

Alpine Committee Meeting

Sunday 25 November 2018 11:00 am

By Phone Link



Present:

Bryan Thomas – Joint Chair (BT)
Mary Calvert (MC)
David Manns (DM)
Paul Telling (PT) joined from item 11
Nigel Vincent (NV)
David Chapman (observing)

1) Apologies

Lloyd Jenkins – Joint Chair (LJ)
Simon Bannister (SB)
Gareth Case (GC)
Karen Conde (KC)
Andrew Hjort (AH)
Mike Frith (MF)
Chris Shelley (CS)

2) Declaration of Conflicts of Interests and Safeguarding

Those present confirmed that there were no changes to their declarations of conflict of interest. There were no safeguarding issues raised. Any new members appointed to the committee will need to complete Conflict of Interest forms and confirm that they agree to follow the Code of Conduct of Snowsport England.

3) Minutes from previous meeting

These had been agreed and published on 19 October 2018.

4) Action points not on agenda elsewhere

- i **Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Alpine Committee** BT confirmed that he had been informed by Tim Fawke that the TORs for the Alpine Committee had been approved by the Board. They now need to be posted on the SSE website.

Action: MC to send TORs to the office for publication on the SSE website

- ii **Alignment of Course Setters' course in UKCP1 (*discussed after PT joined meeting*)**
PT will liaise with SB to produce a document to be used for Course Setting Courses. This document would then be owned by Snowsport England (or whichever body is responsible for delivering the course).

Action: PT/SB to produce a summary document on Course Setting Courses for the next meeting

- iii **Job Description for Alpine Race Secretary** There has been no update from Andrea Grant on this.

Action: MC to follow up with Andrea Grant re Job Description for Alpine Secretary Post

- iv **Replacement banners for snow** There was no update on this.

Action: MC to ask Will Watkiss for an update on the new snow banners

5) Budget

BT presented the Alpine Accounts for the nine months to 30th Sept 2018. The results for this period are good due to an excellent Alpine Championships in Bormio arising from higher race entrants and good control of costs, together with associated fund raising. In addition to this, there was an increased number of racers participating in both GBRs and calendar races at home (up by 9.2% on 2017). Maintaining this into 2019 should generate funds for SSE to plan positive and beneficial support to its members.

Race entry fees have not been raised for the last two years. It is now necessary to do so for two reasons. Firstly, the TD daily fee has been raised quite significantly and secondly SSE's grant from Sport England is reducing each year up to the end of the first quarter 2021. From that point, the grant will certainly be less but it is not known by how much. SSE needs to seek new commercial revenue streams and Alpine racing must do its bit!!

DM asked if there was currently funding for equipment replacement identified in the budget. BT will raise this with Tim Fawke.

Action: BT to ask Tim Fawke to identify funding in the budget for replacement of equipment

6) Bormio

DM presented a report on the upcoming English Alpine Championships in Bormio (Appendix 1). This follows a very worthwhile site visit to Bormio by Tim Fawke, LJ and Andrea Grant.

7) Calendar Planning

- i. DM confirmed that there would be an amendment to BACR 3.4.1 re allocation of seeded races. This will specify that *"To allow fair distribution of seeded races and minimise calendar conflicts, no club shall be allocated more than one Club National race each season"*.
- ii. NV reported that the summer calendar was now almost sorted. There is still a clash between the All England Championships and the Scottish Championships but there are no options for moving the All England event. For future years, the possibility of a single committee made up of representatives from England, Wales and Scotland being set up for planning of the GBR and Championship events was discussed. NV will take this idea forward.

Action: NV to discuss the possibility of setting up a small GBR committee with Snowsport Wales and Snowsport Scotland

The indoor GBR and CN at Milton Keynes are taking place on the same weekend as the British Grand Prix at Silverstone. A change of date was considered because of concerns over traffic and available accommodation. Further investigation suggested that these would not be a problem so the event will go ahead as planned.

NV and AH have discussed allocation of the main officials for the GBR races. There is a shortage of Race Secretaries. NV will circulate a provisional list of race officials to the committee.

Action: NV to circulate the provisional list of GBR race officials for 2019 to the committee

Action: MC to ask Claire Pennell for a list of those on the Race Secretary Course in November

BT thanked NV for all his hard work on finalising the 2019 summer calendar as planned by the end of November.

DM suggested that use of the BSS calendar system (used for snow races) might be considered in the future. This is a simple online system which allows race organisers to register with provisional dates. Personnel and race details can be added later. After approval, the TD assignment process can go ahead and the race added to gbski. NV and DM will discuss the possibility of using this system and will report at the next meeting.

Action: DM/NV to discuss use of online BSS calendar system for the 2020 summer calendar planning process and report at the next Alpine meeting

- iii. This committee has already agreed to the possible merger of the Scottish indoor GBR race with the Scottish indoor championships. Scotland are awaiting a response from Wales before a final decision can be made.

8) GBR Series Sponsorship

There have been no decisions on this. Tim Fawke and Robin Kellen (Snowsport Wales) are taking it forward. The meeting agreed that clarity was needed as soon as possible – and certainly by the next meeting. It is important that the conditions of any sponsorship are known well before the season starts. Sponsorship for the All England Championships also needs to be agreed.

Action: Tim Fawke to provide details of 2019 GBR and All England sponsorship for the next meeting

The proposal for additional sponsorship to be sought for the U21/Sen groups of racers (to try and encourage their continued interest in the GBR series) had been put to Tim Fawke. However, he did not feel that this was possible at this time.

9) Dry Slope Ambassador Feedback

GC was not present but submitted the following information. He confirmed that 2018 had been another great season for the Ambassador process which has now become embedded into the culture of the dryslope race circuit. Each year the group look to enhance what they do so as not to become stale. So far, this approach is working well. BT thanked GC for his hard work. There are 4 headline actions for the next few months.

Action: GC to issue updated & approved Ambassador Programme to Will Watkiss for uploading onto SSE website

Action: GC to prepare invitations for 2019 Ambassadors after next OBARTS issue in early Dec (Hopefully Claire Pennell at SSE will be able to assist once again with this)

Action: GC to progress 2019 Ambassador race tops & podium T shirts

Action: GC to identify the date of the August Ambassador training day prior to Easter to ensure maximum attendance

10) Race Officials Report

AH was not present but had submitted a report (Appendix 2) as well as details of the volunteer race officials for 2019 and their allocations to races so far. BT thanked AH for his hard work in putting all this together.

AH nominated 5 officials for Alpine Committee approval of their accreditation status. These were approved.

11) Report from TD Forum

DM presented a report (Appendix 3) from the TD forum. He confirmed that the remit of the training sub-committee of the TD forum was to assist with the set-up of a consistent development pathway and associated training materials for all British race officials. He reported that the sub-committee were very supportive of AH's work and were happy to help where needed. DM hoped that all TD assignments for the summer season would be sorted in the early new year.

The proposal from LJ regarding the category adder for Indoor BASS races was considered at the TD forum. The consensus was that this should not be put into place for the 2019 season as there were already changes in the age groups points being introduced. It could be reviewed, if still felt to be appropriate, for the 2020 season.

DM said it had been agreed that the Update Seminar and TD Forum weekend in November 2019 would take place in Belgium.

12) Alpine Squad Report

CS was not present but had submitted a report (Appendix 4) as well as proposals for selection criteria to the squad and the future direction of the squad. The committee were very pleased to see forward

planning taking place. PT said that not all of the proposals were likely to be carried forward. He feels that James Knock (as Squad Coach) should be given the final decision.

DM recommended that the proposals for the selection criteria be approved by the Alpine Committee. Final approval will need to come from Tim Fawke before publication. BT agreed that a deadline of 1 December should be set for this to happen.

Action: MC to confirm to CS that the Alpine Committee had approved the proposals but that Tim Fawke needs to confirm the decision before publication can take place

Action: MC to let Tim Fawke know of the Alpine Committee's approval of the Squad Criteria proposals

13) AOB

Perpetual Trophies

MC asked if there is a list of all the perpetual trophies awarded by Snowsport England – including who the current holders are. This has previously been coordinated by Andrea Grant. MC also asked who would coordinate this in the future.

Options, such as asking the Chief of Championships to be responsible for perpetual trophies or instigating a “deposit system” whereby holders’ details were entered onto a spreadsheet before they were allowed to take the trophy away, were discussed.

Action: MC to contact Andrea Grant and Tim Fawke to find out if there is a list of all perpetual trophies and who the current holders are

Action: MC to report on perpetual trophies at next meeting

14) Appointment of New Committee Members

DC left the meeting at this point. Applications from David Chapman and David Eaves were considered for the two vacant committee posts. There was unanimous agreement to their appointments. BT confirmed that the Board had also approved their appointments.

Action: MC to contact David Chapman and David Eaves and welcome them to the committee

Date of Next Meeting

Sunday 3 February at 11:00am in SportPark Loughborough.

Action Points

4.i	MC	to send TORs to the office for publication on the SSE website
4.ii	PT/SB	to produce a summary document on Course Setting Courses for the next meeting
4.iii	MC	to follow up with Andrea Grant re Job Description for Alpine Secretary Post
4iv	MC	to ask Will Watkiss for an update on the new snow banners
5	BT	to ask Tim Fawke to identify funding in the budget for replacement of equipment
7 ii	NV	to circulate the provisional list of GBR race officials for 2019 to the committee
7ii	MC	to ask Claire Pennell for a list of those on the Race Secretary Course in November
7ii	DM/NV	DM/NV to discuss use of online BSS calendar system for the 2020 summer calendar planning process and report at the next Alpine meeting
8	Tim Fawke	to provide details of 2019 GBR and All England sponsorship for the next meeting
9	GC	to issue to Will Watkiss updated & approved Ambassador Programme for uploading onto SSE website
9	GC	to prepare invitations for 2019 Ambassadors after next OBARTS issue in early Dec (Hopefully Claire Pennell at SSE will be able to assist once again with this)
9	GC	to progress 2019 Ambassador race tops & podium T shirts
9	GC	to identify the date of the August training day prior to Easter to ensure maximum attendance
12	MC	to confirm to CS that the Alpine Committee had approved the proposals but that Tim Fawke needs to confirm the decision before publication can take place
12 i	MC	to let Tim Fawke know of the Alpine Committee's approval of the Squad Criteria proposals
13	MC	to contact Andrea Grant and Tim Fawke to find out if there is a list of all perpetual trophies and who the current holders are
13	MC	to report on perpetual trophies at next meeting
14i	MC	to contact David Chapman and David Eaves and welcome them to the committee

Appendix 1

Alpine Committee 25th November 2018

Update on Bormio including site visit

Tim Fawke, Andrea Grant and Lloyd Jenkins visited Bormio in late October for the first site visit for many years. The main objectives were to have face-to-face discussions regarding contracts and financial support, along with the changes we wanted to make to the race programme, and trying to put the organisation of course crews on a better footing.

Finance

Meeting with Maurizio from Bormio Marketing was fruitful, offering the opportunity to bid for support for media, PR and communications. We will be submitting an initial proposal for which they have indicated that an answer would be forthcoming within weeks. If this is successful then we can look at a larger proposal for a more extensive partnership.

He also showed the booking engine that we could brand as SSE and parent families could book through this for accommodation, lift passes etc. While we know a lot of people now have connections there are always new people coming each year. We would get a small commission and the prices should be better than on booking.com. We need to investigate this further and see how easy it is to get this up and running.

Contract

There is now an offer on the table from the lift company (SIB) for a further three years (2020 – 2022). This should include the extra race in the programme and the commitment on provision of course crew.

The intention is to try and reach an agreement with Bormio Marketing on financial support before the contract with SIB is signed, although we would like to be able to announce the extension of our stay in Bormio while we are in resort in February.

Programme

The programme changes we wanted were agreed, including squeezing in an extra race for U10/12 which is planned to be a parallel, although the details have yet to be agreed. This will need extra support from coaches and volunteers as we will be running three races on that day.

Day	U10/12	U14/16	FIS	Other
Sun 17		U14 SG x 2 (Stelvio)	FIS GS (Alpina)	
Mon 18		U16 SG x 2 (Stelvio)	NJR GS (Alpina)	Floodlit parallel
Tue 19	GS (Alpina)		NJR SL (Stelvio)	Vitalini speed
Wed 20	Kombi (Fun Park)	U14/16 GS (Alpina)	FIS SL (Stelvio)	
Thu 21		U14/16 SL (Alpina)	NJR SG (Stelvio)	
Fri 22	Parallel (Alpina)		FIS SG (Stelvio)	

Course Crew

Fruitful meeting with Sci Club Bormio, as a result of which they will be providing a team of 6 to cover course crew and maintenance for the FIS races. They run a lot of races themselves so should know what to do. We will still have our own crew chief in place, at least to start with, to ensure good communication between crew and hill team and to make sure everything is being done to our satisfaction. For the Children's races, SIB have confirmed that they will provide 6 course crew to help there, again working alongside our own team. The outcome will be reviewed after the event to see whether we can reduce our costs by taking out fewer of our own crew, or whether it is better to stick with our team numbers to provide a better service to the racers.

Appendix 2

Alpine Officials' Training Report

For the Alpine Committee meeting to be held Sunday 25th November 2018

Actions from last meeting

13 i	AH	to progress with alignment of registration/opting-in to Officials' log/completion of online level 1 course	See 5
13 ii	AH	to continue with edit of online and level 3 courses	See1-4
13 iii	AH	to circulate proposed design of officials' polo shirts to committee for approval	Done

1. Training Courses

This year we have run two Level 3 Alpine Officials' Courses, with total of six participants and one Race Secretaries' Course, also with six participants. My thanks to those involved in mentoring the courses.

We have also run three L1 courses face-to-face, one for Avon and two for Ravens/Tigers. It is worth noting that one of the Sunderland courses was for the racers as the clubs felt a familiarity with the rules would be a good thing. I think they are on to something!

A Calcs Course failed to run due to lack of demand though, paradoxically, two outside bodies, BISS and the Met. Police Ski Club, expressed an interest in buying Calcs courses.

This raises again the question of commercial courses. In the case of the Police (who were more persistent) the solution was to route them via their colleagues in Police Scotland who, fortuitously, are an affiliate of Snowsport Scotland.

2. Race Secretaries' Course

The pathway for Alpine Officials is established. The Race Secretaries' Course, can, I feel, be shortened if linked to a pathway structure as follows:



I would consider, with this model, if the course could be on-line as an alternative to face-to-face.

3. Timing and Calculations Course

By the time of the cancellation our view had evolved toward the training being a mentored pathway, much as outlined above for Race Secretaries.

This also has a pleasing tie-in with our liaison with Snowsport Scotland, whose training was always more modular anyway. I think we can move towards:



My gut feeling is that the course element, again, could be on-line or face-to-face.

4. Liaison with Snowsport Scotland

I took a lengthy call from Iain of SSS (I was on a platform in Girona). As I understand it, well above my pay grade there is a move to consolidate training across SSE and SSS and not only for Alpine but also for Slopestyle, Pipe and Park and, presumably eventually, all other disciplines as well. This seems a very positive move, at a simple level removing the clutter of the host of logos on our paperwork and at a higher level, streamlining training and delivery. I circulated a proposed Gate Judges Card earlier in the year. From an Alpine perspective, I think the first step is to edit and produce a suite of Officials' paperwork (A4) and a matching set of A4 briefing notes. These will, in turn, complement the L3 Training Course as well as being available on the hill.

With this in mind, I will continue with the editing process.

5. On-Line L1 Training Course

I am conscious I have let this slip and for this the committee has my apologies. My thanks to those who suggested edits to the current course. The moved outlined above would suggest that we delay any major change until any brand standards associated with the collaboration with SSS are agreed. There are, in any case, few significant problems with the current on-line L1 Course. It is, I feel, a little over complex and would benefit greatly from the video being more relevant. A couple of evening of filming at a training session could rectify this. Indeed, when I ran the L1 Courses in Sunderland, we spent the second hour on the hill, using the paperwork "live" (For the record, the racers were not encouraged to crash/straddle etc to provide context).

6. Registration

This is still a bit cumbersome and it would be ideal to see a unified process for registration as an Official, taking the L1 Course and opting-in to the Alpine Officials' Log (AOL).

7. Retrospective for the 2018 Summer Season

I have logged activity for 248 individuals in 2018. The volunteers are associated with 36 clubs.

All statistics need care and there are some anomalies in what follows! Scottish clubs, for example, are under-represented because I got little or no data. Ambition risked being slightly over represented because they doubled up a lot! This gives an accurate record of who did what but a less accurate record of the number of volunteers. It also flags up some practical issues, discussed later.

The full figures are in a separate attachment, but I have included, below, the main volunteer sources, limited to those providing 10 or more volunteers:

NB The "No Club" volunteers may really have no club or may need allocation!

Club	
No Club	76
Aldershot Ski Race Club	74
Cardiff	60
Hemel Ski Race Club	55
Pendle Ski Club	54
Ravens Ski Club	39
BSS	34
Tigers Ski Club	31
SZ Racing	25
Gloucester Ski Club	24
Suffolk Vikings	24
SMK	23
Manchester Ski Racing	22
Telford	21
Team Snowtrax	20
Ambition Racing	17
Dragons	11
Torquay	10

Being the first attempt, there were, understandably, some issues. Do we log everyone? Bib issue? Catering? Both are vital and, potentially, busier than others! Do we log where someone has done two jobs? I have assumed yes to keep a record of who did what. Should we define minimum levels, and proscribe some doubling? For example, on two occasions I was both Chief Gate Judge and a Gate Judge, which I felt was acceptable, but at the same event we had Start Ref also as Back-up time, which seems less so.

8. Looking forward to the 2019 Summer season

Once the provisional calendar was produced I created a survey monkey which went to the 83 volunteers opted-in to the Alpine Officials' Pathway. So far, we have had 22 responses. The survey was restricted to English-based races. The analysis of the replies is attached.

A 25% response rate is respectable, especially given a number of identifiable factors:

- TDs waiting to get assignments before participating
- Volunteers who tend to volunteer as pairs
- Volunteers whose volunteering depends on those assigned
- Regulars not on the Alpine Officials Log, and therefore not contacted but who may be
- Regulars waiting for a call

I think there is a sequencing issue and, though I may be advocating the impossible, I think having the TD allocated and known earlier would move things forward.

9. Conferred accreditation

I want to bring to a close the period of granting Accreditation. I think we are nearly there but have nominated 5 officials for Alpine Committee Scrutiny.

Appendix 3

Alpine Committee 25th November 2018 Report from GBR Alpine & Telemark TD Forum

Admin

Adrian Pery confirmed to remain in place as Chairman for second and final three-year term. David Manns confirmed to remain in place as Deputy Chairman (although as there are currently no TOR for this role there is no limit on tenure). Some changes in role amongst the sub-committees, notably Ian Roberts standing down as Chair of Training SC and Chief Examiner.

IT

A note of the costs for hosting/operating GBSKI have been passed to the Forum so that BSS can consider the most appropriate way of refunding this expense.

Technical Delegates

It was noted that there are currently only two active Scottish TDs (Paul Trayner and Logan Tannock). No solution was discussed other than the need to encourage development of replacements, and it was accepted that where necessary we would have to assign TDs from other parts of the country when it proved impossible to get a local to do it.

Tristan Cole	passed his FIS written exam, now moves to FIS TD Candidate status
Andy du Plessis	intending to join us in Bormio for speed assessment at the Children's Super-G, then trying to get out to a later competition for practical examination at technical
Lloyd	planning to take practical examination at Anglo-Scottish in Pila in early January, should then be available to TD at
Peter Willis	retired after many years of service first as an English TD under ESC then latterly as a British TD on the artificial slope circuit
Susie Berry	retired as a FIS TD but continuing as a British TD

The Forum also noted with sadness the recent passing of Neil Griffiths (previous Forum Chair and long-serving TD) and Ros Humphrey (stalwart member of many race organisations including BARSC and LSC having contributed to organising the sport at all levels over many years).

Post-meeting note: agreement has been reached with GB Snowsport that the fitness assessment (Rockport Walk Test) imposed on TDs in order to retain their license has now been dropped.

Rules

Updates to rules were agreed and will be published at the beginning of December. These largely centred around the changes in seeding regulations to seed BASS races as a single age group, which had already been agreed at the May meeting.

The proposal to consider reducing or removing the Category Adder for indoor BASS races was discussed, but it was agreed that it would be more appropriate to defer this for one season to allow time to evaluate the outcome of the changes to single age group seeding.

A proposal to allow wireless timing connections at artificial slope races was discussed, and it was agreed that any non-Championship race should be able to use wireless connections from start and/or finish using 'genuine' manufacturer equipment.

Equipment changes for BASS events will also come into force this Winter, allowing any skis to be used for technical events at non-Championship competitions. It was agreed that this should also include the Lowlands Indoor Championships to avoid issues with different nations following different ski regulations (all the other nations in this competition use FIS regulations).

Update & Forum 2019

Although it was accepted that the turn-out from UK-based race officials could be significantly reduced, it was agreed that the Update Seminar and Forum weekend would take place in Belgium as had been discussed for some time. Precise details to be published shortly, but this would be at a hotel in the vicinity of Brussels airport over the weekend of 1st/2nd/3rd November.

Appendix 4

SSE Alpine Squad

Summary Report for Alpine Committee

Date: 25/11/2018

Recent discussions have tended to coalesce around a broad outline to refocus the squad, with a different offering for the younger age categories than the older, 16/18+ group, since the needs of each are clearly different, as are the objectives of SSE as a HNGB.

Alpine Squad coach James Knock has produced a review of the last Squad season, which is attached for reference. This has been circulated to a limited audience so far, with some comments received.

Tim Fawke has confirmed that Ian Findlay has been in discussions with James regarding the Park and Pipe Development programme, with a view to sharing resources and either aligning the two programmes if possible, or at the least, ensuring each programme is aware of the activity of the other.

Next steps are to confirm next year's selection criteria, and assuming general consensus around the need to restructure the squad, begin that process so that the relevant stakeholders can work on that over the coming year.

Separately, a budget was prepared for next year and submitted to the relevant finance team. The budget, based on the current year, was for a breakeven position.

Chris Shelley, 24/11/2018