

**Minutes of a Meeting the BSSF British Technical Delegates Forum
Held at RAF Henlow on Saturday 12th May 2001**

Present: Maud Instone MI Chairman
Susie Berry SB
Peter Heath PH
Duncan Lonie DL
Ian Jones IJ
David Morris DM
Dave Parsons DP
Ian Roberts IR
Maree Rudd MR
Frank Staddle FS

Apologies: Neil Griffiths, Graham Hubbard, Roderick Hutchison, Alan Hunt, Sid James, Martin Leach, Alan Stewart, Dick Taplin, Larry Young

In attendance: Jennifer Kirkwood

01. MI opened the meeting by welcoming everybody.
02. MI reported Richard Berry has sent notice indicating his wish to retire from TD duties and that he will no longer attend meetings.
03. MI reported on correspondence received from Tim Dumas in which he stated his intention to return to race organisation.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING- 3/11/00

There were no comments and the minutes were signed as a correct record.

2. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters to be discussed which were not on the agenda.

3. REVIEW OF SEASON

MI expressed her satisfaction that, with the exception of the AVSC Christmas races and the Hird & Coronation Cup, all the winter races had run successfully and had counted for seeding. Re: AVSC Christmas races. SB reported that lack of support resulted in the race being cancelled.

MI, however, expressed concern with regard to two events:

3.1 DHO Christmas races. The start list for the race had been drawn in an "Austrian style" with the racers starting according to age and sex. After consideration of all the circumstances, it had been decided that the race could be used for seeding. However all TDs and race organisers need to be aware that in mixed age group races all racers should start in points order with a draw for the first 15 and also at the end for those with no points.

3.2 BSA Interschools race. MI stated that it was only due to the hard work of the TD (Ingie Christophersen) that the race had been run safely. It was noted that it appeared that the organisers had only arranged a contract with the resort for time-keeping with the result that there had been many unnecessary problems. In particular, the location of the power points, resulting in an over-length GS, and the lack of poles (a single gate GS had to be set instead of double) were picked out as major problems. However, it had been decided that the GS should count for seeding as it would have been unfair on the racers concerned to have nullified the race.

PH pointed out that the FIS Junior & Children's Committee was encouraging national associations to run single gate races. However, with reference to the minutes of the last meeting, this matter had already been discussed and it had been decided that GBR would not follow this in British races.

Sanction

As this was not the first time that there had been problems with the Interschool Ski Challenge, it was decided that the Forum must impose a sanction. The possibility of a financial sanction was mooted, however it was thought to be not a viable option. Instead, it was agreed that the race will not be included on the British race calendar 2001/2002 and neither will any application to run a seeded event be accepted from the British Ski Academy, or any of its officials or employees in that same year. The Forum will consider an application to run a BASS event during the season 2002/2003 provided that certain conditions are fulfilled. MI will draft a report laying out the conditions. [BSSF Board has subsequently overturned this decision.]

4. REPORTS FROM DELEGATES

4.1 BARSC

Written and verbal report by SB: Despite the poor snow conditions in Lenk, the races had been run. SB defended the decision to run them by referring to the huge hotel deposits that would have otherwise been lost and the changeable weather forecasts.

4.2 CSWSA

Written and verbal report by DM: The Mégève races had been very successful with great support offered from the resort. The organisers had also run their first Snowboard Championships. DM pointed out that British civilian racers would be made very welcome at the races and it was noted that these were the only races during the season where a Downhill was held, with the exception of the Army Divisional races.

4.3 ESC

Verbal report by IR: [Written Report submitted after the meeting for inclusion in the minutes]: The English Ski Championships had taken place in Kaunertal with great success. There is a possibility that they will be held in Pitztal next year, but it is more likely that they will return to Kaunertal. PH indicated that at a recent ESC meeting it had been discussed that BSSF and the ESC should work together to keep costs down. However, MI expressed the view that better races are run if variety of the slopes is retained. [After Note: Pitztal are unable to accept the ESC Championships in the pre-Easter week. Negotiations have therefore commenced to return to Kaunertal. However, efforts will be made to hold the technical events in Fendels (close by and operated by same company) where there are suitable, more challenging slopes with artificial snow cover.]

4.4 Snowsport Wales

Written and verbal report by DP: A snow-camp is planned for next season. DP also wished to report verbally that Snowsport Wales have asked their racers not to attend the unofficial European Artificial Championships (Wycombe Summit) and have banned their officials from helping. They are concerned that Wales will suffer financially, particularly because the official and unofficial events are scheduled less than a month apart. IR expressed ESC's support for Wales and said that all ESC racers had been informed of the unofficial status of the race in the ESC Occasional Race bulletin.

4.5 Snowsport Scotland

FS reported verbally that with the exception of the Hird & Coronation Cup races, the Scottish races had all been run. The Scottish Seniors FIS race had been the best ever – with a very high standard of field, sponsorship from Drambuie and the presence of Black Diamond films.

FS wished to complain about the high cost incurred to race organisers when hosting Scandinavian TDs (eg cost of flights). He asked whether something could be done to rectify this situation next season. SB pointed out that organisers are only expected to cover 500 Swiss francs of a TD's expenses and should not feel obliged to pay any more.

DL said that there had been requests for an improvement in communication between the British TD Forum and Home Nation TD's. MI said that the e-mail mailing list could be extended to include any interested parties.

4.6 BSSF

Written report by Fiona McNeilly.

5. FIS MATTERS

5.1 Written report by Martin Leach. Special mention was made about a TDs' speed event safety course that should be held immediately before the speed events in a British competition. DL said that he hoped it could be run before the British Senior Championships.

5.2 Re: Equipment

MR asked for the British position on marking Children's equipment to be clarified. MI reminded the Forum that it had been previously decided to not introduce this rule into British races.

It was questioned whether the enforcement of the rule regarding the height of risers could be carried out more easily if a British central base was set up to do this, rather than have to send the skis away to Switzerland for testing. This could happen, for example at an artificial slope. It was noted that the FIS are not proactive in the enforcement of this rule and maybe Britain should adopt a similar reactive stance. PH expressed the opinion that a publication is required indicating precisely all the rules and regulations involved. ML will be asked to assist in this matter. Duncan Lonie offered to explore possible measuring laboratory with Herriot Watt University.

6. TD MATTERS

6.1 TD Address list

The address list was distributed and up-dated as required.

6.2 Candidate British TDs

Aggi Hunt was confirmed as a qualified British TD. SB had assessed him at the British Childrens Championships where Aggi acted as the TD after Richard Berry stood down. She praised Aggi for his hard work at the Championships, especially in consideration of the poor weather conditions.

Ian Roberts has now completed the written examination and has two years in which to complete a candidature.

Richard Ellis, as a constituent group TD, requires another year before he can attempt to qualify as a British TD.

Ewen MacLean and Crerar Adams were nominated at the previous meeting and may sit the written exam in November. FS will invite them to do this.

DL suggested John Clark as a suitable candidate. In response to a question about language requirements to become a FIS TD, MI said that a TD whose first language is either English, German or French should be able to communicate competently in at least one other language.

Candidate TD: Ian Roberts
Aspirant TDs: Crerar Adams and Ewen MacLean

6.3 TD Equipment and badges

MI will coordinate a group order to purchase TD storm coats from Beyond X. A velcro badge will be introduced to indicate status. MI is keen for a TD fleece to be introduced. Metal badges are to be designed.

6.4 TD Development

IJ has prepared a paper outlining a development programme for aspiring TDs. It is designed to explain the work of a TD and to clarify the route to becoming one. MI thanked IJ for his hard work. SB highlighted how important it is for any aspiring TD to try all the other jobs involved in running a race.

6.5 British Alpine Race Committee (BARC)

This is a new committee to be chaired initially by Ewen MacLean, Disciplines Director for the BSSF. The Chair of the TD Forum has been asked to sit on it. [Initial meeting held on Sunday 3 June]

6.6 Feedback

ML has designed a form for Race organisers to complete in regard to their assigned TD. It is good to give organisers the opportunity to voice any criticisms or complaints that they may have. This is to be discussed and returned to at the next meeting in November.

7. ICR

Martin Leach has sent a letter to FIS in regard to certain nuances in the English-language version of the ICR.

8. BCR

8.1 A sub-committee of MI, SB, IR, IJ and PH was confirmed to meet on Sunday 13th May to produce the BCR 2001. It was agreed that these will be British precisions to the new ICR in Part 1, plus Parts 2 to 7.

8.2 MI reported that Alan Hunt had suggested introducing a change of rule from a prescribed minimum number of gates to a *recommended* minimum number of gates in all disciplines. He suggested there should be a formula to calculate the number of gates as a percentage of the vertical drop. It was decided that this would be too vague. SB suggested that a minimum number of gates be introduced, with the options of +/- 3.

8.3 Children's Races

SB brought attention to the wording of the number of gates required in Slalom. The ICR indicates a possibility of +/- 3 in Men & Ladies races, but gives no option for Children. Should the BCR follow this example?

8.4 Giant Slalom

The BCR should incorporate the ICR's rule that a Children's GS should be set as: 13%-15% of the vertical drop = number of direction changes. It was decided not to make this a rule for minis races because minis races are not seeded.

8.5 Super G

The maximum vertical drop for minis races was discussed. Although the FIS maximum vertical drop for Children 1 races is 250m, minis have raced 300m in the past. SB proposed that Children should not complete more than one race per day. This is to be discussed further in November.

8.6 Equipment Regulations

PH has produced a table laying out all of the regulations (attached). To be ratified at the Autumn meeting.

9. SEEDING

9.1 Report from National Seeder

This was tabled at the meeting.

9.2 BUSC: PH had received correspondence from BUSC requesting that the Universities Artificial Championships be eligible for seeding. There are many factors to take into account, for instance the fact that many university racers are unregistered. To be discussed further.

10. BRITISH CALENDAR

The provisional dates for the FIS races are as follows:

- BARSC, Lenk, 2-4 January 2002
- British Land Senior Championships, Saalbach- Hinterglemm, 14-20 January
- British Masters Race, Courmayeur, 2-3 February
- North East FIS Race, 2/3 February
- North West FIS Race, 9/10 March
- Kandahar CIT race, Sestriere, 23/24 March
- British Land Junior Championships, TBC, 1-7 April
- Scottish Senior FIS Races, 6-9 April

11. BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS

11.1 British Senior Championships

Verbal report by DL. Written report as 4.6 above.

11.2 British Junior & Children's Championships

Written report as 4.6 above.

11.3 British Artificial Championships

TD for British Artificial Championship will be Maud Instone
TD for European Artificial Championship will be Maree Adam.

It was questioned whether there should continue to be a GS held at the British Artificial Championships. It was decided that the Forum recommends that a GS should not be run unless a suitable slope is available.

Suggestion: Day 1: British Slalom Championships
Day 2: "Un-named Slalom (or GS) + National Parallel Slalom

12. OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 TD Forum Chairman: MI will retire from her position as Chairman in November and has asked IJ to succeed her. This was welcomed unanimously.

12.2 Start Order in Children's Races

In Austria, Children's starts lists are drawn according to age group and sex; i.e all CH 1 girls, all CH1 boys, CH2 girls, CH2 boys

A DHO Trainer had asked whether this would be a possibility in British-run races. SB had researched the idea by asking various Trainers their opinions. She reported that, in general the Trainers were in support. It was decided that it would only be suitable in Children only races, ie not in mixed Junior-Children. MI suggested that the matter be discussed at Home nation level and the matter returned to in November.

12.3 Conversion of plastic points

When preparing the start list for the British Artificial Championships, the question of which seeding (snow or plastic) comes into play. For example, a system based exclusively on one may exclude many talented racers. At present the National Seeder must use a very complicated conversion system. SB pointed out that, as the competition is the British *Artificial* Championship, then perhaps only "artificial" seeded racers should be allowed to compete. It was decided that it is too late to change the system for this summer (some races have taken place already) and the matter will be returned to in November.

12.4 Sanction at BARSC Minis Race

SB reported on the incident that occurred at the BARSC Mini's race in Pitztal. Frankie Clough had been disciplined for swearing as he crossed the finish line. It was suggested that a sanctions log be kept in future for all races.

13. NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 3/4 November 2001 at RAF Henlow.

TD/Race Organisers Seminar on Saturday 3 November

TD Forum meeting on Sunday 4 November

(FIS TDs only meeting on Friday 2 November in the afternoon)