3 **Disabled**

PH still to write to Graham Peacock. ROTP to establish dialogue with Kathy Hammond (Coaching Committee) to determine the needs of disabled skiers for alpine racing **PH**
AW

88.3.0 REPORTS FROM GROUPS

ROTP - Alan West

British Championships.

Despite recent rumours, the Championships will be at Sheffield Ski Village as planned. Non-Championship Slalom on the Saturday followed by the International Dual Slalom. Championship slalom on the Sunday. GB to meet Mike Turner shortly to clarify ESC's requirements regarding the matting.

GB

The BSSF TD Forum has decided that, with effect from 2002, acceptance and start order will be based on ESC points only. Converted BASS points will only be considered where a racer does not have ESC points. This brings the British Championships into line with all other seeded dry slope events.

All England Quotas

Agreed to the principle that the Championships are for the best racers, regardless of age group. With immediate effect, the temporary Masters quota no longer applies. Acceptance criteria are as para. 826 of the Race Manual.

Listing of Masters Results

Due to an oversight, race organizers and TDs had not been advised of the decision to list Masters results at all races. This will now be applied next year. Medals for Masters will continue to be awarded at Club Nationals and the All England Championships only.

Presentations

Agreed that the Grand Prix Series awards, England Representative plaques and special trophies should be presented during the Saturday prize giving at the All England. KM to liaise with Squad Selection Panel to determine winners of special trophies. PH to collate list of other winners. GB to order representative plaques. Volunteer still needed to organize prizegiving and recall trophies.

**KM
PH
GB**

Alpine Championships

Almost certain to be in Kaunertal again next year, as the British will be at Pitztal. All races will be held on the glacier, but negotiations are in hand to use a steeper slope for the slalom. ROTP to submit application form and fee (£25 per race day) to BSSF by September for the 2002 races to be included on the British Alpine Calendar.

AW

The 2001 accounts have yet to be finalized, but are likely to be on budget.

It was noted that ROTP will appoint the organising committee for future Alpine Championships as part of their overall responsibility for race organisation.

Soft Ski Course

AW reported that 14 people attended the course, which was well received.

Course Setters Course

DP said that some people who attended were under a misconception of the type of course, that it was for training rather than racing, also the equipment used was not up to standard, i.e. broken poles. AA noted the comments, and will take into account for future courses.

Team Selection for Home Internationals

Dave Blackwell organized this last year but, due to other commitments, has been to less races this year. Agreed that KM as Team Coach should be responsible for future team selections as she usually attends all the races.

KM

Inter Regional – Sunderland

AW stated that only 14 teams have entered, compared with 23 last year. The Northern location and some resistance to the event no longer being seeded are likely reasons for the reduced entry. It was noted that AW had written to the nine regional coaches/managers who attended last year's event to seek their region's views on the format. Of the 5 replies received, only one had opposed adoption of the Inter Club format.

88.3.1 STP – Sue McGregor-Ogden

BSSF TD Forum - 13th May 01.

Minutes not yet published. The meeting was very constructive with a continuing move towards commonality of training and standards amongst the Home Nation and other Member Group TDs. Ian Jones (RAF & SNSC), who succeeds Maud Instone as Chairman in November, put forward a TD training package, which is based significantly on that already in existence within ESC. Ian Roberts & Peter Heath also attended a meeting on 14th May 01 to redraft the BCR as an amendment to ICR, rather than a completely separate rulebook. Agreement was reached on most of the draft and it is understood that the revised BCR will be put to the November 01 TD Forum for formal endorsement.

The TD Forum has sanctioned the British Ski Academy Race Organisers for organisational deficiencies at the 2001 Inter School Championships. The races will not be admitted to the 01/02 British Calendar or processed for seeding and will only be admitted in future years following evidence of a detailed contract with the hosting resort. It is understood that BSA intends to appeal against this decision.

The TD Forum sought the opinion of Coaches and other interested bodies on the advisability of holding Super G races for minis (boys & girls). The maximum vertical drop (VD) would be 250 metres with gates at 10-12% of the VD. AA was asked to canvass the opinion of coaches and inform Ian Roberts by 30 September. Other interested parties are invited to make input by the same date.

AA

ARC members expressed the view that most minis do not have sufficient strength in their legs to cope with the forces exerted at SG speeds and that they should not be asked to race SG when most have never had the opportunity to train SG. The consensus was that minis should race a more open GS course, but not SG.

The TD Forum is also seeking the opinion of coaches and others on the possible adoption of a different start order for children's snow races. In Austria, the start order for 1st and 2nd runs is CH1 girls, CH1 boys, CH2 girls, CH2 boys. Within each group, the 1st run order is by points, the 2nd run in reverse time order from the 1st run. For seeding purposes, CH1 and CH2 results are calculated as a single race. The aim is to give CH2 racers a better preparation for their move to FIS/Junior races and CH1 a fairer introduction to snow racing. Comments to Ian Roberts by 30th September.

Ian Roberts has been accepted as a Candidate British TD and aims to do his candidature next winter. Sue & Carl McGregor-Ogden have decided not to pursue their candidatures for family reasons.

Noted that Dick Taplin now chairs the FIS Calculations Committee following the death of Warren Lowry (USA), who had chaired the Committee for 25 years. Congratulations.

The Autumn Symposium is scheduled for 3rd or 4th November at RAF Henlow. This is open to all TDs and snow race organizers.

Min length ski on plastic

Agreed that FIS rules on minimum ski lengths will apply for dry slope races with effect from next season. The current FIS rules are 130cm for children and 155cm for juniors and seniors. There is no equivalent rule for minis.

Helmets

Confirmed no change to the current policy: "ESC recommends that all competitors wear a properly fitting FIS approved safety helmet during race training and competition." Current FIS rules also apply: Children must wear a FIS approved helmet for GS races.

Dry Slope Homologation

Following a number of complaints from racers about the use of slopes without operational sprinkler systems for ESC races, it was agreed that, when allocating future races, ROTP should, where practicable, give priority to slopes with operational sprinkler systems. AA to discuss the problem with BSSOA

AA

88.4.0 ENGLISH ALPINE TEAM

88.4.1 DM stated that on the 9 June selections took place for the team.

12 girls and 22 boys (including those already selected to British Teams) have been selected. A further 3 have been offered a trial. In line with ARC's recommendation, the selection was more rigorous this year, so as to get a smaller team. Letters were sent out to those selected on the 15 June, also to those on last year's squad who have not been re-selected. Replies should be made to DM by 25th June. Those not re-selected have been invited to submit evidence in support of their re-selection.

Appointment of the Team Coach should be announced next week. The advert for the position had been issued to all ESC registered coaches, BASI, BSSF, Snowsport Scotland & Snowsport Wales. It was also posted on the ESC and Britski web sites. All applicants had been interviewed.

GB reported that he had a sponsor for a new team kit, which would include over suit and cat suits; also that Isuzu have said that we can still have their vehicles free of charge, providing they have at least 4 weeks notice.

88.5.0. SCHOOLS/ESSkiA REPORT

88.5.1. GG stated the World Schools went very well with all the team having trained at Norway this year.

There are summer training days with children from age 9 upwards. This year's qualifying rounds for the ESSkiA Championships will be held at Pendle, Gloucester, Chatham, Hemel and Sunderland on 22nd/23rd September. The English & British finals will be at Swadlincote on 6/7th October and 10th November respectively.

88.6.0. ESC BOARD REPORT

88.6.1. Checking of Club Membership

Not discussed by Board yet, but will be considered by Graham Pickles as part of his membership review. GB to report back at the next meeting. **GB**

88.7.0. BSSF REPORT

88.7.1 Full report from the recent BSSF Congress and inaugural meeting of the British Alpine Race Committee (BARC) are published on the internet - Britski. Due to lack of clear notice and other commitments, no one from ESC had attended.

It was agreed that STP should appoint one of their number to represent ESC on BARC. **IR**

British Senior Championships confirmed at Saalbach on 14th - 21st January 2001.
British Junior & Children Championships will be at Pitztal on 1st - 7th April 2002.

Jim Hewitt likely to be Chief of Championships for 2002 Junior/Children. BSSF is seeking a Chief of Championships for 2003 Seniors. Agreed to propose IR if he is willing. SM to contact IR. **SM**

88.8.0 PROGRESS ON FOUR YEAR PLAN

88.8.1. GB stated that ARC's targets were achieved last year. GB will prepare this year's report. **GB**

88.9.0 DATES FOR 2001 MEETINGS

20 October
1 December

88.10.0 AOB

88.10.1 Andrew Bush

PH stated that Johnny Moore, Chris Oliveira, Dan Crouch and Karl Unger had collected some £7000 primarily from their London Marathon run, including a very generous donation from Softorque Ltd (Rupert Barnes). £3000 has been paid to the paraplegic charity Reclaim and the balance has been paid direct to Andrew. He had a letter from Johnny to say that Andrew is doing reasonably well and that the money will go towards electric wheels for his manual wheelchair and a specialist electric bed. Andrew has already received support from Reclaim. He will be attending Kings College, London this autumn.

Phil Brown has since raised £1500 when he had his head shaved at Swadlincote.

Doping Control

Sue Barnes is ESC's Medical Adviser. GB will invite her to the next ARC meeting - primarily to discuss ESC's approach to doping education. **GB**

Fitness Sheet

There was some concern regarding the technical content of a Fitness sheet circulated by Graham Bell to Coaches for Children and Juniors - especially on the height of the Box Jump. DP will consult with medical experts and ask their opinion if they considered this sheet is OK for children's use. DP also to contact Tony Archbold for advice. **DP**

BUSC/BUSA

PH[^] introduced himself as representative for both BUSC (British Universities Snowsports Council) and BUSA (British Universities Sports Association). He explained the roles of these two bodies in skiing, and what recent activities have taken place, and some of the problems they have.

BUSA will have:

an "A" squad, which they will fund to go to events like the world student games. Criteria about 50 FIS points or lower, which basically means mainly British Team

a "B" squad, which will hopefully be fully funded to go to these events, with a criteria of 90-100 points. It is anticipated that this squad is the more realistically attainable, but will still generally be populated with either current or ex national squad members.

Would like a meeting with representatives from Home Nations, BSSF, and BUSC in the near future (once their plans are finalised).

BUSC recognise that the BUSA teams are very elite and generally unattainable within the 3-4 week time period available to BUSC. Instead, BUSC will implement a new structure to try to cover everything from this level down to beginners.

The BUSC alpine races are seeded, and one bidding committee for next year may want the dry slope champs to be seeded.

The draft proposals are:

BUSC to register a (racing) "club" with each of the Home Nations. BUSC members to be offered the opportunity to join the "BUSC Racing Club", and to nominate a nation. Unlike BUSC affiliation, which only currently recognises academic institutions, the club will admit individual members (if their uni has no club for example).

It is anticipated that from the club, BUSC will select a squad (and home nation teams). Whilst this will be a status only group, with only one or two races in the next year, it is very marketable for BUSC for both grant aid and sponsorship. BSSF has agreed in principle that bona-fide squad members will be eligible for preferential entry into FIS UNI races.

In the short term, BUSC expect to be able to offer the squad the option of going to some of these races. Members of this squad (and other club members) will be encouraged to race in other BASS races in the calendar.

Longer term aims include possibly separating the actual championships from the main (drinking) event that is currently BUSC's championship week, and extending the training summer camp which is being trialed this summer.

BUSC will promote registration with the HN coaching scheme

Shorter term aims: -

- provide members with information about other racing/activities (eg local races) that are not within the uni organization.
- provide others involved with skiing about information about skiing at uni.

The meeting closed at 3.30 pm