

ESC ALPINE RACING COMMITTEE - 1 FEB 03

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

Present:

Paul Hothersall (PPH)
Peter Heath (PH)
Ian Roberts (IR)
Alan West (AW)
Gillian Gilyead (GG)

In Attendance:

William Taunton-Burnet(WTB) - England Team Report

Apologies:

Alan Ashfield
Graham Beck
Sandra Palmer

1. Opening Remarks

1.1. ARC members expressed concern over the lack of board/coaching representation inhibiting the ability to discuss/make policy

1.2. A Pre meeting note from Alan Ashfield requested that PPH ask WTB about preparation of a Level 2 course setters course, and for WTB to liaise with Alan. The intention is to deliver course(s) if possible on dry slope, and possibly by Tim Fawke in addition to WTB. For the Level 1 course, Pierre Mahon, Alan Humphrey and Kevin Blanks are suggested as possible tutors.

Action: PHH/WTB

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

2.1. Accepted

3. Matters Arising

3.1. The contribution paid for Tim Fawke's course was split 50/50 from ARC/Coaching budgets. The payment had been authorised directly by the Board

3.2. It was agreed that Hedley Beavis should be invited to join the Committee

Action: PHH

3.3. Medical advisor confirmed as Sue Barnes. Sport England will determine if and when they are to attend an event for the purpose of testing. ESC would then not be liable for any charge. Sport UK base decision on drug testing on annual surveys of sports. ESC could ask

testers to attend but it would still be their decision to test or not. Considered there was a need to educate athletes about drugs and testing.

Action: PH and GG

3.4. BASS List. Automatic inclusion of all athletes is not realistic. BSSF (SnowsportGB) make a charge of £2.50 p/p irrespective of whether they actually take part in any races or not. Currently, PH has automatically added the names of racers to the list as required. PH to investigate further options, such as "Pay as you go" charging from the BSSF. The ESC office currently make an administration charge of £5.00 for all athletes that subsequently register for inclusion on the list after initial registration. It was decided that the office should not charge for this

Action: PH and PHH

4. ROTP. See attached Report

4.1. Alpine Championships. Any profit from this year's championships will be used to ensure funding for a continued FIS status. Authorised by Board

4.1.1. Concern was expressed that the Chief of championships was not present at the meeting. The last organising committee meeting was 2 weeks previously. AW felt able to represent the ROC.

4.1.2. Worry that if Ricky Berry is to be TD for the children's races and chief of race for juniors, as he injured his leg at the Schoolboys races last week and may not be fit in time. It was confirmed that it was thought that he would be fit. Should that not occur, the BSSF would be requested to provide a substitute

4.2. Wycombe Championship. Agreed with the name for the race should be changed to "Wycombe International Championships". The event will be run as per the Grand Prix rules, with an English TD. There is to be no minis event.

Action: AW

4.3. SnoZone Race Series. Concern that ESC's name was attached to these events, even though they are not being directly run by ESC. **Action for AW** to investigate, and check the name (British Indoor National Championships has been suggested). Discussion ensued about what compromised a regional team, and if a fixed format will be applied throughout the series. It was suggested that the Welsh could have 2 regions (North and South), and that a TD is required for each race. Confirmed that Welsh registered racers could race for Wales, but that only English regions would be counted for the purposes of determining the results of an English Race. It was accepted that for this initial test year that an experimental approach be taken, including inviting an ESSkiA team and varying the entry criteria to allow maximum opportunity for racers to experience the event. For this season, the event would be restricted to English regions only.

Action: AW

4.4. Expenditure. It was agreed that an upgrade to Softski key and a megaphone could be purchased

Action: AW

5. ESSkiA

5.1. ESSkiA had conducted a training day in November for preparation for the World Schools competition. The season consists of several races and camps, including some camps likely at the SnoZone.

5.2. At the BSSF TD Forum in Nov 02 there had been adverse observations over the selection policies for the ESSkiA Team. The comments were noted by the ESSkiA representative

6. England Team Activities

6.1. Expectation that the athletes will go to the English championships with their clubs, and not to be explicitly run as a squad camp. Agreement that ARC support that approach

6.2. The current involvement level per athlete is of the order of £6-7000, and that this is still too high. Generally the message of up to British team level of commitment is getting through

6.3. A brief overview of the season's activities was given, along with a description of some of the recent difficulties encountered. There was some concern over an article for a paper about an invite to train being essentially misrepresented. ARC accepted that in reality this is beyond our control. We have a clear publication of who is a member of the squad, at both A and B level. An invitation to train (ITT) status is not a statement of a person being part of the England Team

6.4. WTB agreed to write the content for the website, and suggested including a request for team sponsorship with mail outs to the membership. Other suggestions included commission on holidays (ESC as referrer, and discounts to ESC members by deals), and attempting to use the "carte blanche" relationship with Xscape to run money raising event (races?) for corporates. Finally a simple advertisement on the website was suggested

6.5. Longer term plans. Dual use of camps (for mutual financial benefit) of "camps" between England team and coaching courses. Concentration on delivery of the (new) APC based scheme. Noted that within the APC system, level 2 candidates will have to perform a placement with the national team

7. STP. See attached Report

7.1. Dual SL. Proposed to look at a number of slopes for homologation and make recommendations

7.2. National Seeder. David Manns was endorsed as the National Seeder to replace Peter Heath

7.3. Child Protection Act. It was considered that all officials (including volunteers) at event involving children need to be checked. Level 1 would be required for gatekeepers and possibly level 2 for jury members. There could be a one off cost of £300, for the initial signature (and up to 4

others), with an additional £5 per person. It was considered that this was, in the first instance, a wider issue for ESC as a body, and therefore it will be referred to the Board to determine further actions

Action: PHH

8. Coaching. There was a need to distribute to coaching what we need, re the "How do I become a ski coach?" leaflet. The coaching committee had not yet contacted WTB with respect to running other courses. WTB to discuss with Alan Ashfield.

Race officials course for coaches had not yet been sorted. Tony Archbold waiting for feedback from the coaching committee.

Action: WTB

9. International Entries for English Alpine Championship.

9.1. ARC have received a request to allow entries from New Zealand Children into the Alpine Championships. ARC agreed this was acceptable, subject to space restrictions. An offshoot of this that we could ask PSV if the local children would like to race (subject to available room). There was a further query if they have to pay the £2.50 ESC day registration fee. All athletes competing in the Alpine championship will have to sign the standard waiver, if not already a member of one of the HNGBs

Action: AW

10. Online Entry System. PHH demonstrated to ARC a functioning entry system that was capable of taking online race entries, using some commercial online shopping software that would be free to use yet be "secure" so that the system meets the banking standards. It was agreed that PPH would look into this, with a possibility of arranging for a test race during the season, possibly the All England

Action: PHH

11. AOB. There was no AOB

Date of the Next Meeting – 29 Jun 03

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