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NORDIC COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Nordic Committee meeting held by means of a telephone conference on **Monday 22nd July, 2019 at 19:30.**

Present: Glennis Dore(Chair)(GD), John Anderson (JA), John Holgate (JH), Stephen Johns (SJ), Dagmar Junghanns (DJ) Adam Pinney (AP), Neil Salmons (NS) and Martin Watkins (MW2). Claire Pennel (CP) attended as liaison officers for the SSE Board.

Minutes Extract – Action

1626. Coaching Panel - ...GD to send out a request for expressions of interest to join the Coaching Panel, an exact job description is to be agreed later.

Action GD

1627. ...NS said that he could pass on links to the recordings of the webinars to anyone interested. MW2 offered to select relevant message from these webinars and to cascade the information to the coaches.

Action NS/MW2

1628. Minute 1580 & 1599.- The use of workplace training. ..DJ said that shadowing for prospective candidates already takes place in some clubs and she said that this could be extended as suggested by AP. She agreed to take this suggestion to the Coaching Panel with the prospect of writing to clubs saying that if they had candidate instructors, they should shadow a coach before they join a course.

Action DJ

1630. Minute 1583 & 1601 - BDS insurance accreditation/CIMSPA – Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity. CP/RG to check the current situation and provide an update. GD to chase. Carried forward

Action GD, CP/RG

1631. Minute 1591 & 1602 - Robert Hovey Trophy presentation. ...GD said that she had already suggested some options for presentation date and venue to George, however, she agreed the Olympic Park event would be ideal and she will propose that event to him. No decision was made in relation to the payment of his expenses.

Action GD

1634. Minute 1609 - On-Snow Events. MW2 opined that an [early season] event could utilise the December military event held at Beitostølen. MW2 is to investigate this option further. GD commented that she will require information in advance from the organisers so that finance can be allowed for in the Nordic budget.

Action DJ & MW2

1637. Website - AP agreed to work with SSE to restore Nordic material, improve the links to the home page and to generally make Nordic disciplines more visible. GD said that she would ask MW if she would also join the working party. SJ offered to again supply material for Telemark. GD appealed for more photos for the website.

Action GD, CP, AP, MW and SJ

1639. JH asked CP about 3rd party insurance for SSE Instructors and Coaches. After some discussion it was noted that those with current up to date qualifications will be covered under the current scheme for third party liability but not for personal insurance. CP said that she will add a statement to the website confirming cover.

Action CP

1640. ...The criteria for the appointment of Tutors and Senior Tutors - DJ had drafted some criteria, which now needs to be reviewed by the Coaching Panel and align with Alpine. During the next few months DJ said that the Coaching Panel will be working on this process.

Action DJ

1641. JH anticipates that Coaching Scheme unification talks will conclude that Telemark will be a standalone qualification instead of the dual one that it is now, thus aligning with other nations and BASI. JH volunteered to run a pilot course should this prediction be ratified.

Action JH

1644. Terms of Reference - AP requested an adjournment until the end of August, 2019 to submit comments. GD also requested that all committee members should complete the self assessment survey that had been sent out earlier, if they hadn't already.

Action Committee

1645. Face to face meetings - SSE had offered their facilities at Sport Park. If such meetings do take place, GD said that she will check with SSE to see whether committee expenses will have to come from the Nordic budget.

Action GD

1646. Issues for the Board - GD invited [other] committee members to submit any [other] points that GD should raise at the Board meeting no later than the end of August, 2019.

Action Committee/ GD

Apologies for Absence

1621. Apologies were received from Thea Wates (TW) and Mary Wray (MW).

1622. GD began the meeting by welcoming and introducing Neil Salmons (NS) to the committee. NS represents BNDS and he gave a brief outline of his background and his current role. Later, Martin Watkins (MW2) joined the meeting and again GD welcomed him. MW represents the Wessex Biathlon and Nordic Ski Club and he also gave a brief outline of his background and his current role.

The Minutes of the Previous Meeting

1623. In accordance with Minute 297 the minutes of the previous meeting were circulated to the committee. The committee authorised the approved minutes to be published on the SSE Web site in accordance with Minute 296.

Matters Arising

1624. Minute 1461, 1479, 1502, 1523, 1549, 1574 & 1596 - The Wearing of Helmets. GD had spoken to RG who had repeated his advice from earlier meetings that it is Nordic that should be telling the insurance company what is its best practice. As a consequence GD had sent a message to all the clubs asking them to confirm that the wearing of helmets is compulsory and /or to review their helmet wearing policy in terms of risk assessment. Some Clubs have already replied that helmets are compulsory. GD is awaiting responses from other Clubs.
1625. Minute 1471, 1480, 1503, 1524, 1550, 1575, & 1597 - Cascading the latest Cross-Country Coaching Information. DJ reported that she currently had no information to cascade.
1626. So far as appointing someone to undertake the role of cascading new material, GD had prepared a draft to send out but in the meantime, DJ had had second thoughts about advertising that as a specific role. A new person had recently joined the Coaching Panel and DJ wished to review the wider roles and responsibilities of the Panel prior to appointing another person. GD to send out a request for expressions of interest to join the Coaching Panel, an exact job description is to be agreed later.

Action GD

1627. There followed a discussion on the merits of what should be cascaded to the instructors and coaches and the place of webinars in this process. MW2 and NS talked about the webinars run for the BNDS training programmes. Whilst contribution to the live webinars is restricted to BNDS invitees, NS said that he could pass on links to the recordings of the webinars to anyone interested. MW2 offered to select relevant message from these webinars and to cascade the information to the coaches.

Action NS/MW2

1628. Minute 1580 & 1599.- The use of workplace training. AP suggested that candidate instructors at L1 could shadow coaches delivering training. DJ said that shadowing for prospective candidates already takes place in some clubs and she said that this could be extended as suggested by AP. She agreed to take this suggestion to the Coaching Panel with the prospect of writing to clubs saying that if they had candidate instructors, they should shadow a coach before they join a course.

Action DJ

1629. Minute 1580 - Home Nations Unified Coaching Scheme. GD advised that RG has provided her with an update on the new Home Nation unified scheme. Phase 1, including alpine, is expected to go live in September with a view to Nordic following on. Likely timescales for working on Nordic will be in the next year 2020. There is an SSS working group in place for Nordic and it would be good to establish an SSE working group at that time.

1630. Minute 1583 & 1601 - BDS insurance accreditation/CIMSPA – Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity. CP/RG to check the current situation and provide an update. GD to chase. Carried forward

Action GD, CP/RG

1631. Minute 1591 & 1602 - Robert Hovey Trophy presentation. AP suggested that the Olympic Park event would be a very suitable place at which to make the presentation. George could also be asked to present the prizes at the event. GD said that she had already suggested some options for the presentation date and venue to George, however, she agreed that the Olympic Park event would be ideal and she will propose that event to him. No decision was made in relation to the payment of his expenses.

Action GD

1632. Minute 1607 - Committee Membership. Action completed. NS has replaced Mike Harrington on this committee.

1633. Minute 1608 - Active Participation. In advance of the meeting, GD had circulated to the committee the number of club members of each Nordic club. There followed a discussion on how or whether participation was to be measured. AP opined that there is a limit to the extent in which participation in minor disciplines can be increased and that once that limit has been reached, further efforts are likely to be unrewarded. A number of committee members suggested ways in which participation could be monitored (eg. 3 yearly club membership snapshot or recording participation at events). Perceived benefits of monitoring needs to be weighed against effort spent monitoring. There was no decision on the method of monitoring nor on whether we wanted to measure anything at all.

1634. Minute 1609 - On-Snow Events. DJ announced that Gwenda Cavill has agreed to organise the late season event. So far as an early event is concerned DJ said that this requires a long lead-in time for the following season. MW2 opined that an event could utilise the December military event held at Beitostølen. MW2 is to investigate this option further. GD commented that she will require information in advance from the organisers so that finance can be allowed for in the Nordic budget.

Action DJ & MW2

1635. Minute 1612 - Safeguarding Courses. JA reported that he had eventually been able to attend a course albeit a long way from his home. GD having spoken to the office, understood that the number of courses depended on demand and that they require a certain number of participants to break even. Prospective candidates should liaise with the office if they are having difficulty locating a suitable course.

SSE Update

1636. SSE Website - CP updated the committee on the launch of the new SSE website. She said that it had been hurriedly launched to meet a deadline. The previous website was a platform that could be supported no longer and it was therefore vulnerable to failure. SSE will now have more control over input on the new website. CP said that there had been negative comments from some members of the Nordic Committee but that SSE is anxious to improve it and also to understand and add "customer's journeys" to forthcoming improvements. She believed that there is huge potential for the future of Nordic disciplines. Both AP and SJ rehearsed and lamented the history of previous SSE websites and the apparent inability of SSE to not only satisfactorily incorporate Nordic material at the launch of each new website but also to make it visible. Their perception is that just when sufficient material has been accumulated, a new website is launched with little consultation or user testing prior to launch and the cycle has to be repeated.
1637. In an effort to rectify the situation on the website, AP agreed to work with SSE to restore Nordic material, improve the links to the home page and to generally make Nordic disciplines more visible. GD said that she would ask MW if she would also join the working party. SJ offered to again supply material for Telemark. GD appealed for more photos for the website.

Action GD, CP, AP, MW and SJ

1638. CP announced that Will had handed in his notice, that he will be leaving the organisation in August and that she will cover his role until someone else is appointed.
1639. JH asked CP about 3rd party insurance for SSE Instructors and Coaches. After some discussion it was noted that those with current up to date qualifications will be covered under the current scheme for third party liability but not for personal insurance. CP said that she will add a statement to the website confirming cover.

Action CP

SSE Coaching

1640. DJ said that MW2 had raised the question of what is the criteria for the appointment of Tutors and Senior Tutors? DJ had drafted some criteria, which now needs to be reviewed by the Coaching Panel and align with Alpine. During the next few months DJ said that the Coaching Panel will be working on this process.

Action DJ

Telemark Report

1641. JH reported on the success of the recent NW Telemark Festival at Manchester. Unfortunately the British Indoor Telemark Championship scheduled for the same weekend had to be cancelled through lack of entries. Fortunately GB Telemark had underwritten the event and the Manchester XC club didn't lose any money. JH anticipates that Coaching Scheme unification talks will conclude that Telemark will

be a standalone qualification instead of the dual one that it is now, thus aligning with other nations and BASI. JH volunteered to run a pilot course should this prediction be ratified.

Action JH

On-Snow Trip 2020

1642. GD said that no firm decision on venue had been reached. It will be either Nordseter or Kvitåvatn. The dates however will be Saturday 28th March, 2020 to Saturday 4th April, 2020.

Governance

1643. DG had already attended a recent Chairs meeting and she will attend a Board meeting in September, 2019.
1644. GD said that the committee should update the Terms of Reference periodically and she went through some of the items. AP requested an adjournment until the end of August, 2019 to submit comments. GD also requested that all committee members should complete the self assessment survey that had been sent out earlier, if they hadn't already.

Action Committee

1645. On the subject of face to face meetings, SSE had offered their facilities at Sport Park. If such meetings do take place, GD said that she will check with SSE to see whether committee expenses will have to come from the Nordic budget.

Action GD

1646. GD asked if there were any issues that committee members wished to raise when she attends the Board meeting. AP raised the problem of office staff not fully appreciating what Nordic skiing is and what is involved with a discipline that is not Alpine. SJ had experience some difficulties too with new staff members in the past and agreed that there may be an SSE training issue for new staff entering the organisation and not knowing anything about the Nordic disciplines. GD also invited other committee members to submit any other points that GD should raise at the Board meeting no later than the end of August, 2019.

Action Committee/ GD

Any Other Business

1647. JA said that his summer programme was under way and that it included some roller ski tours.
1648. JH said that roller skiing sessions were going well. He thought that the decision on the wearing of helmets may have presented an anomaly in Telemark for the Manchester club in that helmets are not currently insisted upon for all occasions, though they are for roller ski events.

1649. AP observed and lamented the degree of procrastination on some of the committee's action points in that there are some that have been carried forward for two years. He believed that the committee could do better.
1650. GD reported that James Clugnet had recently run a roller ski master class at the London Hyde Park Club and that Andrew Musgrave will be also running one shortly.
1651. MW2 reported that the Wessex club are using a new cycle track at Odd Down for roller skiing because the Castle Combe track is not available. The track is good for beginners and intermediates.
1652. AP mentioned that the CycloPark road circuit near to the Dartford Bridge may possibly be suitable for roller skiing and he thought that someone ought to inspect it. GD wondered if one of those 2 venues might be suitable for an SSE event similar to Lancaster, perhaps late spring/early summer as an additional event to the roller ski calendar.
1653. NS said that BNDS is managing to get together its squad for training. He also drew the attention of the committee to the fact that SSS had acquired some funding to progress training for Scottish 18-23 year olds. As a consequence, non-Scottish skiers attending the training there, have to pay more.
1654. SJ reported that he had contacted FIS in February to draw their attention to the fact that Cross-Country, Roller Ski and Telemark races are the only world events where the female athletes are referred to as "Ladies" whereas male racers are referred to as "Men". He had suggested that they may wish to align themselves with the vast majority of other world sports where their female athletes are referred to as women. In June the FIS had agreed to the change the nomenclature in all categories from "Ladies" to "Women". It subsequently transpired that others had been working on this subject for some time and that SJ was not solely responsible for the change.

To Set the Date and Venue of the Next Meeting

1655. The next meeting of the Nordic Committee will take place as a telephone conference on **Monday 21st October, 2019 at 19.30 hr.**