



**Snowsport England
ASC/ROTP meeting held in
Nottingham on 4th July 2010
To discuss racing in 2010 and 2011**

Present:

Andrea Grant
Dermot Flahive
Mike Frith
Shirley Ryding
Muriel Ryding
Jo Ryding
Piet Van Kempen
Alan Bullock
Daz Fellows
Kev Webb

Apologies:

Peter Heath
Hedley Beavis
Steve Lambert
Gillian Gilyead
David Manns
Guy Hornsby
Tim Fawke
Vickie Pullin
Lloyd Jenkins

Minutes

Review of 2010

Numbers down this year with the exception of Gloucester CN which had a high turn out. Cost is clearly a factor impacting entries; if 2 day events had a later start on the Saturday, say 10/11 am that would mean that many would not need to book accommodation on Friday. This should be included in invitation letters for GPs and CNs.

Currently the indoor races, Championships, GP and Club Nationals have been well attended although the numbers for the Hemel GP are expected to be low; mainly due to the event falling in the first weekend of main school holidays. The outdoor GPs have not fared so well, the attendance at Norwich was a little down and Pendle was well down on previous years. It is believed that Pendle GP lost about £500. However, SSE has an ongoing commitment to outdoor races and we fully expect that the All England will still have the highest attendance of the year. SSE are committed to supporting all forms of racing from regional entry level, through Club National, Grand Prix and Championship events, both indoor and outdoor. SSE and the regions need to look at new ways for promoting the GP Series and attracting new sponsorship.

Inter-regional 2011

It is believed that a bid will come from Manchester to host the 2011 inter-regional. Feedback from the regions is that this would not be well received as many regions/clubs have very limited if any access to indoor training facilities. Gloucester proved a very popular venue for the Inter Regional this year and will certainly be in the running to hold the event again in 2011.

All England 2010

The magazine produced for Bormio this year and for the Telford CN recently were very well received.. We propose to do something similar for the All England. It has also been suggested that we have a Piste magazine All England edition. Andrea to check with Tim/Barry if this would be possible. This would be an ideal opportunity to focus on Norwich as a snowsports facility and also include a profile of local skiing star TJ Baldwin. We could also include articles on up and coming snow races - English Champs in Bormio. Feature on Aosta and our other

sponsors should also be included. Update: I have emailed Barry Sponge for details on the Piste magazine, this can be done, but he is just looking at costs – we will need a lot of help on this to get advertisers to help cover the costs. I hope that we can all pull together and make this work - thanks

It was also felt that Tim and both the Development officers should attend this event to give SSE a better profile.

TD Forum / Coaches Forum

There have been many views on the courses being set, especially on dry slope, and how they have been set for people using ceramics and that maybe they should be set more for everyone – this is always going to be a contentious issue.

Proposals to increase numbers at races and reduce SSE fees at races

A proposal was put forward to encourage more university students to return to CN/GP racing that we should reduce the cost of registration for university clubs and student members. SSE are looking into this.

For the 2011 GP Series there is a possibility of 4 or more outdoor bids and up to 5 indoor bids.

Given the very low attendances at the outdoor GPs this year it was proposed to ask the slopes if they would agree to a fixed cost per racer rather than an event cost for 2011. We could put the same proposal to the indoor slopes. ROTP to discuss at next meeting and make a proposal on costs.

We would expect outdoor GP bids from Pendle, Sunderland and Norwich and possibly Ipswich and Rossendale.

We would expect to get indoor bids from Chill Factore (possibly 2 bids – one from NWSF and one from Central), Milton Keynes and Hemel. It was also proposed that we should approach Castleford regarding holding a GP, either run by NESA, Yorkshire or as a joint bid.

Ideally we would like to run a maximum of 7 GP races (3 outdoor and 4 indoor); it is likely therefore that one or more venues may lose out. The decision on venues would be based on cost, likely attendance, quality of venue/facilities/matting/snow and location (we need a good spread across the country).

It is likely that Norwich and Sunderland will bid to hold the All England in 2011 In recent years we have tended to alternate the All England between venues This will again be a factor when awarding the 2011 event along with cost, facilities and location.

We anticipate that up to 20 clubs may bid to hold a CN in 2011. It was agreed that all CN bids should be considered provided there was a suitable slot in the calendar. The invitation letters to clubs for CN bids will clarify that clubs are responsible for all costs associated with running a CN event including the SSE calendar fee. SSE will also require a booking deposit of £100 to secure a slot in the race calendar. This deposit will be used as a credit against the race calendar fee. SSE will not accept bids for CN races that clash with GP or Championship races at other venues. SSE would also hope that clubs would wherever possible avoid clashes with SSW races. Clubs should consider working with nearby clubs to organise 'double header' CN weekends. Clubs at opposite ends of the country may feel that a date clash will not have a significant impact on numbers. Smaller clubs may wish to consider joining forces to hold a single event.

It was also proposed that SSE (preferably Tim or one of the Development Officers) should attend regional events. Regional racing is flourishing but this is not being translated into corresponding attendances at entry level national races.

Need to encourage the coaches to encourage the racers to race, many feel that they are not at a high enough standard to be able to race – this is one for the Coaches Forum.

The progression leaflet that SSE is preparing will be sent out to all racers as they register with SSE. The progression leaflets and posters will be sent to all clubs asap.

One Day Registrations and Minis

A proposal was put forward that first time minis should be able to do more than a single day registration per year. The feedback that we have had from clubs suggests that minis are keen to compete in more national events but are put off by having to register with SSE in order to be allowed to compete in more than one event. As an incentive to register it was proposed that minis who wish to compete in the All England be allowed to register early for 2010/11 season, in effect get 15 months membership for the price of 12 months. This proposal to be put to the next SSE Board meeting. **The board considered this proposal, and agreed that minis should get free registration in the year they first join. It was felt that this would be easier to administer and that it would encourage them to re-register the following year.**

Costs for 2011

A proposal was put forward to increase the entry fee for indoor races to a maximum of £21. However outdoor slope race entry fee to remain at a maximum of £17 for 2011. Letter to clubs should stress that these are maximum fees.

Website

SSE need to move to a new website. This is proving a time consuming exercise, but all agree that the current website is inadequate and must be replaced at the earliest opportunity. In the interim we may need to consider how we communicate with our customers (clubs, coaches, sponsors, competitors, parents) in a more efficient and friendly manner.

CN for 2011 [COVERED ABOVE]

Currently it is thought that as many as 19 clubs could bid for a CN in 2011. Whilst we want to encourage clubs to organise races, falling attendances is a concern to all, as most clubs cannot afford to run events at a loss. We all need to look at ways to improve attendances, especially at ways to attract new racers that currently compete in regional and school's races. It was suggested that maybe some clubs could double up with others to run joint CN races. We will also need to consider holding events in opposite ends of the country on the same day/weekend.

Championship

A proposal was put forward to consider moving one of the outdoor championship events away from the regular autumn slots to say one of the Bank Holiday weekends in May. This would then leave a slot free for an Indoor Snow Champs weekend in the autumn. The consensus from the regions was that the All England outdoor should remain in September but that the other home nations should be consulted. One possible option would be to move the British outdoor championships to the May bank holiday slot.

Calendar

SSE/ROTP to consider a revamp of the Artificial calendar to include all types of races including Championships, Other Home Nations, GPs, CNs, Regional and School's events. SSE/ROTP propose to publish the initial calendar for 2011 in August 2010. Regions and other bodies would be asked to make their submissions for entry in the calendar before the end of 2010.

AOB

It was asked if we could have more inspection time and less open practice when it's a full race, maybe split the minis/females and the males and have no overlap.

Andrea Grant

Dermot Flahive

ASC Chair

22 July 2010

ROTP Chair