

## NORDIC COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Nordic Committee meeting held by means of a teleconference on **Tuesday the 21st April, 2020 at 19:30.**

Present: Glennis Dore (Chair)(GD), Amy Gumbrell (AG), John Holgate (JH), Stephen Johns (SJ), Dagmar Junghanns (DJ) Alan Mitcham (AM), Adam Pinney (AP), Neil Salmons (NS), Martin Watkins (MW2) and Mary Wray (MW1). Ryan Grewcock (RG) attended as liaison officers for the SE Board.

### Minutes Extract – Action

1739. Minute 1729 – British Cross-Country Championships. AP contacted Tim Fawke, who contacted GBS to attempt to resolve the problem. Despite pressure from different sides, GBS refused to change their minds. So there was no “British Championships” for cross-country this last season although the Army Championships went ahead as normal. RG was asked to take action to try and ensure that there is not a repeat for the next British Cross-Country Championship.

Action RG

1745. AP observed that the website has no facility under the clubs tab to search for cross-country ski clubs. The link to the Go Ski website which would have enabled this, has been removed. RG undertook to restore it and to attempt to refine the Go Ski site categories to include all the Nordic disciplines.

Action RG

1753. JH to liaise with suitable knowledgeable Telemarkers (not just within SE) and form a task group. Simon Everitt (a former chair of the TDC) has already volunteered. JH to write a draft overview and Resource Pack (syllabi) and submit to the Coaching Panel.

Action JH

1754. Concerns were raised at previous meetings that following Andy Stewart's withdrawal from tutoring Level 1 & Level 2, it leaves JH as the sole Tutor for Level 1 & Level 2, in so far that there is no cover or replacement. It would be highly desirable to have another Telemark Tutor who could ultimately replace Andy Stewart. What is important is the assured continuation and development of the Coaching Scheme in the long-term. JH & SJ will begin a new draft of the scheme.

Action JH & SJ

1755. Both the N WTF and the British Indoor Telemark Championships are cancelled for 2020. Discussions will take place as to whether the Championships could be resurrected for 2021.

Action JH, SJ and Caroline Brown (for GBS)

### **Apologies for Absence**

1731 No apologies for absence were received.

### **The Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

1732. 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 SE Web site in accordance with Minute 296.

### **Matters Arising**

1733. Minute 1696 – Coaches Third Party Insurance. CP not yet completed. GD will need Sports Insure to update the portal, and with the current pressure that insurance companies are under, this will not be done in the immediate future. Carried forward.

1734. Minute 1698 – Action Point Summary. SJ and GD recommend that the Chair continues to provide an updated Action Point Summary to summarise key updates on actions and hence minimise time spent in meetings on reviewing actions. These updates should be read out and included in Minutes.

1735. Minute 1722 – Events. Not followed up due to current Coronavirus situation. Dates pencilled in for both Hayes in the summer and the Hetton weekend in August. Carried Forward

1736. GD has not yet been able to investigate using the UCLan track but JH added that whilst the UCLan track is normally available, this is not so when football matches are being played due to a perceived health and safety risk to skiers. JH also said that use had been made of the cycle track at Palatine Road in Blackpool. Carried forward.

1737. AP wished to correct the previous minutes in that both the Hetton and Hayes tracks should be classified as challenging rather than unsuitable. AP said that classification of these surfaces is dependent on the type of roller skis being used, rubber wheels being the most suitable for these tracks. AM described the track at Hetton as pot holed and the remainder of the surface as crazed. AM mentioned that Tyneside Loipers were looking to buy some new kit that would

be more suitable for beginners, or alternatively suitable roller skis could possibly be borrowed from the Yorkshire Dales Club.

1738. Minute 1727 - Amateur Sport Club Membership and Tax Returns. SJ said that this problem has been resolved and had stemmed from a misunderstanding.
1739. Minute 1729 – British Cross-Country Championships. AP contacted Tim Fawke, who contacted GBS to attempt to resolve the problem. Despite pressure from different sides, GBS refused to change their minds. So there was no “British Championships” for cross-country this last season although the Army Championships went ahead as normal. RG was asked to take action to try and ensure that there is not a repeat for the next British Cross-Country Championship.

<b>Action RG</b>
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### **SE Update**

1740. RG drew the attention of the committee to the update recently circulated by TF. 3 members of staff have been furloughed as a result of the pandemic and this will be reviewed every 3 weeks. The senior staff have taken a 20% pay cut. The Board are currently formulating 3 contingency plans covering different degrees of seriousness of lock down. With no skiing or training activity taking place it meant that there is no income for SE and that there is unlikely to be any until at least September. Both the indoor and outdoor skiing facilities will take some time to become operational again as a result of staff moving on to other posts during the pandemic.
1741. TF has recently circulated a message covering the temporary changes to licensing requirements. Those that need to attend a refresher or renew first aid training in order to be issued with a new licence for season 20-21 will remain registered and be renewed in the usual way. The awards will be renewed until at least 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. RG said that this will be reviewed depending on any changes.
1742. Sport England have rolled over SE funding and have committed to funding SE for next year based on this year's funding. SE have been assisting in helping clubs to have virtual meetings and other virtual activities. Instead of the Coaching Conference, there will be three regional 1 day events.
1743. Restructuring of the committees is continuing and terms of reference are being drafted for a target date of the end of May. Only the Chairs need to be ratified by the Board but the other posts may be appointed by the new committees. Training and development for the posts will be provided where necessary.

1744. The committee decided that rather than make detailed plans for future events that expressions of interest could be sought so that once the future of the pandemic becomes clear and the ability to realistically hold events, organisers can swing into action with detailed planning. GD suggested that she, the event organisers and MW2 and AP could meet in 3 weeks to further review the situation to see if any further progress on events can be made.
1745. AP observed that the website has no facility under the clubs tab to search for cross-country ski clubs. The link to the Go Ski website, which would have enabled this, has been removed. RG undertook to restore it and to attempt to refine the Go Ski site categories to include all the Nordic disciplines.

<b>Action RG</b>
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### **Chair's Report**

1746. GD announced that she intends to stand down as Chair by the AGM in November and she asked the committee to put forward suggestion for a replacement.
1747. GD was pleased to tell the committee that NC had made about £1000 profit in 2019. MW2 added that momentum was building to introduce the new Army SE cross-country qualification which would bring in more income. GD hoped that it could be introduced next year.
1748. GD will meet with TF, the Chairs of other committees and also the regions. She asked the committee to forward any questions that the NC had, to put forward for this meeting.
1749. There will be no London Ski Show next year. Instead there will be an event in a snow dome so that the introduction to roller skiing that was held at last year's show is unlikely to be repeated next time.

### **Telemark Report**

1750. JH had circulated his report in advance of the meeting. The main points are as follows: that Chill Factor<sup>e</sup> had closed on the 21st March, 2020 for the duration of the pandemic. The Telemark World Cup had also been stopped in February.
1751. JH had recently purchased 2 pairs of Mondo 23.5 and 1 pair of Mondo 25.0 NTN Telemark boots which will be suitable for older children or adults with small feet.

1752. The opportunity has arisen for a major change to the Telemark Coaching Scheme, with the preparations for the new GB Coaching Scheme (merging UKSS and UKCP) where it is envisaged that Telemark should have stand-alone qualifications, to match other nations. This mirrors current thinking that the existing scheme is too onerous and puts off the majority who wish only to Telemark. There has been a major shift in Telemark participants (recreational & instructors). In 2011 there were still many coming from a cross-country ski background, whereas now they tend to come from Alpine, thus have many Alpine skills that their XC counterparts did not necessarily possess. The proposed Telemark scheme may comprise Level 1: 2-day training course, followed by 20 hours workplace training, First Aid, Safeguarding, DBS and some form of assessment - preferably the current Telemark (& Alpine) system, ie held on a separate day. Also CPD (refresher) every 3 years. Levels 3 & 4 are yet to be discussed.

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**Action JH**

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**Action JH & SJ**

1755. Both the NWTF and the British Indoor Telemark Championships are cancelled for 2020. Discussions will take place as to whether the Championships could be resurrected for 2021.

**Action JH, SJ and Caroline Brown (for GBS)**

1756 JH has re-made contact with Hemel Hempstead and will establish whether a Telemark event may be resurrected in 2021.

1757. JH has updated the re-instated Telemark section for "find a club" or "find an activity" on the Go Ski Website.

## **Cross-Country Coaching Update**

1758. DJ regretted that due to the pandemic and pressure of work that little progress had been made on the action points.
1759. Work has however been done on Nordseter for 2021, the programme of events and on progressing skiers through the coaching scheme. A draft of the technical guidance for the proficiency awards 3, 4, 5 & 6 is in a final stage and awaiting consultation.
1760. DJ announced that whilst she intends to remain on the Coaching Panel that she will stand down as Chair. It is anticipated that GD will take over as Chair of the Coaching Panel in due course.

## **Any Other Business**

1761. GD said that in London The RollerSki Co have been doing fitness sessions as well as an on-line quiz. Scott Dixon and Fern Cates are also doing on-line fitness and training and Alan Eason also has a fitness programme up and running via his Totally Nordic website
1762. NS said that 3 young skiers, Joseph Rosenfeld, Sam Bojarski, Tristan Marshall, had qualified for the OPA Championships in Zwiesel, Germany but unfortunately the championships were cancelled due to the pandemic. Joseph Rosenfeld attended the winter long Home Nations Performance Pathway programme based in Lillehammer, Norway under the supervision/coaching of Alex Standen. Jordan Andrews has taken over responsibility of the southern BNDS sessions and this will provide a logical pathway between his current school sessions and BNDS. Beth Ireland will assist him with the younger skiers.
1763. A meeting was held at the end of February for the GB roller ski race series which is now on hold, again due to the coronavirus crisis.
1764. MW1 said that no activities were likely to happen until September but the Committee had met virtually and were planning to do so again in May. An online survey about cross country skiing is being undertaken.
1765. AG said that Yorkshire Dales too had had a virtual committee meeting and that they too are waiting for lock down to be released before anything else can be planned.
1766. MW2 for Wessex said that the Castle Combe track was currently closed. Otherwise he and others had been cycling to keep fit.

1767. AP said that he had had the opportunity to do some roller skiing. AP had wanted to send details of SE Clubs to Roger Homyer for him to inform them of the 5Km roller ski challenge that he is running. Those that complete the challenge and send their details to him will qualify for a medal. Roger has a Facebook page which will provide details of the challenge and the address to which charitable donations can be sent.
1768. SJ said that a few members had made forays onto the fells this winter when conditions permitted. The Lakeland club too had been able to have a virtual committee meeting.
1769. JH said he was thankful he has been able to ski this year. He also reported that the Manchester Club policy on helmets had been made into separate policies for roller skiing and for Telemark.
1770. Roller Ski Training at UCLAN - Attendance at Manchester Club training sessions continues to be buoyant with up to 30-35 participants at each session and the club is in the process of a third round of equipment purchase to satisfy needs. Chris Farrell has now formally taken over the organisation of the roller ski sessions (from Alison Pawley) and joined the MCCSC committee, along with Alison Farrell as Club Welfare Officer. The club had also set up a new event at the Palatine Road cycle track in Blackpool for March, but the closure of all schools, universities & local authority facilities forced us to cancel the roller ski programme (including tours) until the social distancing is removed.

### **To Set the Date and Venue of the Next Meeting**

1771. The next meeting of the Nordic Committee will tentatively take place by means of a telephone conference on **Tuesday 21st July, 2020 at 19.30 hr.**