

ESC Race Organisation Technical Panel
Minutes of meeting held at Swadlincote
Sunday 14th October 2001 at 10:30

- 2001 3.1 **Present**
Alan West (AW) Gillian Todd (GT) Carl McGregor-Ogden (CMO) David Pyle (DP)
Gordon Cole (GHC) Des Pirkhoffer (DesP) Tony Archbold (TA) Helen Parken (HP)
David Manns (DJM)
- 2001 3.2 **Apologies**
Tina Fairweather (TF)
- 2001 3.3 **Minutes of previous meeting**
The minutes of the previous meeting 2001.2 were approved as a true record.
- 2001 3.4 **Matters arising**
3.4a Ref 2.6 Inter-Regional format – feedback sought from regions that attended as well as those that didn't. Distance was stated as part of the reason for non-attendance, although this would likely be overcome if race was seeded. Race cannot be seeded in current format (league then knockout), but existing reasons for not seeding in previous format ('selective' race not open to all, single run slalom) still stand. Publicity (with race calendar) would hopefully help increase attendance.
- After discussion it was agreed that the format would be kept as this year, and look for a more central venue (see 3.7 below). The possibility of running this event as part of the All-England Championships was discussed, but it was agreed that this would not be viable due to timetable pressure, and also that this would detract from the focus of this event as a 'representative honour'.
- DesP raised the possibility of running the event at Snowzone. The slope length and width was believed to be sufficient, but there was some question about the durability of the surface with perhaps more than 500 racers skiing the same course. DesP did confirm that the Squad had been training there, and found that the snow rutted 'just like the real thing'. After further discussion it was agreed that a 'trial' session would be needed before the actual event could be run there. This should take place early in the year, perhaps February. DesP to undertake initial investigations about availability, price, etc. The intention would be to invite each region to send one team to this 'trial'.
- 2001 3.5 **Training Courses**
3.5a Level 1 Race Officials Course - Level 1 course took place at Ipswich on October 13th, run by Mike Creasor, no feedback received yet. Ian Roberts (IR) confirmed as point of contact for arranging other such courses.
- 3.5b Annual Race Officials Course – only 3 entries received so far. A 'cutoff' date of Nov 1st was agreed, at which point the viability of the course would be decided. Depending on numbers at this point, and the costs involved in running the course, three options would be available: continue as planned, condense course to one (longer) day, or cancel altogether.
- Tutors - CMO and IR would run 'advanced' level group, and HP, DP and DJM would handle the other group. Assuming run as two-day course, TA and AW would be available on Sunday.
- It was also agreed that to make the Jury 'role play' more believable. CMO to change, liaise with DP over changes.
- Logistics – tutors need to be there Friday evening to prepare. Accommodation (16 rooms) booked for Saturday night by AW and TA at Travel Lodge in Hemel town centre, (nothing booked for Friday). Slope providing two rooms, large room upstairs (the one usually used for officials at races), small room downstairs. Latter to be used for 'advanced' group.

Catering – lunch (lasagne or equivalent) and tea & coffee included. Saturday evening meal also included in course fee, but nothing booked yet (AW to contact Ros for suggestions).

Facilities – one flip chart to be provided, need one more plus OHP and TV/Video, AW to confirm what can be provided by Hemel. Notebook computers (for Softski demo) to be brought by HP, DJM, Tristan Cole, extra monitor(s) by DJM. May require dongle to demo printing start lists, HP to contact Peter Heath re availability (but not essential, only needed to print). Stopwatches will be needed for 'Backup Timing' session – AW to contact Mike Creasor, others to bring whatever watches they can locate.

Paperwork – certificates : AW to contact ESC office re availability. OHP foils : DJM to arrange printing (black & white), all to email required documents to DJM for printing (Word or RTF format). Feedback forms: change to use session names rather than numbers; HP and CMO to prepare own forms for the two groups.

- 3.5c Course Setters – course was run, with mixed feedback. After discussion it was agreed that this course should essentially be organised and run under the auspices of the Coaching Committee, but that ROTP should state their own objectives: namely development of reliable course setters for races.

2001 3.6 **Accreditation Scheme**

- 3.6a Increasing the number of registered officials – it was agreed that some means needs to be found to increase the 'pool' of officials (currently only 28 registered, excluding those that have also registered as a performer or coach), but need to address the 'motivation' issue. Several instances were known where people were regularly used as officials were not registered; there is "nothing in it for them", they will be given jobs even though not registered.

Several means of increasing motivation were discussed, including allowing free or reduced entry to race for one family member, 'paying' fixed amount (to simplify admin and cater for those that don't have family racing, but beware possible issues with employment legislation), and reducing or waiving registration fee for officials.

It was agreed as a first step that the preferred route was to waive the registration fee, making registration for race officials free. It was felt that with the small number of officials registered, the likely revenue to be foregone was not significant (less than £200). DesP to take the proposal to ARC for discussion, although final decision would need to go to Board level.

- 3.6b Collecting names of officials – new form to go in race pack, for Race Secretary to fill in the names of all race officials used at an event, to be returned to Tristan Cole for collation. GT to prepare form and pass to ESC office for inclusion in future race packs. This would enable people officiating more than once to be contacted (via Race Secretary to get address/phone) regarding joining the registration/accreditation scheme.

- 3.6c Change to 'sequence' of accreditation – it was agreed that the sequence for accreditation should be revised to:

Register to get name onto officials list.

Attend race officials course.

Undertake assessment to gain accreditation.

This is a change to the current scheme only in that the first two points are reversed, there is no requirement to be registered before attending the course. DJM to summarise necessary changes to Race Manual ready for next meeting.

- 2001 3.7 **Race Calendar**
- 3.7a DP outlined responses from slopes and clubs requesting races, and initial thoughts on allocation of races.
DP to continue chasing unresponsive slopes, prepare draft calendar and email round for comments. All to respond with explicit acceptance and/or comments, as confirmation of receipt in case messages go astray.
- 3.7b European Champs : CMO to raise with STP the issue of seeding this event as it is to be run in Belgium in 2002.
- 3.7c ESSkiA : TA stated that finals would take place at Swadlincote as usual, but that dates may change depending on outcome of negotiation with Irish. DP to include on calendar using same dates as this year unless TA informs otherwise.
- 2001 3.8 **Changes for 2002**
- 3.8a Entry fees: it was agreed that entry fees should be raised (for the first time in several years) to £15.00. After some discussion of the issue of late entries, including the recent survey of entry timings by Ken Rolfe, it was agreed that the late entry fee will be set at £5.00.
- 3.8b Envelopes: in another effort to reduce the workload on Race Secretaries, it was agreed to change the 'rules' (as published with Race Calendar), to state that envelopes will no longer be a requirement. Acceptance lists are increasingly being published on the Internet, this should be done for all events next season. Those that *do* want bulletin and results can still include envelopes, but no admin fees will be charged and no bulletin/results sent, where envelopes are missing.
- 3.8c On-line registration : the possibility of online registration was briefly discussed. DesP stated that this was successfully operated in the Southern region for their own race series, although it does bring its own problems (e.g. payment 'on the day' allows some to enter for whole series then not turn up to some races). It was agreed that on-line registration would in all likelihood come in due course, but certainly not for next season. It was also agreed that this would need to be undertaken 'centrally' to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort.
- 2001 3.9 **AOB**
- 3.9a ESC publicity at races – DesP raised the idea of placing a display or stand at races, to help provide information on ESC and racing to racers, parents, etc. This would be most effective at Club National races (where the largest contingent of 'new' competitors would be present), but if using a prepared stand or notice board this would be easiest to transport around to Grand Prix (as already done with bibs etc). It was agreed that it would indeed be a good idea to publicise ESC and its role, but that there may be some issues with staffing. It was agreed that it would be best to start next season by trying it out at Grand Prix races, provided the issues of staffing could be addressed.
- 3.9b Race booklet – agreed to defer discussion of changes required to this booklet until the next meeting.
- 3.9c English Alpine – a brief report was requested by DesP ahead of the forthcoming ARC meeting. GHC was able to report that planning for the event was in its early stages, but that it would be taking place at Kaunertal on March 24th-29th (the week leading up to Easter) with the British Champs in the following week. There were still issues of transportation etc to be addressed, but with the atrocious conditions of last season unlikely to be repeated, there was confidence of a successful championships.
- 3.9d Limit on entries into races– agreed to defer until next meeting.

Meeting closed at 16:10

Next meeting: Sunday January 13th 2002