

# SNOWSPORT ENGLAND



## Alpine Committee Meeting

Sunday 24 June 2018 at 11:00 am

Sportpark, Loughborough

### Present:

**Bryan Thomas – Joint Chair (BT)**  
**Lloyd Jenkins – Joint Chair (LJ)**  
**Mary Calvert (MC)**  
**Mike Frith (MF)**  
**Andrea Grant (AG)**  
**Andrew Hjort (AH)**  
**David Manns (DM)**  
**Chris Shelley (CS) from 12:00**

### By phone link:

**Simon Bannister (SB)**  
**Paul Telling (PT)**  
**Nigel Vincent (NV)**

### 1. Apologies

Gareth Case (GC) – report received  
Karen Conde (KC)

Peter Heath (PH) - report received

### 2. Declaration of Conflict of Interests

AG reported that she is now employed by British Ski & Snowboard.

BT reported that he was no longer a director of SSE and so was not now a board representative to the meeting.

The other members present confirmed that there were no changes to their declarations of conflict of interest. There were no safeguarding issues raised.

### 3. Minutes from previous meeting

These had previously been agreed and published on 27 February 2018.

### 4. Action points from previous meeting not on agenda elsewhere

4.1 An equipment inventory still needs to be completed. Most of the equipment is either with AG or Kevin Webb. A replacement programme and budget need to be put into place. These, together with the inventory list, should be held by the Race Director of the English Champs (currently DM).

**Action: DM to organise snow equipment inventory, replacement programme and suggest budget for next meeting**

4.2 Data showing the number of unique race entries will be available using skiresults.co.uk at the end of the season. DM will liaise with Pete Calvert at that time.

**Action: DM (in liaison with Pete Calvert) to facilitate availability of unique entry data at the end of the summer season**

4.3 As yet, there was no progress on the setting up of an SSE Facebook page for artificial slope racing. NV suggested that this would mainly be used for posting messages regarding race entries and calls for volunteers. DM was happy for it to use gbski branding. The Alpine Committee members would have full access for posting.

**Action: MC to liaise with Tim Fawke, Gareth Vogan and NV to arrange for setting up of Facebook page for artificial slope racing**

4.4 SB reported that talks were scheduled with Snowsport Scotland regarding alignment of UKCP1 courses.

**Action: SB to report on alignment of UKCP1 courses at the next meeting**

4.5 SB reported that the course setters' course scheduled for 11 March had not taken place. He will liaise with PT and Ryan Grewcock to set up a course before the winter season. SB and PT will review the course content to ensure it is relevant. It was suggested that the course might be run either at the All England Championships or as an "add on" to a coaching course.

**Action: SB/PT to liaise with Ryan Grewcock to organise a course setters' course before the next winter season**

## 5. Finance

5.1 PH had submitted a report which was accepted by the meeting. The Alpine Championships had produced a very good return and were on budget (although some claims still needed to be paid out). BT recorded congratulations to all involved in the event.

5.2 PH is retiring from the Alpine Committee after many years. He has made a huge contribution to Alpine Skiing at all levels. BT gave a sincere vote of thanks for his contribution to this committee and asked that this be recognised by SSE.

**Action: BT to discuss with Tim Fawke PH's resignation and potential replacement**

5.3 Race entry numbers for the summer season so far are good and are above those for 2017.

## 6. Bormio Update

DM submitted a report on the Alpine Championships (Appendix 1). The 2018 event was very successful and planning is well underway for 2019. The current contract with Bormio runs until 2019. A new contract will need to be negotiated for 2020 and beyond as well as negotiating financial support from Bormio itself. DM feels that an out of season trip to the resort will be needed to set this up - for which SSE funding will be needed.

Succession planning is needed for the Race Director (currently DM), Race Secretary (currently AG) and other roles. DM has written a job description for race director (Appendix 2) and AG will do one for race secretary. It is important that the potential replacements are available to shadow the roles at the 2019 championships.

**Action: AG to write job description for Alpine Champs Race Secretary**

AH proposed that an officials' training course be organised at Bormio – possibly while the U10 race is being held.

**Action: AH to look at possibility of holding officials' training at Bormio during the Alpine Champs**

It was suggested that a stand be set up at the All England and British Indoor Championships for recruitment of officials at all levels (for all events). Leaflets should be produced that explain the different levels of officiating and how to get involved. AH/AG to coordinate with Gareth Vogan to produce the leaflets. BT would liaise with Tim Fawke to identify funding to support this. AH suggested that officials needed to be clearly identifiable and suggested T-shirts be provided for them.

**Actions: AH/AG to liaise with Gareth Vogan to produce leaflets on officiating  
BT to liaise with Tim Fawke to identify funding for leaflets and officials' T-shirts as well as out of season trip to Bormio**

## 7. SSE Inter-Regional Event eligibility

DM had produced a draft document aimed at clarifying the rules for the Inter-Regional event particularly regarding racer eligibility to represent a region. He will finalise this and circulate it to the committee for comment. He emphasised the need for all racers to clarify/check their club affiliation on the seed list early and not leave it to the week before the event.

**Action: DM to produce a final proposal for rule clarification for the Inter-Regional event and circulate it to the committee**

## 8. Format of Outdoor GBR2 and Twin Peaks “CN”

It was confirmed that the Twin Peaks race was not a Club National event. It has a different format and was incorrectly labelled as a CN at the beginning of the season.

The format for the U10/U12 race at the Outdoor GBR was not in line with the other races in the series. (On the day, the result was calculated using the sum of a racer’s best 2 runs. U8 racers were allowed to compete.) DM has recalculated the results for the purposes of the series points – although trophies awarded on the day will not be changed.

## 9. Calendar Planning

9.1 NV provided an update on the summer calendar planning. Unfortunately, CS is no longer able to act as Chief of Championships for the All England event. LJ will now be Chief of Championships. MF will be Chief of Race and AG Race Secretary for the individual slalom. James Heaton will be Chief of Race and Sylvia Flahive Race Secretary for the Inter-Club event. Lloyd will arrange for the invitation to be published as well as a request for the return of the perpetual trophies. He will contact Malcolm Erskine regarding 2018 trophies. NV will contact James Heaton and LJ regarding the team event.

**Actions: LJ to publish invitation for the All England event**  
**LJ to request return of perpetual trophies**  
**LJ to contact Malcolm Erskine regarding 2018 trophies**  
**NV to contact James Heaton and LJ concerning the team event**

NV will provide a full report on 2017/2018 planning at the next meeting.

**Action: NV to provide 2017/2018 calendar planning report for the next meeting**

9.2 Questions had been raised concerning the viability of the BASS races at Landgraaf in May. The entry numbers this year were good and there was support from a wider range of clubs. It was therefore felt that this event should continue.

LJ suggested that, if the event was a “3 run” slalom, then the 40 point category adder could be removed (as the overall vertical drop would then be sufficient). This would improve the race points and could encourage a larger entry. The race organising committee for the event (via LJ) will write a proposal and submit it to David Manns to take to the TD forum in November to allow the rules to be changed for next year.

**Action: LJ to liaise with the Landgraaf BASS race organising committee to submit a proposal to the TD forum via DM that the race be increased to 3 runs and therefore the 40 point category adder be dropped for the event**

## 10. Feedback from Dry Slope Ambassadors

GC had submitted a report from the Dry Slope Ambassadors Group (Appendix 3). This feedback was very welcome.

Course Setting - SB responded that he felt that course setting for Club Nationals this year had been fairly good and, although there would always be some variation, he felt it had been generally appropriate.

Training Day - The Committee supported the idea of another training day for the Ambassadors this year. PT suggested that the training day include some aspects of officiating and coaching. He noted that U14 racers would be too young for this. The feeling of the committee was that Ambassadors should be restricted to U16 and above.

Kit – The Committee also supported that each Ambassador be supplied with two T-shirts. MC will forward the request to TF for this to be funded.

**Action: MC to ask Tim Fawke to approve funding for 2 T-shirts per Ambassador**

GBR Series – The Ambassadors were unhappy that the indoor and outdoor series were joined as an overall award. They felt that few athletes will have participated in 3 races on each surface. It was pointed out that it was not necessary to go to all of the races to win the series. Details of the awards for the 2018 series can be found at

[https://snowsportengland.org.uk/British\\_Aski\\_Academy\\_GBR-SEries\\_Bursary\\_prizes\\_2018](https://snowsportengland.org.uk/British_Aski_Academy_GBR-SEries_Bursary_prizes_2018)

Club Nationals- It was agreed that no club should be allowed to run more than one Club National in a season. This would be added to the invitation to clubs sent out for next year. (It was not felt that a formal rule change was necessary for this.)

**Action: NV/KC to add that “no club may host more than one Club National” to the invitation for 2019**

The comments on race day timings and 3 day weekends were noted.

**Action: MC to feed back to GC the responses to his report and thank him for his ongoing work**

## 11. Update on Race Officials

There has been considerable progress regarding officials’ registration and training since the last Alpine Committee meeting.

11.1 At the moment, information regarding officials cannot be shared because AH has no GDPR agreement with SSE. He needs to have a formal data sharing agreement set up with Tim Fawke. (DM has already done this for gbski.)

**Action: AH to liaise with Tim Fawke to set up data sharing agreement with SSE relating to the Officials list and log**

11.2 The Officials Training Pathway is now fairly well laid out. There may be some clarification needed to explain the difference between completing a course and being accredited.

11.3 A 2 day Level 3 Training course is planned for November and will be open to all suitably qualified candidates. The course will be delivered by a TD together with a second TD (or suitably qualified person). Any separate Level 3 courses requested by clubs or organisations must be run on the same 2 day format, delivered by tutors approved by the Alpine Committee and be open to all suitably qualified candidates.

Except in extraordinary circumstances, (eg a candidate having a wealth of relevant experience), candidates for the Level 3 Course must already be accredited at Level 2. Those wanting an exception to be made should apply well in advance and before booking the Level 3 Course to the Alpine Officials’ Training Coordinator.

11.4 The link between completing the online Level 1 course and being registered on the Officials’ list needs to be simplified. AH suggested that the on-line course, when edited, is set so that the certificate can only be produced after registration details have been provided. The re-edit will include a link to the registration area of the SSE site.

**Action: AH to liaise with SSE to edit the online level 1 course to include a link to registration**

11.5 AG has agreed to run a 1 day race secretary’s course for up to 6 people. (This could be a half day depending on the experience of the participants.) Alan Bullock has agreed to run a calcs course. It is possible that these courses could run at the same time as the level 3 course in November. AH will approach the TDs, AG and Alan Bullock to fix a date in November. He will then ask Clare Pennell to book rooms at SportPark.

**Actions: AH to liaise with TDs, AG and Alan Bullock to fix a date in November for training  
AH will ask Clare Pennell to book rooms at SportPark for the courses**

## 12. Report from TD Forum

DM submitted a report from the last TD forum meeting (Appendix 4). He pointed out that the TD forum was still in discussion with BSS Alpine regarding increased TD expenses and ski regulations for BASS competitions. BT noted that the large increase from £20 to £80 per diem in TD expenses will inevitably lead to an increase in race entry fees. He asked that, at this committee's autumn meeting, the increases in TD expenses and slope hire fees be taken into account for budget setting.

**Action: MC to include increased TD expense and slope hire fees on agenda for budget setting at autumn meeting**

PT asked whether 3 races could be held on the same slope at the same event for seeding purposes. DM confirmed that the TD forum had agreed in principle to increase the race limit from 2 to 3 for speed events.

## 13. Report from Alpine Squad and Dryslope Ambassador Sub-Committee

CS briefed the committee on the current status of the Alpine Squad. Take up this year has been lower than in previous years, which is a consequence of the narrowing of both the acceptance criteria and also the activities of the squad. The acceptance criteria were narrowed as part of an attempt to make the selection to the squad more objective, and now seed point based criteria are used. This year a decision was taken to focus much more on fitness as a complement to the ski training that the participants already undertake.

Feedback from those participating has been good but it is noticeable that most of those signing up are from the lower age categories. CS was concerned that the current squad activities are too narrow, and that without clear terms of reference and objectives the squad risks lacking future relevance. He invited the Alpine Committee to discuss their thoughts and ideas on how the squad could be structured in the future in an effort to maintain its relevance and value to SSE.

Several ideas were discussed, and it was agreed that the Alpine Squad Sub-Committee, in collaboration with the Alpine Committee should pursue and investigate the following suggestions:

- Split the squad into two: A grouping aimed at the Under 14 and Under 16 age categories only and a second grouping for those athletes in the U18/U21 category. In this way the activities of the squad could be made more relevant to the age groups targeted. It was felt that the U14/U16 grouping should be larger and whilst recognising performance should be about encouraging on-going participation and development within the sport. This fits with SSE's overall remit. The U18+ grouping should be smaller and more focused on those athletes with proven achievement who may wish to consider becoming full time performance athletes within the sport.
- Review again the activities of the squad, with a view to making it broader and more interesting to potential members.
- Look at how the "status" of the squad is pitched. Especially at the lower age categories, the squad's status needs to be calibrated correctly. The aspiration is more towards a perception of a "development group" not an "England team".
- Consult with the Ski Academies to try to get their input and support.

It was agreed that a small working group should be formed to develop these ideas. This should include CS, PT, Tim Fawke and a further representative from the Alpine Squad Sub-committee.

**Action: CS and PT to liaise over working group to discuss future direction of Alpine Squad**

## 14. AOB

14.1 AG asked for clarification on the use of catsuits by U10/12 athletes for iBARTS and BASS indoor events. (They are allowed for the winter snow season.) DM confirmed that the rule

prohibiting the use of cat-suits by U10/12 at artificial slope races which has been in place since May 2008 is still in effect. This rule will be discussed at the November TD Forum meeting but the prohibition will remain in force for all artificial slope races for the remainder of this season. This must be put into the race bulletin and posted on gbski.

**Actions: NV to ask all indoor race organisers to add to their race bulletin that catsuits are not allowed for U10/U12 racers  
DM to post on gbski that catsuits are not allowed for U10/U12 racers at indoor UK races**

14.2 AH asked that all committee members go through the online Level 1 Officials' course. He would like feedback by 1 July.

**Action: All to go through online level 1 course and provide feedback to AH by 9 July**

14.3 MF said that he currently collated feedback from the North East region as they have no representative on the committee. They have asked that bids for races are discussed and agreed by the Alpine Committee. These should take into account TD reports from previous events. There was concern that some items may not be included on the TD report. AH suggested that an easy feedback mechanism was needed for racers and parents to use to highlight problems at races etc. This is something to work towards in the future.

**The date of the next meeting is  
Sunday 30 September 2018 at 11:00 am at Sportpark.**

## ACTIONS

4.1	DM	to organise snow equipment inventory, replacement programme and suggest budget for next meeting
4.2	DM	In liaison with Pete Calvert to facilitate availability of unique entry data at the end of the summer season
4.3	MC	to liaise with Tim Fawke, Gareth Vogan and NV to arrange for setting up of Facebook page for artificial slope racing
4.4	SB	to report on alignment of UKCP1 courses at the next meeting
4.5	SB/PT	to liaise with Ryan Grewcock to organise a course setters' course before the next winter season
5.2	BT	to discuss with Tim Fawke PH's resignation and potential replacement
6	AG	to write job description for Alpine Champs Race Secretary
6	AH	to look at possibility of holding officials' training at Bormio during the Alpine Champs
6	AH/AG	to liaise with Gareth Vogan to produce leaflets on officiating
6	BT	to liaise with Tim Fawke to identify funding for leaflets and officials' T-shirts
7	DM	to produce a final proposal for rule clarification for the Inter-Regional event and circulate it to the committee
9.1	LJ	to publish invitation for the All England event
9.1	LJ	to request return of perpetual trophies
9.1	LJ	to contact Malcolm Erskine regarding 2018 trophies
9.1	NV	to contact James Heaton and LJ concerning the team event
9.1	NV	to provide 2017/2018 calendar planning report for the next meeting
9.2	LJ	to liaise with the Landgraaf BASS race organising committee to submit a proposal to the TD forum via DM that the race be increased to 3 runs and therefore the 40 point category adder be dropped for the event
10	MC	to ask Tim Fawke to approve funding for 2 T-shirts per Ambassador
10	NV/KC	to add that "no club may host more than one Club National" to the invitation for 2019
10	MC	to feed back to GC the responses to his report and thank him for his ongoing work
11.1	AH	to liaise with Tim Fawke to set up data sharing agreement with SSE relating to the Officials list and log
11.4	AH	to liaise with SSE to edit the online level 1 course to include a link to registration
11.5	AH	to liaise with TDs, AG and Alan Bullock to fix a date in November for training
11.5	AH	to ask Clare Pennell to book rooms at SportPark for the courses
12	MC	to include increased TD expense and slope hire fees on agenda for budget setting at autumn meeting
13	CS/PT	to liaise over working group to discuss future direction of Alpine Squad
14.1	NV	to ask all indoor race organisers to add to their race bulletin that catsuits are not allowed for U10/U12 racers
14.1	DM	to post on gbski that catsuits are not allowed for U10/U12 racers at indoor UK races
14.2	All	to go through online level 1 course and provide feedback to AH by 9 July

## Bormio update for SSE Alpine Committee June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018

### 2018 competition

The 22<sup>nd</sup> EAC took place from 18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> February and by all accounts was extremely successful. Despite clashing once again with the local Carnivale week (necessitating some careful programming to avoid occupying the prime slopes on one of the busiest weeks of the year) and the fact that the school half-term holiday dates were split, we had record numbers of entrants, a lot of positive feedback, and also performed well against the budget.

The race programme itself was helped by what were probably the best snow conditions for decades. In fact, the cold weather provided the opposite of our usual problems, with reports of at least one competitor suffering from frostbite! Support from the resort staff was excellent, and snow depths were good, only requiring us to use the petrol-driven drill on a couple of occasions.

The team worked well together, although once again very few people in resort took up our offer of joining us to help out on odd days. We were very grateful to those who volunteered for roles such as Commentator, but still feel that this is a missed opportunity to overcome what seems to be a barrier against people getting involved. The same issues exist for races in the UK, this is not something that is restricted to the Alpine Champs.

### Succession planning

Having stated that I will stay in post as Race Director until 2020, we do need to take some pro-active steps to finding a replacement. A Job Description for the role has been created, and it is proposed that following approval from this committee an advert is placed inviting applicants to express an interest in taking it on. Ideally whoever is selected would be on the team for 2020 (if they haven't already been on the team in recent years) to shadow some of the activity not just of this role but the other key roles as well.

As well as this role, it is important to look at succession planning and overall training for all roles, although we face the perennial problem of finding people who are prepared to put their heads above the parapet.

### Plans for 2019

Plans for 2019 are already under way, the ROC has held its first meeting, and hotel and flights have been booked. The first round of invitations to previous team members has gone out, and the usual advert for course crew is about to be placed.

The proposed race programme has some changes from last year, notably the switch from Alpine Combined to a separate NJR Super-G for the FIS competition, the split of Super-G races by age group for the children (to allow a more challenging course to be set for U16), and the attempt to provide a third race for U10/12. This is still being discussed with the resort, but if we can make it work then this represents yet another improvement to our offering and better value for our clientele!

Sun	FIS GS Alpina	U14 SG x 2 Stelvio	
Mon	NJR GS Alpina	U16 SG x 2 Stelvio	Floodlit parallel evening Stelvio
Tue	NJR SL Stelvio		U10/12 GS Alpina
Wed	FIS SL Stelvio	U14/16 GS Alpina	U10/12 Kombi Fun Park
Thu	NJR SG Stelvio	U14/16 SL Alpina	
Fri	FIS SG Stelvio		U10/12 Parallel Pro Slalom Alpina

We are currently investigating possible options for using Sci Club Bormio to provide the bulk of the course crew. This is still at the initial enquiry stage, so it may not happen for 2019, but could be a good way of achieving the increase in manpower that we need whilst potentially reducing costs (given the ever-increasing cost of flights and hotel for each member of the team we take out from the UK).

### Contract for 2020 onwards

The current three-year contract with the lift company runs out in 2019 and will thus need to be re-negotiated.

Due to the increased complexity of the overall competition, and in particular the desire to find a way to acquire funding from the local and regional authorities, we anticipate that an off-season visit (in late Summer or possibly Autumn) is likely to be the best way of getting all parties to agree to a contract that gives us what we need. This would be the first out-of-competition visit since the first races in this resort.

If we can secure a reasonable deal with everyone then we anticipate that a five-year contract (2020-2024) might be acceptable.

## Appendix 2

### Job Description

#### Chief Race Director

The Race Organising Committee (ROC) for the English Alpine Championships currently comprises three roles: Chief of Championships, Race Secretary, and Chief Race Director. The ROC works as a team throughout the year to organise all aspects of the competition, roughly divided as:

Chief of Championships:	overall lead, sponsors, finance, PR, VIPs
Race Secretary:	bulletins, GBR and international entries, admin
Chief Race Director:	race programme, team, day-to-day management

#### Pre-event organisation

The ROC work closely together throughout the year to build the event team and prepare all the groundwork for the Championships. This includes a long list of tasks and activities, including such things as preparing and submitting calendar applications, finalising previous accounts and preparing a budget for the upcoming competition, and identifying and assembling the team.

Primary responsibility for:

- Contact with resort staff
- Proposing race programme
- Building the team and allocation to roles

Joint responsibility for:

- Calendar application
- Budget
- Equipment and travel arrangements

#### During the event

Once we arrive in resort, the CRD oversees the running of the race programme and manages the team. Each race has its own Chief of Race, so it is up to the CRD to work with the CORs, the resort and the rest of the team to ensure that everything is in place to allow races to run smoothly.

Primary responsibility for:

- Contact with resort staff
- Team management and discipline
- Communication within the team
- Trouble-shooting race-related or technical issues

Joint responsibility for:

- Contact with coaches and others
- Contract negotiation

#### After the event

Once the Championships are complete, the wrap-up process largely consists of ensuring that everything ends up back where it needs to be, acquiring feedback, dealing with any outstanding budgetary issues to allow the accounts to be completed.

Primary responsibility for:

- Communication with team about what worked and what could be improved
- Dealing with any issues relating to equipment needing repair or replacement

Joint responsibility for:

- Finalising accounts

#### Skills and Requirements

The ideal set of skills needed for this role is largely that of an 'extended' Chief of Race, including:

- A thorough understanding of all race officials' roles and what is required of the people assigned to those roles
- A clear communicator, spoken and written, within the team and with resort staff, coaches and others
- A well organised manager of both people and timetable
- An ability to delegate whilst still maintaining oversight

## Appendix 3 – Report from Dry Slope Ambassadors

Below are points highlighting the current thoughts from the Dry slope Ambassadors which GC has collected throughout the season.

### **Course Setting**

Still an observation that the CN courses are generally too straight & more like regional courses.

### **Chatham**

Those who have raced at Chatham already this season were very positive & looking forward to the completion of the matting

### **Race Days**

A few have expressed an interest in helping more on the race day, Many already look after the younger ones & where a sponsor is not directly involved they help with the presentation, I will speak with organisers on the day to see if any other help can be provided

### **Training Day**

Those involved last year are pushing to have similar this year, I will be approaching Gloucester next week to arrange something similar as previous (just need to structure the day).

### **Ambassador Kit**

Can we have an Ambassador T-Shirt for before & after races? After a day's racing not the most pleasant tops to keep on! - we have saved quite a lot on tops over the last couple of years could we consider 1x long sleeve & 1 x short sleeve next year if I can strike a deal with a supplier.

### **GBR Series**

Why is the indoor & outdoor joined as an overall award (there are very few who will of participated in 3 of each -- particularly as very few go to Scotland) surely the result will be to have a reduction in the entry list as a result as athletes are aware they will not be able to be competitive across the season!

### **Ambition CN**

Athletes wondered how Ambition have managed to get 2 CN races on the calendar both of which count towards the overall CN Championship - just an observation!

### **Race day start times**

An improvement as allows time to travel in the mornings & reduce overall weekend costs

### **Bank Holiday - 3 day weekends**

Not liked at all - Very expensive from parents perspective & the 3rd day racing is generally a filler event, there is plenty of racing throughout the season without filling Bank holidays.

### **General**

Positive feedback from Parents about the Ambassadors, many enquires as to how you become an Ambassador Request from Parent why couldn't we include U14? (personally I like the idea of having something to aim for & to drop the age in my opinion would dilute many of the attributes we are linking to the Ambassador role)

### **Summary**

All going well - which no doubt will be the kiss of death!

## Appendix 4

# Feedback from TD Forum for Alpine Committee June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018

This is a summary of the key points discussed or agreed at the Spring TD Forum meeting held in Solihull on Saturday May 12th.

The minutes of that meeting have yet to be approved, and some of the key decisions are still awaiting ratification by BSS Alpine, so none of these changes should be publicised until both of those things have happened.

## Officials training

The Forum were very appreciative of the work that has already been and continues to be carried out by Andrew to update the officials training programme. This continues to move towards a training scheme which can be badged as British and will provide standardised material and processes across all groups whilst still recognising the different needs of each organisation.

The Forum (through Ian Roberts) will continue to work on the documentation of required and preferred experience and skills to provide input into a competency framework.

## GBSKI and GDPR

GBSKI (and indeed Britski) have always been operated on a purely voluntary basis and paid for out of the pocket of those running these services. The Forum agreed that this should not continue and have (since the meeting) acquired agreement from BSS that they would provide funding to cover the operational costs. The exact process has yet to be agreed, but this is a further step towards removing the reliance on individual people to provide key services to the sport.

There was also some discussion about GDPR issues. BSS at that stage were reluctant to get too involved as they were still resolving many of their own issues, but this will be dealt with in due course. In the interim, I am registered with the ICO as a data controller, and have written data sharing agreements with the Home Nations covering the use of membership data as input into the seeding system.

## Timing Systems

It was agreed that the two-year dispensation on 'recently homologated' timing systems that was added to BACR last year would be added to BCR in readiness for next season. The net effect of this is to provide a transition period during which BASS races can be run using timing boxes that have officially run out of their FIS homologation period.

The most frequent occurrence of this is the TAG CP520 which continues to be used in many resorts; there is nothing actually wrong with this timing box, it is perhaps more likely that TAG would prefer people to buy new kit than pay for another round of FIS homologation tests!

## Medical

FIS concussion guidelines and information have been updated, and everyone involved in ski racing is encouraged to make themselves aware of how to deal with possible concussion.

The Forum re-iterated their support for any TD who prevents a competitor from racing whom they feel is unfit to compete.

## TD Qualification

Congratulations go to Lloyd Jenkins who, having passed his practical examination at Stoke, is now licensed as a TD for artificial slope races. Plans will be put in place to follow this up with practicals during the Winter to extend this license to snow races.

Andy du Plessis is also hoping to undertake practical assessment and examination this Winter so that he too can acquire his full ticket.

James Heaton continues to move along the TD pathway and is scheduled to take his written examination in November.

## TD Expenses

*\*\*\* The changes described in this section are awaiting ratification by BSS Alpine \*\*\**

TDs are eligible to claim two types of expense.

One is to cover travel and related costs. It was agreed that for consistency a mileage rate of 45p per mile should be used for all TD travel claims, and that travel costs exceeding £400 must be agreed with the ROC beforehand. This mostly applies to snow competitions, but there are instances (for example where an English-based TD has to cover races in Scotland) where it would apply here in the UK as well.

The second payment is a 'per diem' payment that is paid to TDs for all race days, and for races where significant travel is involved is also paid for the day before and after the race. This payment is intended as a contribution towards the many and varied costs that TDs have to meet out of their own pocket. Whilst it is recognised that most race officials are in a similar position with having to pay their own costs, TDs are in something of a unique position of having to go through a lengthy and costly qualification process, and often having additional requirements such as insurance to cover the fact that in the case of an incident they are where the buck stops.

The value of this payment has long been set at £20. Following protracted discussion this has now been set at £80 per day. This is at the bottom of the range of possible values dictated by BSS Alpine, and is broadly in line with the values used by other nations.

HNs and ROCs thus need to be aware that from the start of the 2018-19 Winter season and the start of the 2019 artificial slope season, these costs will be applied to all races. TDs are of course still able (as some already do) to donate this payment back to the organisation but to enable clarity in understanding the true cost of races all TDs should be including this payment in their expense claims.

## BASS seeding of different age groups

*\*\*\* The changes described in this section are awaiting ratification by BSS Alpine \*\*\**

Changes to the regulations for how age groups are handled within BASS seeding have been agreed. These changes have been designed to overcome issues with 'small' races which have under the current scheme ended up as 'Unable To Seed'. This affected over 11% of the individual races over the 2017-18 Winter season.

In brief, the existing separation of the BASS list into what is effectively three different lists (U14, U16 and U18+) is to end. The opening list of the 2018-19 season will be adjusted to equalise U14 and U16 with the rest of the age groups, and from that point on there will be no distinction between age groups when processing results for seeding. Races may (although don't have to) contain any age group, and when they race together on the same course they will all be seeded as one. There are some wrinkles in the process as we are currently unable to dispense with the 'two separate single-run races' for U14, but overall this should simplify the process of producing results and allow all races to be seeded.

## Ski regulations at BASS competitions

*\*\*\* The changes described in this section are awaiting ratification by BSS Alpine \*\*\**

After various attempts to introduce an entry-level category into the BASS calendar, the decision has been taken to dispense with ski regulations at all BASS competitions other than national championships.

This allows competitors at races such as the British Schoolboys or Schoolgirls to race on equipment that is more suited to their ability, rather than having to use regulated skis or – more likely – mostly ignore the rules and race on their own skis anyway.