

BSSF Congress 3 June 2001

Cross-discipline and membership communications working group minutes

In Attendance

Tim Alcock	BSSF Chairman
Peter Clarke	BSSF Vice Chairman
Graham Bell	Performance Director
Susie Berry	BARSC
Peter Bates	Snowsport Scotland
Kay Bates	BSSF Freestyle
Alan Hartley	BSSF Finance
Alan Mullens	Ski Club of Great Britain
Ingie Christophersen	BARSC

1.0 Membership communications

SB and IC expressed their disappointment that ESC were not represented at the congress. Everyone present agreed that this was a major problem. AH asked if they had received proper notice of the meeting. IC stated that there were several problems with the ESC squad programmes last season, and if things did not improve then BARSC would have reservations about advising their Junior athletes to take up places on the ESC squad.

PB stated that Sport Scotland rate skiing on a much higher level than Sport England so there was generally more support available to the Scots.

IC recommended that more be done to ensure greater co-operation between the Home Nation Teams.

SB stated that SCOW now has authority from Sport Wales to fund a snow based programme although resources are still extremely tight.

IC pointed out that there are a large number of Scots involved on the organising committees of British Championships, more should be done to encourage English organisers.

2.0 BSSF database

GB suggested that the BSSF needs to have access to the databases of its membership, and that it was essential to the fund raising activities of the BSSF. TA stated that the BSSF own database consisted of current athletes and parents and total about 4000. However without a central registration of athletes the BSSF rely on race entries, to build the database. GB stated that it was in the interest of every British skiing organisation to have a strong British Team, and that these organisations should help the BSSF raise funds.

AM suggested that we were talking about two separate issues, should the BSSF build it's own database with the help of it's member groups, or should the BSSF have access to the databases of it's member groups.

PC stated that if it was necessary to make the member tick a box to become part of the BSSF database then it should be worded in such a way, that if you do not tick to box, would you please make a donation of a tener.

It was agreed that the BSSF should start to build it's own database. A circulation of Inside Edge could then begin, alternatively e-mails could be sent notifying members that the new issue of Inside Edge is available on the website. This could be used as an incentive to get people to become members of the BSSF, and use the website.

3.0 Website

PC stated that the BSSF currently does not own it's own website, and is hosted on ifyouski.com. Syntax has agreed to build the site and a number of domain names have been bought for that purpose. PB suggested that the hardest challenge to any website was to keep the content current, and that a stop press section was needed for overnight results. SB suggested asking Peter Heath if he would like to be involved as a web master.

TA stated that Syntax should produce a design based on existing NGB sites, and that a symposium could then be hosted by Syntax, to see what issues were raised.

4.0 Volunteers

As an organisation the BSSF relies heavily on the help of volunteers. PB stated that the biggest source of volunteers were parents of competitors. TA stated that currently not enough is done to take parents forward into the organisation, and keep them involved once their children had finished competing. GB stated that at the Junior Championship in Pitztal there were a number of parents who had no real information about the sport. PC suggested producing a list of areas where the BSSF would like support, and to circulate the list at the Championships. We should be organising more social activities at the Championships so that parents can feel involved, and be encouraged to volunteer.