

ESC ALPINE RACING COMMITTEE - 2 AUG 03

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

Present:

Peter Heath (PH) – Acting Chair
Ian Roberts (IR)
Alan West (AW)
Steve Lambert (SL)
Hedley Beavis (HB)

In Attendance:

Sandy Telling (ST)

Apologies:

Paul Hothersall (PHH)
Gillian Gilyead (GG)
David Manns (DM)

1. Opening Remarks.

1.1 Members present regretted the unavoidable (car breakdown) absence of the Chairman. In addition, they warmly welcomed the attendance of ST, who would in future act as the member of the Board responsible for Alpine matters. Other Board members would act as prime points of contact for other disciplines. It was the Board's intention that each Key Committee should have clearly delegated responsibilities, with the Board retaining a strategic overview. The Committee welcomed the presence of a Board member as previous absences and a lack of communication had hampered the Committee's business.

1.2 Concern was expressed at the lack of focus in ARC activities. The Chairman lacked the administrative support of a Secretary and was overburdened trying to co-ordinate ARC activities as well as playing an active role in the management of the Squad. ST had discussed this previously with PHH and it was subsequently agreed that PHH's abilities should be directed at co-ordinating Squad activities. The members of ARC would actively and quickly seek to identify a suitable Chair and Secretary for ARC.

Action: All

1.3 It was recognised that the administrative practices of the Committee should be revised to ensure that all members were in possession of prior minutes, agenda, reports and discussion papers in advance of a meeting. In addition, minutes should be produced in a timely fashion after each meeting.

Action: All

1.4 It was further agreed that AW as Chair ROTP should act as the conduit to ARC for reports from the Organising Committee of the English Alpine Championships. However, it was also recognised that there may be occasions when the attendance of the ROC Chair would be advisable. AW was to ask the Chair ROC to provide a written report in advance of each ARC meeting for prior consideration by the members

Action: AW

2. Previous Minutes. Accepted as accurate
3. Matters Arising.
 - 3.1. Squad Selection Meeting. ARC would like visibility of the minutes of the meeting that selected the Squad.
 - 3.2. **Action: PHH**
 - 3.3. Child Protection. Guidance had been sought from the ESC Office on the need for Race Officials to be cleared in accordance with the Child Protection Act. It was considered unlikely that such clearance would be necessary but policy should nevertheless be clarified. In the absence of a response, IR was to contact John Dimmock for clarification and way forward
 - 3.4. **Action: IR**
4. ROTP. See attached Report
PVK approved as ROTP member
 - 4.1. The Alpine Championships would be held 11-16 Apr 04. The British Championships would be at Meribel on 4-9 Apr 04. ROC Chair was visiting in Sep. A ROC meeting was due to be held in mid Aug 03. Concern had been expressed over standard of racers in SG. 2 x GS would possibly be better. It had been agreed to run 2 x SG in 04 and gauge the future after that.
 - 4.2. 2004 Artificial Calendar. Letters had been sent out inviting bids for GPs. CNs would follow later. Concern was expressed over the condition of facilities at Rossendale. The concerns had been noted and a race would only be awarded subject to acceptable improvements. The number of CNs was discussed as the Calendar was possibly overheated with the addition of indoor snow races. Attendance at races continued to improve and there were few problems in staffing the on-hill officials positions. It was agreed to continue with the current programme
 - 4.3. Indoor Snow Races. The inclusion of indoor snow races was strongly supported. However, there was a need for strategic view to be taken to ensure that the maximum value was extracted in relation to other races. It was agreed that ROTP should co-ordinate the whole race programme but Graham Beck's valuable role in the initiation of indoor races was recognised and endorsed. PHH was to be asked to act as a link between ROTP and GB.
 - 4.4. **Action: AW and PHH**
 - 4.5. There was some doubt over the extent of future Sport England grants and it would be necessary for ROTP to review race entry fees. Similarly, the float provided for GP should be reviewed as there was some evidence that it was insufficient.
 - 4.6. **Action: AW**
 - 4.7. Due to organisational difficulties the European Championships would not go ahead in 03. Renewed impetus was required and it was agreed that ROTP should approach BSSF, HNGBs, overseas nations and suitable slopes to explore the potential to hold the event in GB for the foreseeable future.
 - 4.8. **Action: AW**
 - 4.9. AESC Presentations. Thomson would attend the AESC to present bursaries. There was a need to focus on the presentation of the GP Series trophies, perpetual trophies, and mementos for those who had represented England. PH was to calculate

who the recipients should be and liaise with SL over the recall of perpetual trophies. PHH was to co-ordinate the England Squad presentations and arrange for adjudication on the winners of the perpetual trophies.

4.10. **Action: PH, PHH, and SL**

5. STP. See attached Report.

5.1. It was agreed that IR was to progress the production of an Accident Form for ESC races

5.2. Feedback to CIR required on Children's Start Order paper by BSSF

6. Alpine Team.

6.1. A Code of Conduct for Athletes remained outstanding. Concern was expressed at the overall co-ordination and control over Squad management. It was agreed that a separate coordination Chair was required, who will report to ARC. It was agreed that PHH should be invited to assume that role.

6.2. **Action: ST and PHH**

6.3. There was a need to put in place a selection mechanism for representative teams at International races on artificial slopes. Selection should be done from the entry list and finalised at the event. It was agreed that Paul Telling should be invited to assume the role, supported at events by ARC members present

6.4. **Action: PHH**

7. Finances.

7.1. It was considered that the financial information provided for meetings was insufficiently detailed for members to assess the position accurately and exercise management control. In addition, Key Committee Chairmen needed visibility at transaction level. It was agreed that PH would liaise with the office over the production of suitable financial information

7.2. **Action: PH**

7.3. Should the Sport England grant be reduced, there would be a need to review costs at all levels, including office operating costs. The Squad should aim to break even. It would also be desirable for the Squad coach to have a wider remit to generate funds for the ESC from co-ordinated coaching activities.

8. 4 Year Plan.

8.1. There was need to review the 4 Year Plan and for future reviews to take place on an annual basis. ROTP and STP were to review and revise the existing plan and forward to the Chair by end Sep 03

8.2. **Action: AW and IR**

9. Feedback to/from Board.

9.1. Material for 'The Piste' should be submitted to John Dimmock at the ESC Office. ARC should produce something for each issue of the magazine

9.2. **Action: All**

9.3. Public Liability Insurance.

9.3.1. The last Board minutes stated that there was no cover for coaching scheme members resident abroad under the current policy and that this should be

publicised. This gave ARC cause for concern as there are 32 current racers citing a non-UK address

9.3.2. It was considered that the current position was unacceptable. The ESC should be in a position to provide cover for all registered persons if at all possible. Consequently, the ESC CE should open negotiations with the insurers or other providers

9.3.3. Concern was expressed that the ESC Office should take or accept such decisions without reference to the Key Committees. Future such problems should be referred so that a considered view may be taken

9.3.4. **Action: ESC Office via PH**

10. AOB

10.1. Letter of Complaint. A complaint had been received by ST about the conduct and performance of some racers at a recent CN. It was reported that racers may deliberately not have skied to the best of their ability in order to better the seed points of others. The complaint was backed by other informal observations.

10.1.1. IR was to discuss the matter with the Jury concerned and respond on behalf of the Chairman. **Action: IR**

10.2. Coaching Courses. Some time ago ARC had asked the Coaching Committee to set up a Course Setters Course. Similarly, ROTP had made the offer of organising a 'race officials' course aimed at the requirements of a Coach. Responses were still awaited.

10.2.1. **Action: ST with Coaching Committee**

10.3. Masters Category. With the increasing number of active Masters racers, it was considered that the category should be recognised in all ESC races. It was decided that from next year there will be one Masters category (over 30) at all ESC races (including the Alpine Championships). Prizes were to be awarded to the male and female in positions 1, 2 and 3 in the category.

10.3.1. **Action: AW**

Next Meeting: 18th, 19th, 25th or 26th October proposed. PH to canvass ARC members.

C I ROBERTS
Acting Secretary

3 Aug 03

THE ENGLISH SKI COUNCIL



Race Organisation Technical Panel

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Report to ARC

Last ROTP meeting 18th May at Swadlincote Ski Centre.

Please note – This report contains some information that has occurred after the last ROTP meeting. All ROTP members have been made aware of these changes via E-Mail

- 1. Committee Makeup** – Since the last ARC meeting two members of ROTP have stepped down, Carl McGregor-Ogden and Tina Fairweather. Piet Van Kempen was invited to the last ROTP meetings and with ARC's approval ROTP would like offer him a place on the committee. If anyone knows of any one from the North West or East Midlands who would be interested in joining ROTP please let me know.
- 2. Alpine Championships** – 2003 was successful both from an event point of view and a financial point of view. The number of racers was up on 2002, the venue proved a great success with a very good slope for all the races and the resort could not have done more to help us. The final accounts should be available within the next few weeks and will show a small profit. Planning for 2004 is well under way, PSV has been booked with the date provisionally from 11th April to 16th April. This is subject to final confirmation that the British will be held between 3rd and 9th April. Gordon has stated that he is happy to continue as Chief of Championships for 2004 and 2005 as agreed and will be looking for a replacement during 2004 to shadow him in 2005 and take over in 2006
- 3. Race Calendar** – the 2003 calendar has seen many revisions with two races cancelled. The Club National at Rossendale and the Inter regional at the same venue. There have also been comments about the number of races on the calendar with the addition of the Snow Zone race series. ROTP looked at how to reduce the number of events. Two options were discussed, the first to reduce the number of Club Nationals (max 1 per region), but no action was taken on this until requests for races have been received. The second was to move the Inter regional from Plastic to Indoor Snow. In light of what has happened since the meeting this would seem sensible option.
- 4. Race Officials Course** – Since the last meeting 1 further level one courses have been run at Norwich. Two level 1 courses at Sunderland on 6th July and Southampton are currently in planning. Hemel have expressed an interest in holding a level 1 course, this is being followed up. This years level 2 course has been booked for Stoke Rochford on 22nd and 23rd November 2003. We were again able to obtain a discounted rate of £85.00 for standard rooms and have been offered a rate of £120.00 for deluxe rooms. Before we publicise the course ROTP are still waiting on confirmation of a subsidy for ESC registered officials.
- 5. Race Officials Database** – This is now up and running, some feedback has been received from Chief of Race's who have used it. It will be used this year to specifically target people to attend the Level 2 course and to increase the number accredited officials.
- 6. Equipment** – ROTP produced a list of requirements (as below) and are waiting for feedback.

- 100% - 1) 2 off set of bibs (must have numbers on the side as incoming FIS regs.). Cost approx cost £1000 per set/
2) 20 off boards (as current boards). Cost approx £2.00 per board.
3) 4 off gate keys with carrying belts. Cost unknown.
4) 2 off snow drill bits (More cost efficient to hire drills annually as only used for 2 week period). Cost Unknown.
4) Back up timing Units.

Need in Future

- 1) Softski update (already updated to V7 but as yet no invoice received) required at least every 2 years. Cost approx 150 Euros.

Nice to haves

- 1) 'Neon' vests for race officials with job titles (and sponsorship?) on back, 1 off Green for TD, 4 off Orange for other jury members, 30 off yellow for rest of team. These would be ideal for dry slope and snow.
- 2) 10 off Radios. Cost approx £3000.00. This was considered a luxury as they would not be used on the dry slope circuit, therefore it would take lots of years to recover the cost. It is probably better to look into resolving problems with existing hired radios and hiring in resort..

ENGLISH SKI COUNCIL



Chairman, Seeding & Technical Panel

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03 August 2003

STP REPORT TO ARC - 2 AUG 03

PREVIOUS MEETING - MATTERS ARISING

1. STP was tasked with a ruling on delayed starts.
2. ESC RM Precisions 6.4 included the ruling that racers had to be ready to start as soon as the previous racer started.

BSSF TD FORUM

3. The BSSF TD Spring Forum was held on 10 May at Hillend.
4. There several issues of direct interest to English skiing:
 - a. Athlete's Declaration:
 - (1) In the Athlete's Declaration, 'training' refers only to official training or warm-up organised by a race organiser. Consequently, it also means that the race organiser becomes responsible for arranging an official training/warm-up place and for arranging its security and safety. Outside this area, it is the responsibility of the coach to arrange training facilities. Nevertheless, in the context of the ESC Alpine Champs, it would be appropriate for the organisers to notify the resort of the need for training pistes.
 - (2) Forerunners must have signed an Athlete's Declaration and be the appropriate age for the category of race. Implication - CH may not forerun for Jun (but Jun may forerun for CH). This could impact on ESC racing and discussion of a work-around solution is required.

- b. Homologated Slopes.
 - (1) Slopes may only be used for the disciplines for which they are homologated. Thus a CH SG may not be held on an 'adult' GS slope.
 - (2) Race organisers must see the full homologation document when choosing/examining a race slope.
- c. Racing at Height. Concern was expressed at the racing height of the 03 BARSC races. Medical advice is being sought but in the meantime race organisers should be wary of start heights approaching 3000m.
- d. Accidents. If assistance is required to move an injured athlete from a slope, an accident report must be filled in. ESC TDs have been advised. However, I have been unable to track down an ESC Accident Report form. Does such a document exist? The British accident form is being subject to insurer scrutiny and could be adopted in the absence of anything else, although it is anticipated that ESC insurer endorsement would be required. Guidance would be appreciated. A copy of the British Form is attached for information.
- e. Artificial Slope Ski Dimensions. Peter Heath and I have started our dialogue with the British ski industry concerning potential criteria for skis for artificial slope racing.
- f. Start Order – Children. A pare had been presented suggesting changes to the Draw Order for Children's races on snow. A copy is on Peter Heath's website and comments are requested from all interested parties by 1 Oct 03.

2003 ARTIFICIAL SEASON

- 5. The season is progressing well with all races generally well organised.
- 6. There is a developing tendency for prize winners to fail to attend the prize giving without good reason or excusing themselves. Sanctions may become appropriate and I have asked TDs to monitor.
- 7. Some races have been oversubscribed but there have been several no-shows who have denied places to other racers. We should consider how to address this issue.
- 8. Serious concerns have been expressed have been expressed about the condition of the Rossendale slope. TDs have commented adversely on the

condition of the matting and the lifts. Consequently, in the absence of remedial action, it is intended to withdraw the ESC homologation status of the slope.

9. David Manns successfully completed his practical assessment as TD and is recommended to ARC for endorsement as a ESC TD (Artificial).

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ian Roberts." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'I'.