



CHAIRMAN'S NOTES OF THE BRITISH TD FORUM MEETING HELD AT PREMIER INN, BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT AT 1000 ON 10 MAY 08

INTRODUCTION

1. The Chairman thanked all TDs, event organisers and officials for their hard work over the past season and wished TDs, organisers and officials success in the coming artificial season. The Chairman apologised for the late distribution of the November meeting minutes.

ITEM 1. PRESENT

2. n/L

ITEM 2. APOLOGIES

3. N/A

ITEM 3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

4. The minutes of the last meeting were approved with the exception of Item 4 para 6.1.2 which should be identified as a post meeting note. Mark Simmers has agreed to fund all IT requirements for the BASS Seeder as and when required but not to ring-fence registration fees solely for that purpose. Clarification was required over the funding of BARTS Seeder IT requirements. Forum activities were to be funded from Calendar Fees.

5. The Chairman agreed to contact Mark Simmers to seek confirmation of the funding position for IT for both Seeders.

ITEM 4. MATTERS ARISING

6. **8.5. Agenda Item deferred to May 08 Meeting.** Item covered under agenda item 8.5 (para 30) below.

7. **8.7 Terms of Reference (TOR).** Approved by Alpine Executive. Chairman agreed to make minor textual amendments to remove abbreviations and publish a revised version. **Post meeting note – revised version attached**

8. **9.2 TD Assignments.** The Chairman presented proposed changes to the BCR (Enclosure 1) referring to TD assignments. It was agreed that, given the close knit nature of the community, there was a need to avoid wording which might present difficulties in assigning TDs to events. There was also discussion of the experience levels required to be assigned as an examining TD. In FIS, Examiners are named individuals. It was also suggested that licenses should be renewed annually. The proposed changes were approved with the following amendments:

- a. TDs appointed as examiners were to have a minimum 5 years

ACTION

Chairman

Chairman

experience as a TD.

b. TD Licenses were to be renewed and reissued annually after the Nov Seminar/Meeting and appropriate validation checks.

c. Book VII para 6. Add 'renewed annually' after licence in line 1.

d. ICR/BCR 602.1.7. The Chairman would propose wording to align the BCR to the meaning of the ICR. Moreover, it was agreed that acting as Chief of Race at a FIS event would be recognised as the equivalent of a TD assignment.

e. Book VII New para 8b. It was agreed that the wording should be revised to 'A TD should not be assigned to an event if s/he is a member, or recent member, of the event organising committee'.

The Chairman agreed to amend the proposals and send to DJM for inclusion in the next BCR amendment

Chairman

9. 9.4 TD Licence Status. The Chairman clarified that the driving force behind the decision, at the Nov 07 meeting, to suspend a number of TDs was litigation pending in Switzerland where, following a Finish Area incident, the Swiss TD Forum Chairman was being held jointly liable (with the Swiss TD) as he had failed to ensure that the assigned TD had attended an update in accordance with the ICR.

10. 10 ICR English. SB had written to FIS to ask for better translation of the ICR into English but had received no response. Impending changes to the chair of the FIS Rules Committee suggested that our views might be well received and SB had copied the original correspondence to the new chair.

ITEM 5. DELEGATE REPORTS

11. 5.1 BARSC. See Enclosure 2. The Forum all wished Sarah Robinson a speedy and successful recovery. It was agreed to grant to the British Schoolgirls event the annual dispensation to draw start numbers by team. The Forum welcomed BARSC's efforts in ensuring good organisational standards at the BUSC Championships.

12. 5.2 CSWSA. See Enclosure 3. SJ emphasized that appropriately composed teams from all British Race organisations were welcome at the ISSSC.

13. 5.3 Snowsport England. See Enclosure 4. A recently issued Guide to the Rules had highlighted anomalies to be addressed. It was agreed that:

a. Bibs/Inspection. Bibs represent accreditation for a racer to be on the course. It was agreed that bibs should be carried, visibly, during course inspection but not necessarily worn.

DM/IR

b. Inspection Method. There was a need to ensure that a course was not damaged during the inspection. Equally, racers should not be allowed to gain advantage by skiing through gates or shadowing the course. It was agreed that racers may or may not be allowed to sideslip or snowplough through the course on inspection. The Jury had the full right to determine the method of inspection dependant on conditions.

DM/IR

14. 5.4 Snowsport Wales. See Enclosure 5. The Forum approved the proposal of SSW's application for a FIS race as part of the Welsh Alpine Championships.

PHa

15. 5.5 Snowsport Scotland (SSS). See Enclosure 6.

a. SSS ARC had proposed a separate TD Update for Scottish TDs. Given the close working nature of the community, there was significant resistance to such a proposal. However, it was recognised that the current 2:1 South/North periodicity was imbalanced, given the recent emphasis on TDs maintaining currency. An alternating North/South meeting might be possible. It was pointed out that Forum activities held in Scotland had not been well attended by the wider Scottish skiing community and events held in England had attracted an increasing number of race organisers, officials and coaches. It was also noted that keeping to the same weekends gave little flexibility to those with other commitments.

b. Northern TD venues also gave the British FIS Commissioner difficulties in transporting the paperwork associated with the update.

c. It was agreed that:

(1). TD Forum events would not, in future, be programmed for the same weekend each year. The Seminar should, if possible, avoid the Armistice Commemoration.

(2). The decision on North/South periodicity would be postponed until Nov 08 and discussed, in the light of attendance numbers, at the Nov 08 Seminar.

(3). SSS would actively encourage attendance, amongst its members, at the Nov 08 Seminar.

(4). SSS would arrange with the Snowsport GB office for the Commissioner's update packs to be produced and delivered to venue.

Chairman

Chairman

FS

FS

16. 5.6 Snowsport GB. No report.

17. 5.7 British Children's Championships. See Enclosure 7. The TD Forum proposed there was a need for further consideration of the event programme now that the 2 GS races would not be run concurrently.

JH

18. 5.8 British Sen/Jun Championships. See Enclosure 8. There was a need for further consideration of the event programme especially to allow adequate Downhill Training time.

MR

ITEM 6. SEEDING AND REGISTRATION

19. 6.1 BASS. See Enclosure 9.

a. A proposal to align all HNGB Registration fees and inclusion in the BASS list was approved.

PHe

b. The current Athlete's Declaration had been reworded to include its basis in English/Welsh law. This gave some difficulty in Scotland. PHe to pursue with Snowsport GB Legal adviser.

PHe

20. 6.2 BARTS. See Enclosure 10. The proposed amendment to Club National format on indoor snow was approved

DJM

21. 6.6 Anglo-Welsh Penalty. It was agreed that the event should carry a minimum penalty of 5.

DJM

ITEM 7. FIS MATTERS

22. 7.1 FIS Commissioner Report.

- a. There were changes anticipated in the Chairmanship of several key FIS Committees. There was continuing emphasis on monitoring races for RPP manipulation.
- b. AUT had proposed revised, lower VDs for events. FIN was again proposing single gate SL courses. AUS/NZ was raising the issue of upper qualification age and retirement age limits for TDs.
- c. There was a lot of work on-going in relation to Children's race criteria.

23. 7.2 Children's Issues. See Enclosure 11. There was a wide ranging discussion of the merits of minis racing, the race criteria, and whether it was advisable to ignore the fact that FIS did not sanction minis racing due to the possible adverse impact on physiology. There were, currently, six snow season events in which minis/bairns could race at British organised races. It was agreed that the Chairman would seek Alpine Executive direction on whether minis racing should be officially recognised in GBR and, if so, what criteria should be applied?

Chairman

24. 7.3 Super G Skis for Children II. Whilst cost concerns for competitors were recognised, it was agreed that there were no grounds for deviating from FIS equipment regulations. It was also noted that skis for children, that met SG criteria, were now widely available.

All

25. 7.4 Limited FIS Licences. When FIS Ghost Licences had been abolished in GBR, qualification criteria for the issue of limited FIS licences had not been put in place. There were consequent concerns about the standard of some GBR racers being awarded FIS licences. It was considered that a performance criterion was required on safety grounds, at very least. It was agreed that the Chairman should refer the issue to the Alpine Executive.

Chairman

ITEM 8. BRITISH TD MATTERS

26. 8.1 Contacts List Update. Contact List had been circulated. All TDs are asked to advise any changes to the Chairman.

All

27. 8.2 Candidate and Aspirant TDs and Mentors.

a. Aspirants.

(1). Tris Cole was proposed by BARSC, seconded by Snowsport England and approved by the TD Forum. To be mentored by SB

SB

(2). Kev Webb was proposed by Snowsport England, seconded by Chairman and FS and approved by the TD forum. To be mentored by AW (artificial) and IR (snow).

**DM/AW/
IR**

(3). All mentors to advise ML if examination in Nov 08 was required.

b. It was agreed that the TD Forum Terms of Reference (TORs) and BCR should be amended to invite Aspirant TDs and Candidate TDs to TD Forum Meetings after their approval by the Forum.

Chairman

28. 8.3 Sanctions. Nil

29. 8.4 Child Protection and Disclosures. JS reported that:

- a. The Snowsport GB Child Protection system had been awarded Green Spot status.

All

<p>b. The matrix of officials roles had been reviewed. Gate Judges did not need CRB nor self-disclosure on the day. Start/Finish Marshalls should complete self-disclosure if not CRB checked.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>c. Event Child Welfare Officer (CWO) should contact HNGB lead CWO for an update prior to an event.</p>	
<p>d. See Enclosure 12 for an update on the new Independent Safeguarding Authority. It was noted that BASI was not part of the national information sharing organisation for CRBs.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>30. <u>8.5 British Indoor Events Seeding.</u> See Enclosure 13.</p>	
<p>a. Item deferred from Nov 08 as RD had not been present. To some extent superceded by Anglo-Welsh Championship (AWIC) and Milton Keynes Club National. It was recognised that strict adherence to current acceptance rules had led to the exclusion of some racers who ought to have been able to take part in AWIC. Similarly, there remained a strong view that a third formal seeding system for indoor snow was unwarranted. It was accepted that there was more correlation between indoor snow events and plastic slope events than with alpine events. However, although no British indoor arena yet met the FIS criteria, FIS had a method of integrating indoor results in the FIS seeding system. Further debate was proposed after monitoring the current season.</p>	
<p>b. There was a need to examine the requirement for homologation criteria for indoor arenas.</p>	
<p>c. It was agreed that a Working Group (WG) should examine the above seeding and homologations options and make recommendations to the Nov 08 Forum. DM, DJM and LT agreed to form the WG.</p>	<p>Rules WG</p>
<p>31. <u>8.6 ROC Insurance.</u> The Chairman reminded TDs to ensure that ROC insurance was fit for purpose. As a fallback, Mark Simmers was examining the provision (through SSGB Insurance) of appropriate liability insurance for TDs in the event that ROC insurance was proved inadequate.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>32. <u>8.7 Assessment of Candidate TDs.</u> The Chairman, in conjunction with SB and IR, was developing an assessment guide for use by examiners and candidates, detailing the assessment requirements. The forms would be presented for consideration before the Nov 08 Forum.</p>	<p>Chairman</p>
<p>33. <u>8.8 Selection of New Chairman.</u> LY was planning to stand down as Chairman in Nov 08 on completion of the standard 3 year period. Ian Roberts was selected as the new chairman, to take over after the Nov 08 meeting.</p>	<p>Chairman IR</p>
<p>34. <u>8.9 Snow Slalom Vertical Drops (VDs) and number of gates.</u></p>	
<p>a. Analysis of the number of gates in British SL in the past season had shown that some events had struggled to meet the criteria especially minimum number of gates and direction changes. It was discussed whether additional flexibility was appropriate for British events.</p>	
<p>b. As evidence was inconclusive, no additional flexibility was considered appropriate. However, it was agreed that TDs should be honest in their TD reports and detail the circumstances which led to any gate criteria not being met.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>35. <u>8.10 TD Corporate Kit.</u> N/A</p>	

36. 8.11 Calendar Fee. The British Calendar Fee, which is used to fund the training and development of British TDs, had not been increased for more than 10 years. In the interim, the cost of TD Forum activities had risen substantially. It was agreed that the Calendar Fee should be increased to £30 per race day, with immediate effect.

Chairman

ITEM 9. BRITISH CALENDAR AND TD APPOINTMENTS

37. 9.1 Artificial Slope Events. TDs were required for:

- 14/15 Jun 08 Twin Peaks at Hillend/Firpark
- 23/24 Sep 08 Scottish Artificial Championships Hillend
- 2 Nov 08 Jones Lang La Salle - Hillend
- TBD BUDS at Hillend

38. 9.2 Snow Season.

- BARSC
- British Schoolgirls
- Welsh Alpine – Richard Ellis assigned

39. TDs were asked to respond promptly to the Chairman’s forthcoming call of availability. The Chairman would publish early assignment details by 1 Sep 08.

**All
Chairman**

ITEM 10. ICR UPDATE

40. The ICR 2008 was expected to be made available for download after the Cape Town Congress at the end of May 08. Hard copies would be distributed in Nov 08 by the British FIS Commissioner and SSGB.

ITEM 11. BCR UPDATE

41. It was agreed that, with the issue of the ICR 2008, a detailed comparison should be made with BCR and BACR to ensure close alignment. This task was allocated to the British Rules sub-committee (SB, RD, DM and DJM).

**Rules
Sub-
Cttee**

ITEM 12. DATES OF THE NEXT TWO MEETINGS

42. The Chairman would continue to seek a suitable Central Scotland venue for the Nov 08 meeting and update. The desired dates were 15/16 Nov 08.

43. The May 09 meeting would be held on 16 May 09. Venue TBD.

Chair