

SNOWSPORT ENGLAND ALPINE RACING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT SWADLINCOTE ON 25 APR 04

Present:

Gillian Hall (Acting Chair) (GH)
Hedley Beavis (HB)
Muriel Ryding (MR)
Peter Heath (PH)
Alan West (AW)
David Manns (DM)
Gillian Gilyead (GG)
Ian Roberts (Acting Sec) (IR)
Sandy Telling (ST) Item 5 onwards

In Attendance:

Esther Lawton (Candidate Snowsport England Director)

Apologies:

Steve Lambert (SL)
Denise Fletcher (DF)
Paul Hothersall (PHH)

1. The Chairman noted with regret the resignation of Denise Fletcher as Secretary due to conflicting commitments. **Members were to canvass potential candidates for the post.**

ITEM 1. PREVIOUS MINUTES

2. It was agreed that as a matter of course reports submitted to meetings should be read into the minutes. In addition, there should be clear attribution of action. Whilst the minutes should be a comprehensive record of the meeting, some items may need to be recorded circumspectly due to their sensitive or developmental nature. Draft minutes should be circulated to members soon after the meeting and formally published on the Snowsport England Website following approval by the Chair and the Snowsport England Board and after any amendments had been made. Minutes should be copied to the Snowsport England Office for formal record purposes.

Secretary's Note: A revised procedure for approval and publication of key committee minutes was agreed at Council on 15th May. Details to be confirmed following approval of the Council minutes

3. It was agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting should be amended as follows:

a. Item 5 line 2 –Delete 'advertised', insert 'titled'

4. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved

ITEM 2 MATTERS ARISING

5. Item 3. Matters Arising.

- a. Selection Committee. Dave Renouf had been unable to take on the Chairmanship due to ill-health. Andrew Lockerbie had been appointed.
- b. Coaching Committee. HB was ARC's preferred representative to the Coaching Committee. **GH was to discuss the nomination with the new Chair of Coaching Cttee.**

6. Item 4. Indoor Event. **SL was to continue to pursue a costing for holding the Inter-Regional event on indoor snow.**

7. Item 7. ROTP. Replacements bibs were the subject of discussion between ST, AW and Thomson

8. AOB.

- (1) Online race entry. ARC was generally in favour. However, there were security concerns over entry/payment/legitimacy of entry. The matter was referred to the Snowsport England Board to take forward. **GH to inform Board that AW was to be ARC POC for the Board on this matter.**
- (2) Sponsors. **MR was preparing a Sponsors feedback package.** The Thomson Sponsorship agreement had been circulated and some points required additional discussion. Thomson had offered a race series in Oct half-term in Tignes or Alpe d'Huez. The Oct date created difficulty in relation to training as this was the only possible training period at that time of year. In addition, it was felt that a race series would overburden the programme. It was suggested that the Thomson name could be assigned to Alpine Championships events even if the Championships were not held in a 'Thomson resort', with the allied sponsorship being taken in Oct in the form of subsidised travel/accommodation for the Oct training camps. **ST to discuss further with Thomson.** It had also been suggested that Thomson could provide trophies for the All England Championships. However, it was considered that there were sufficient trophies already but that there might be scope for such trophies to be introduced to the Alpine Championships. **ST passed responsibility for Thomson sponsorship administration to Chair ARC**

ITEM 3. INDOOR SNOW EVENT RULES

9. Following the last meeting, IR had circulated a position paper on the rules for events indoors on snow. General organisation rules presented little difficulty. However, equipment rules remained a pitfall. FIS Rules were considered to be the prime source unless there was reason to deviate. FIS runs indoor events on snow and applies the standard equipment rules. In addition, there was evidence from ski manufacturers to suggest that indoor snow was much like natural snow and that the standard equipment rules should apply.

10. On the other hand, there was a strong desire within ARC to make indoor snow racing as open and accessible as possible and to ensure that indoor snow racing became a regular facet of Snowsport England's race calendar. Moreover, there were concerns that the application of FIS equipment rules would create a hurdle for those who would otherwise only race on plastic. It had also been pointed out that there were inconsistencies inherent in existing regulations which allow for small Juniors or large Children to race on skis might be considered inappropriate.

11. Whilst the full range of arguments was acknowledged, ARC could not ignore the primacy of FIS rules in relation to snow surface activities. Precedent elsewhere had established that the FIS Rules were the prime source of reference in litigation and any deviation from the FIS Rules had to be fully justified and underpinned by evidence. There was currently no weight of evidence to suggest that indoor snow characteristics were sufficiently different from those of snow outdoors. However, ARC would welcome relevant submissions and would explore the situation further with FIS.

12. Consequently, ARC recommended to the Snowsport England Board that, for the time being, any indoor snow events run by Snowsport England should be run to FIS and British snow equipment rules. **However, IR was to seek further guidance from FIS.**

ITEM 5. ALPINE TEAM

13. A meeting of ARC members had been held in Puy St Vincent due to the need to progress the appointment of a National Coach. **PHH was to prepare minutes for that meeting and submit them to the Chair of ARC.** It had been decided that, subject to Snowsport England Board approval, the post should be offered to Tim Fawke on a one year contract and will be advertised in January 2005.

14. An outline Job Description and contract was discussed in detail. **MR was to prepare a final version for Board consideration.**

Secretary's Note: Following a Snowsport England Board Meeting on 27 Apr 04 it was agreed that MR should work with Stuart Smith in preparing the final contract

15. A Team Selection Meeting was to be held on 9 May 04 at High Wycombe. **GH was to impress on the Selection Cttee the need for a clear record of discussion/decisions to be submitted to ARC**

16. It was considered that Selection Material should be published earlier in 05. The aim should be Jan/Feb to provide adequate time for collation of paperwork and coaches to view candidates at Easter race series. **Action MR**

17. A Code of Conduct for Athletes would be finalised in the near future. **Action MR**

18. There was an intention to develop a programme to heighten athlete profiles with a view to more positive sponsor involvement. Further funding avenues were being explored. The appointment of a part time female coach was being considered given the number of female members of the Team. **Action MR**

19. Mike Watson was providing a technical response to the Snowsport Great Britain selection policy submitted by Mark Tilston. **GH was to ensure a timely response.**

20. There was a need to nominate a Snowsport England representative for the Snowsport Great Britain Children's Team Selection meeting if Mike Watson was unable to attend. **GH to action with Mike Watson**

ITEM 6. FINANCIAL REPORT

21. The management accounts for 2003 show a deficit of £19,176 in the Team account against a budgeted deficit of £8027, and a surplus of £8245 in the ARC general account against a budgeted surplus of £8027 - the agreed ARC support to the Team budget. The Team account includes £5720 purchase value of skis and bindings for sale to Team members, income for which is reported in the 2004 Team accounts. With this adjustment, the Team account would show an excess deficit of £5429 against budget

22. Concerns were voiced regarding some year end transactions including £3356 charged to the All England account and £1000 for a nordic course. **PH was to investigate further with Andrew Jolly**

23. The 2004 accounts to date appeared healthy. Budget allocations were anticipated to be approved by Council on 15 May 2004.

24. Charges for BASS registration. Such payments to Snowsport Great Britain had hitherto been absorbed by Snowsport England. However, at £2.50 per capita, the cost was significant and it might be necessary to pass on the charges in future. In addition, no additional charge was made for late registration whereas Scotland & Wales charge a significant sum for both. Timely registration is necessary to provide continuity of insurance cover for the racer. **PH was to prepare a proposal for ARC to consider at 1 Aug meeting.**

ITEM 7. ROTP REPORT

25. See Report attached.

26. Alpine Championships.

- a. **ST was to refer the concerns over insurance cover for volunteer officials to Andrew Jolly for clarification.**
- b. There had been lots of positive comment from those attending. Spectators were keen to attend racing and would like access to start lists. **AW to propose to ROC that an additional Notice Board be used in the Finish Area.**
- c. Some comment had been made over the trophies awarded in the Junior Competition. Although this year one mistake was made in not announcing Emily Sarsfield as the English Champion, which was corrected before the end of prize giving, the prizes were presented as in previous years.

The first GBR racer receives the overall trophy, the first English racer is the English champion and receives a medal and the 1, 2 and 3 in each age group receive a medal. There was also some confusion this year in that the two new trophies to replace those lost had been incorrectly engraved with Junior Champion. This had not been noticed by the organizing committee as the trophies had not been seen before arrival in the resort. Steps to rectify this will be made before next year. Although a full debriefing has not taken place, the organizing committee also recognised that the English Champions require greater recognition. If the financial position allows, the organizing committee will review the number and quality of trophies.

- d. It was suggested that there should be a token award to all participants in the Children's races. In addition, consideration should be given to issuing bibs on the hill to cut down the length of Team Managers' meetings. **AW to raise with ROC.**
- e. There was a need to decide the date for the 2005 event as soon as possible so that FIS Calendar application could be submitted by end May 04. Discussion with the ROC of the British Championships should take place as a matter of urgency. **AW to progress with ROC**

27. All England Championships. ARC endorsed the running of the Minis event on the Sunday morning.

ITEM 8. STP REPORT

28. See attached Report. **IR to canvass on-hill positions for developing officials at BARSC and British Championships.**

ITEM 9. ESSKIA

29. Routine preparations were taking place for the year's activities.

30. With regard to APC 1 Coaching Courses, ESSkiA had been disappointed not to have had an invitation to send suitable coaches to the last APC 1 Assimilation Course, as reflected in the recent Coaching Committee minutes. ESSkiA had in the past been invited to nominate 2 such coaches but, having done so, had received no further contact. The situation required clarification. **MR to action** with Tim Fawke

ITEM 10. AOB

31. A Course Setters Forum for plastic events was to be held on 22 May at Hemel and conducted by HB and Phil Brown. It was intended for TDs, Course Setters and Club Coaches and would discuss the character of courses that ought to set on plastic. A further such course would be held in Oct 04. **Action HB**

32. Paul Telling was again organising T shirts to be worn by England Team Members at International Artificial Events. He was canvassing sponsorship but if that was not forthcoming, there may be a need to charge.

33. The next meeting would be held at Swadlincote on 1 Aug 04 at 1000 hours