

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BRITISH TECHNICAL DELEGATES
FORUM**
held at Redford Barracks, Edinburgh
on 6th November 2005 at 09.00 hrs.

Welcome to the Chairman's Report of the GBR TD Forum and Seminar for Nov 03. It was another record turnout for the Seminar on Saturday 05 Nov and I express, on everyone's behalf, thanks to Martin Leach our GBR FIS Commissioner for his tutorial presentation and to Aggie Hunt for arranging the facilities at Redford Barracks. The Seminar was extremely informative and everyone joined in with the syndicate work and test questions. The whole event reinforces the need for annual refresher training and safety updates, which are becoming more and more pertinent and crucial in how we run ski races at all levels. I therefore encourage all who were present to formally pass on the information to those unable to attend and to extend the invitation to all interested parties for future Seminars.

The TD Forum was held on Sunday 06 Nov 05 and those present were; 3 FIS TDs, 20 GBR TDs with CSWSA, BARSC, SNOWSPORT England, SNOWSPORT Scotland, SNOWSPORT CYMRU/WALES represented. The BASS & BArtSS seeders were present and also the Chief of Championships for GBR & BSC Championships and the Snowsport GB Children's co-ordinator.

Below is a summary of the GBR TD Forum minutes for your retention and general distribution:-

1.

It was requested that the updated TD Forum contact list be circulated. This would be done but on a limited distribution basis.

2

Rotation of the British Indoor Championships (May '05 item 4.4)

This matter had still not been fully resolved. The Chairman agreed to contact the Alpine executive to remind them of the need to discuss the event format with the organisers for 2006.

Entries – British entries to British-run races (May '05 item 5.6.3.5)

It was agreed that the Chairman should ensure that the SnowsportGB office understands that the entry procedures for British FIS races should be the same as for any other FIS race. This applies also to British Team entries to these events.

Children's SG Skis - mismatch between ski regulations (May '05 item 5.6.3.6)

The Children's Co-ordinator reported that Werner Nachbauer (AUT) had worked originally only on the radius of skis and not the length. It was felt that the hard and fast rules did not take into account of growth spurts and the enormous diversity of children's heights and weights. Also British children's Super-Gs tended not to be particularly fast.

It was pointed out that some children only competed in one Super-G event per year and the expense of special skis was hard to justify.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the GBR Children's team must have skis conforming to the FIS rules. However, while Super-G skis are strongly recommended for children competing in BASS races, a BCR precision to art 1.2.1.1 will state that GS skis may be used for BASS Super-G events in 2005/6. This exemption will be reviewed regularly.

3

Reports from Delegates

BARSC

Susie Berry reported that BARSC Clubs had been organising training camps during the summer but had undertaken no activities that were pertinent to the TD Forum. There were no changes to the Calendar dates listed in May.

CSWSA

Richard Ellis made a verbal report that BSIASSC would move to Crans Montana for 2006. The event at Hintertglen, in 2005 had suffered heavy snow and lost 2 races.

Snowsport England

The written report included the fact that the Puy St Vincent SSE Champs had been cancelled due to lack of snow, in 2005, for the first time. This had given problems with refunds and compensation. PSV were keen to hold the event in 2006 and had implemented considerable improvements at the resort. There had been a busy and successful summer season in 2005. Several race organiser courses had been run and well attended. For a full report see the SSE website.

Snowsport Wales

The written report included the completion of a successful plastic season in 2005 with the Celtic Cup Series doing well. The second Welsh snow event was to be held at Oppdal in Dec 05. Sian and Peter Harris, having successfully passed their TD exams, were congratulated and welcomed to the Forum.

Snowsport Scotland

See SSS Website.

Snowsport GB

- It was reported that at a meeting of the Alpine Executive it had been agreed that the representative of the TD Forum, on the Alpine executive, will be the Chairman or, if he is unable to attend, his nominee. The Terms of Reference for both the Alpine Executive and the TD Forum had been rewritten at the request of the Board. It was felt that neither document was totally appropriate and in view of the probable restructure under modernisation it was not worth trying to redraft at this time. The main points the Board wished to establish were the membership of the Executive and the position of the Forum as reporting through the Executive. These were agreed in principle.
- It was felt that Modernisation would go ahead even if it did not follow exactly the current proposals, which were to be considered at Congress on the following day. The TD Forum had already been identified as being one of the proposed Standing Committees in the new structure. It had been suggested in the Working Group that the Forum should become responsible for the registration and training of all race officials. It had also been suggested that the Forum should expand to include all disciplines..
- All members of the Forum were asked to read the information on the SnowsportGB or the Children's Team web site.
In brief - all race officials, at children's events, should have a Criminal Records Bureau (Disclosures in Scotland) check and awareness training. The latter just involves reading documents. SSE now required all their member clubs to have a nominated Child Protection Officer (CPO) and SSS and SSW were progressing in the same direction. From 2007 all events involving children (ie persons under 18 years) will require a CPO – incidentally this policy applies to all sports. Officials working directly with children (eg coaches/adults supervising training trips etc) may require an enhanced disclosure, which must be renewed every three years. Foreign trainers must be checked according to their national laws. CRBs are not transferable from one employer to another, e.g. one granted to a school teacher is not valid for the same individual to work as a team manager. However, they are transferable within Snowsport. E.g. a Scottish Referee could use the same check to work as a BARSC house parent. For more information, check websites - www.crb.gov.uk or for Scotland www.disclosurescotland.co.uk.

Children's Start Order

It was reported that agreement on the Children's start order rules had been reached at a meeting between delegates from the TD Forum and the Alpine Executive and had been circulated in July. These will now be incorporated into the new BCR for use in season 2005/2006. The same group will meet again at the end of the season to review the results of the trial and report back to the Forum in May.

Schoolgirls' races

It was requested that the LSC British Schoolgirls' races be granted an exemption from the new rule because of the team aspect of the event. It was agreed that providing the BCR rules were followed in all other respects, then the draw could be made in team order for these races.

Super-G starts

The basic standards required for competing in Super-G events were also discussed. It was agreed that wherever possible, the GS should precede the Super-G in event programmes and any start in the Super-G would be dependent on having GS points or results. The jury has the right to stop any competitor from participation (ICR 601.4.6.3)

A decision on the appropriate standard of GS points for entry to Super-G was to be reached by this group after season 05/06.

Proposal for 2006/7 (item for May 2006 agenda)

It was suggested that Forum members think about a proposal for consideration for introduction in 2006/2007:

To run mixed gender events, separated into age categories. Ch 1 boys and girls could be drawn together in one group, and Ch II boys and girls similarly. This system is currently used in France, and allows girls to develop and learn from difficult conditions at a time when they are roughly equal in strength with the boys. The current situation is felt to be providing a false environment for them.

4 **Seeding and Registration Reports by the BASS and BArtSS Seeders**

The BASS Seeder asked that all events please now use the SKI programme for producing results (available on the web, free, from Soft Control).
The First BASS list would be out on 1 December 05 and followed approximately monthly thereafter.

Realign Children's seed points (May '05 item 6.1)

The BASS Seeder had circulated a report on the subject prior to the meeting (see www.britski.org)
The Forum accepted his proposals and congratulated him on the work done and solution found. The BCR part 5, item 7 will be amended accordingly.
It will be necessary to change the FIS licence criteria in line with the above decision.

Report by the BArtSS Seeder

The BArtSS seeder reported that regulations for seeding were being re-drafted to follow the SSE regulations. A breakdown of the season was provided and details can be viewed on www.britski.org

5 **FIS Matters**

The GBR Commissioner said he had just four points to raise in addition to those which had been covered at the Update:

- **GS flags** - New flags of a larger dimension were now on the market. These had been the brainchild of WC marketing as they included a sponsors' panel above the standard flag. Do not buy them – they are not yet legal.
- **ICR re-write** – the three language versions of the ICR are to be reviewed between now and 2008 in order to correct the mistakes in translation and spelling. e.g. grundsätzlich = fundamental not basic; principal instead of principle.
- **Race result manipulation** – We know that, particularly at end of season races, it is normal to bring in top competitors to help improve the points of the up-and-coming. However, at one event two WC ladies were shown on the results when they were in fact a 300k away testing skis. The race was subsequently declared null and void. For this reason, it is essential that all entries are made by the national associations. The TD cannot possibly know all the competitors personally.
- **New FIS TDs** - In order to improve standards, the number of FIS TDs had been reduced from around 600 to 470. There are now 23 Commissioners and it is agreed that we need to bring in new blood. The quota system is no longer in place so in the case of GBR it would be sensible to bring on some younger people before it is time for our existing TDs to retire. It was agreed to ask SnowsportGB to support such candidates.

FIS TD assignments to British Races for season 2005/2006

These will follow. They are not yet finalised.

6 **British TD Matters**

TD Development Structure (May '05 item 8.2.1)

It was reported that the required amendments had been agreed and were ready for inclusion in the BCR.

TD Exam – Snow/Artificial (May '05 item 8.2.6)

It was agreed that a Candidate taking the exam as a snow TD should also be able to officiate at artificial events. However, some Candidates may wish to qualify for artificial events only. It was agreed, therefore, to have two different exam papers.

It is also necessary to have a different Assessment Form for those Candidates wishing to qualify for artificial only. For example, skiing ability, for artificial, is not so important.
A British TD Report Form for artificial events is also required.

Sanctions update

It was reported that sanctions had been imposed following an incident at the Inter-regional event at Pendle. Three individuals had been involved in giving verbal abuse to a Gate Judge. An open letter

of apology had been received. This case will be reported on the SSE web site in order "to discourage others".

Race Officials Database (May '05 item 8.2.3)

Tristan Cole had made a presentation at the Update and now made a more detailed presentation on the workings of the database of race officials currently operated on behalf of SSE. It was agreed in principle that this could be expanded to become a British database. Questions were asked about the possible costs and outline answers were given. A working group was appointed to look into the costs, funding, administration etc and instructed to report in detail to the May meeting.

Log Books / ID Cards

It was agreed that TD log books were unnecessary. At present the Chairman kept a record of all TD assignments undertaken and it was hoped that a system would be in place shortly which would log all activities of officials (see above)

The question of ID cards / TD licences was discussed. They could be generated by the same system and the cost would be negligible. In view of the need for accreditation at races it was agreed that they would be useful.

Accreditation. The GBR Commissioner wished to point out:

The new requirements on accreditation would apply to all British FIS Junior events. It was an extra burden on the organisers but had been brought in, in the interests of safety, to prevent accidents caused by unauthorised persons being on the competition hill. It was agreed that these rules should also be adopted at BASS events but that they would be impractical and unenforceable on artificial slopes.

Direction Changes - Slaloms would now count direction changes and not gates. This would make it even harder to set a valid course on short slopes. It was essential that the Jury work with the course setter. To assist, markers could be placed on slopes to indicate the mid-point. It was also imperative that the number of turns shown on the results was accurate and, if necessary, a note made on the TD report form rather than trying to "fudge" if, in fact, too few gates had been set.

7 BCR update

BCR wider rewrite/sub-section ownership (May '05 item 11.2)

The draft BCR re-write was now almost complete and after the amendments necessary as a result of this meeting the documents would be ready for publication. The New BCR would be promulgated on the www.britski.org website once finalised.

British Artificial Championships (May '05 item 12)

There was a proposal to amend the rules for the above event. The agreed rules will be published in the forthcoming re-write of the BCR.

8 AOB

A vote of thanks was proposed to the outgoing Chairman, Ian Jones. This was unanimously supported.

Larry Young took over the duties of Chairman of the British TD Forum, at the end of the meeting, as agreed at item 8.6 Nov 04 minutes.

Dates of Next Meetings

Saturday 6th May 2006 at Bentley, Halland, Lewes, East Sussex

3 to 5th November 2006 – venue tbc.