

## Alpine Committee Meeting

Wednesday 3 June 2020 7:00 pm

By Zoom

### Present

Lloyd Jenkins (LJ)  
Bryan Thomas (BT)  
Simon Bannister (SB)  
Mary Calvert (MC)  
Gareth Case (GC)  
David Chapman (DC)  
David Eaves (DE)

Tim Fawke (TF)  
Andrew Hjort (AH)  
David Manns (DM)  
Julian Sambles (JS)  
Paul Telling (PT)  
Claire Pennell (CP)

### 1) Apologies

Mike Frith (MF)

### 2) Declaration of Interests and Safeguarding

All committee members have completed declaration of interest forms. CP confirmed that these were lodged with Snowsport England. There were no new notifications and no safeguarding issues.

### 3) Minutes from previous meeting - previously agreed and published 24 March 2020.

### 4) Finance

BT confirmed that 2019 had been a very good year financially for Alpine with all events in surplus. The 2019 overall accounts have not yet been finalised but will be presented at the Snowsport England AGM in November.

The first Qtr Alpine Accounts for 2020 have been completed and CP will now release them to the committee for review and circulation. Bormio was extremely successful. This was due to higher entry levels as well as costs being under budget (except for the VAT on slope facilities).

***Post meeting note: BT reported that, subject to a number of queries, the first Qtr draft surplus was such that without any calendar events but with maintained membership fees, the estimated year's result would not be a bad as feared.***

**Action: CP to circulate 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2020 Alpine accounts to the committee**

### 5) Feedback from Committee and Regional Chairs' Meeting 14 May

LJ circulated notes from the meeting which he had attended (appendix 1). This meeting discussed the Snowsport England COVID-19 post-lockdown position.

TF then gave an update on what has been happening since lockdown started in March. There have been discussions with facilities around the country concerning when they might be able to re-open. At the request of the facilities, a survey was sent out by Snowsport England to seek the opinions of the members on this. (There have been >3000 responses so far.) It is expected that outdoor slopes will be able to re-

open before indoor ones – providing they can comply with all guidelines on social distancing etc. The final decision will rest with the facility – not Snowsport England.

**Action: TF will keep the committee updated on the situation regarding facilities re-opening**

## 6) Feedback from Spring TD forum meeting

DM provided an update from the Spring TD forum (appendix 2). This includes how end of season seed points will be allocated given the limited amount of racing likely to take place.

There had been no progress on the suggestion of availability of TDs to lead officials' courses. This will be discussed in the future when the courses restart.

## 7) 2020 Calendar

It was agreed that all Snowsport England owned races would be cancelled until August. The situation regarding the remaining races this season would be reviewed after the working group (AH, DC, LJ and BT) reported at the end of June.

It is hoped that some local or regional events will be able to be held later in the season. However, this decision will be up to the facilities hosting the events and will depend on their ability to comply with the guidelines set with relation to Covid-19.

DE suggested that both the TD and Facility forms completed in relation to an event will need additional sections to deal with compliance with Covid-19 guidelines.

- i. **Race Format** A small working group was set up of LJ, AH, SB and GC to liaise with TF and Ian Findlay regarding the race format for any events which are able to go ahead in the 2020 summer season. This format will need to be tailored to the facility hosting the event. Depending on what changes are proposed, there may need to be consultation with the TD forum. The group will report back to the rest of the committee by the end of June.

**Action: LJ to report back to the committee by the end of June on working group recommendations regarding format for any possible race events this summer**

- ii. **CN and GBR Series competitions** Whilst it was agreed that a small number of races may occur in the later part of the season, it was felt that a meaningful overall result for either the CN or GBR series would not be possible. It was therefore agreed that, for 2020, the CN series would be cancelled. TF will discuss with SSS and SSW regarding the GBR series – but the committee felt that the overall awards for this should also be cancelled for 2020.

**Action: TF to confirm with SSS and SSW that overall awards for the GBR races should be cancelled for 2020**

**Post meeting note: TF has confirmed with SSS and SSW that the GBR Series for 2020 is cancelled.**

TF also confirmed that the GBR series sponsors (Eola) have generously still provided sponsorship this season and have confirmed their continued sponsorship in 2021. The medals already purchased for the 2020 events will be used in 2021.

- iii. **Perpetual Trophies** Perpetual trophy holders from the 2019 season are normally asked to return their trophies at this time. However, with no events at which they can return them, this will be difficult. They should keep their trophies at the moment and they will be contacted later in the summer when it is known how the return can be organised.

**Action: MC to contact all trophy holders to let them know the situation on trophy return**

## 8) English Alpine Championships

DM had nothing to report on this. Plans are continuing for the 2021 English Championships to take place in Bormio.

## 9) 2021 Calendar Planning

A working group of AH, DC, LJ and BT has recently met to discuss the 2021 calendar. The committee considered draft proposals aimed at freeing up some of the calendar weekends and minimising travel. They proposed double-header weekends - not only for GBR races (indoor and outdoor) but also for CNs within regions.

The sub-group will continue its review and a summary of updated proposals will be presented at the next Alpine committee meeting in July. By that time, discussions will have taken place with SSS and SSW on the GBR series.

DE pointed out that the race formats will need to be clear before clubs and facilities can be asked to bid for races.

**Action: TF to liaise with SSS and SSW to seek agreement on GBR scheduling for 2021**

**Post meeting note: TF has confirmed that SSS and SSW are happy with the planned GBR scheduling for 2021, with an indoor and outdoor weekend each.**

## 10) Officials

- i. **Training** This is covered in appendix 3. TF highlighted that there may need to be some ad hoc training regarding the Covid-19 situation when race events restart.
- ii. **Registration and recording of officials' activity** It is hoped that the new CRM system coming online for Snowsport England this year will address the issues of AH being notified of all those registering as officials by asking them to tick an "opt in" box when they register.

An additional problem is that race organisers do not always submit a complete list of officials after an event. AH/BT will produce an excel sheet for race organisers to complete to try and address this.

**Action: AH/BT to develop return sheet for race organisers to complete after their event which lists all officials**

- iii. **Recognition of volunteers** AH, MC and Victoria Stonehouse have put together a proposal for volunteer recognition (appendix 4). As this will have financial implications for Snowsport England, it was agreed that the proposal should be discussed once the effects of the pandemic on the budget are known.

## 11) Ambassadors

GC reported that the Ambassadors' kit (race top and hoodie) had been sent out at the beginning of the season. Updated photos of all the Ambassadors have been sent to the office and uploaded onto the website.

The Ambassadors are keen for a couple of night races to be held during future summer seasons. The planning sub group (AH, DC, LJ and BT) will consider this in the planning for 2021. DM commented that the TD forum would need to check whether any changes/additions needed to be made to the rules for these to be held.

**Actions: AH/DC/LJ/BT to consider night races for 2021 summer calendar  
DM to check if rule changes would be needed for night races to be run**

## 12) AOB

- i. SB confirmed that a course setting course scheduled for June would not now be taking place. It will be rescheduled when the timing of re-opening of facilities is known.
- ii. SB reported that the Snowsport England technical committee currently have a subcommittee reviewing the coaching pathway, to review the coaching roles required to support all aspects of

athlete development, and this will include where coaching education on topics like course setting will be included

**Action: SB to update the committee on the progress of the review of the coaching pathway**

- iii. JS reported that he had been working with Ian Findlay on England Squad selection. He confirmed that, following race cancellations due to Covid-19, no one would lose their place this year.

**13) Date of next meeting**

**The date of the next meeting is  
19:00 Wednesday 22 July 2020 (by Zoom).**

**Actions:**

<b>4</b>	<b>CP</b>	<b>To circulate 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2020 Alpine accounts to the committee</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>TF</b>	<b>To keep the committee updated on the situation regarding facilities re-opening</b>
<b>7i</b>	<b>LJ</b>	<b>To report back to the committee by the end of June on working group recommendations regarding format for any possible race events this summer</b>
<b>7 ii</b>	<b>TF</b>	<b>To confirm with SSS and SSW that overall awards for the GBR races should be cancelled for 2020</b>
<b>7 iii</b>	<b>MC</b>	<b>To contact all trophy holders to let them know about returning their trophies</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>TF</b>	<b>To liaise with SSS and SSW to seek agreement on GBR scheduling for 2021</b>
<b>10 ii</b>	<b>AH/BT</b>	<b>To develop return sheet for race organisers to complete after their event which lists all officials</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>AH/DC/LJ/BT</b>	<b>To consider night races for 2021 summer calendar</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>DM</b>	<b>To check if rule changes would be needed for night races to be run</b>
<b>12 ii</b>	<b>SB</b>	<b>To update the committee on the progress of the review of the coaching pathway</b>

## Appendix 1

### COVID-19 Post-Lockdown Position

SE have organised some virtual meetings during late April/ mid-May to review where we are as a sport following the lockdown introduced as a response to COVID-19. These have involved Committee Chairs, Regions and Clubs. The summary of what has been happening and action taken to date is below. The latest meeting held on 14th May also included a discussion on what actions may be necessary to allow re-opening of facilities.

### Cancellation of Events

- It was decided at a joint meeting of GB Snowsport and the HNs to initially postpone/cancel all calendar events for April and May 2020.
- A further decision was taken to extend to cancel all calendar events to the end of June 2020.
- Ski slopes and facilities were closed as part of the introduction of lockdown measures during March 2020 and have remained closed up to the present date.

### Review of actions taken to date by SE

The last meeting reviewed what has been done by SE during the lockdown to date

### Safeguarding

- 1) Thanks to 6/7 regions who recently completed the safeguarding audit.
- 2) There does appear to be a good understanding of safeguarding within the regions, and we realise that some regions have a lot of engagement with C&YP, and others very little, so some of the questions are not so relevant for the latter.
- 3) Regions said they would like safeguarding webinars; there are 3 arranged; first is a Q & A on safeguarding on 14 May; next is a "Stay Safe on Social Media for Clubs" on 20 May and the 3rd is "Safeguarding Considerations for Trips away" on 2nd June.
- 4) Club safeguarding audit – one Region has asked about this again. SE did one in 2016 and this is something we are considering to carry out again, but has to be part of our overall plan as we don't want to over-survey clubs. It will probably happen in 2021. We have recently audited club websites for safeguarding information with the intention of getting the CWO details more visible.
- 5) Regions requested trans-gender guidance. There will be guidance in the revised version of SnowSafe, due out during 2020. We have promoted inclusion on social media, and (Luke) produced an infogram last year for social media.
- 6) We will be producing our Safeguarding Adults Policy during 2020 and further promoting courses for safeguarding adults, but these are currently advisory and not mandatory, as are the mental health awareness courses.

### Government Guidance

- Government is continually updating advice both for individuals but also clubs/ business.
- There are useful documents in terms of the principles to consider when looking at activity and also FAQs
- Sport England has a page which links to all the relevant sport guidance <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/coronavirus>

### What SE are doing (in regards to engagement and return to activity)

- The team are continuing to engage with clubs and members

- We are also having 2 facility webinars next week to help share best practice and support facilities to be able to open
- Continue to update our membership via website and social media.
- Starting to look ahead and how we fit with the 3 steps the government has set out and get activity going again
- Looking at key volunteers and the challenge some volunteers that used to volunteer may not now be able to

#### **Piste map to bring facilities back into use**

- Firstly no one has the answer as we are. We have never had a situation like the current one.
- It was agreed that there is no 'one size fits all' solution and this needs to be agreed at a local level.
- Each facility will need to do a risk assessment and decide if they can open within the government guidelines.
- Each club will also need to do this when the time is right.
- It was felt the best way was for SE to signpost to government guidance and highlight key points that members/clubs should consider and where to find the guidance.
- At present it was unlikely that we would see any appreciable numbers of facilities opening before August/September and SnoZone were quoted as stating that they were unlikely to open until October.
- Biggest area Snowsport England could help on in the immediate term is with a survey gather info on customers views (We will look to get something drafted for next week's facility call. John Greenwood to send link to similar survey)
  - Look to include questions on equipment, their concerns, their views on using a slope, when might they return, etc.
- Factors for consideration for facilities/clubs include in deciding how to operate under social distancing (not an exhaustive list):
  - Use of own equipment/Use of hired equipment.
    - Need for cleaning and sanitisation.
    - Boots/skis/poles/gloves/helmets etc
  - Still missing information/guidance regarding first aid and what happens there.
  - Compliance with Social Distancing Measures
    - Impact on potential capacity of a facility
  - Public perception and appetite
    - There is real uncertainty of what the public mood and appetite is and whether they will want to come back and attend ski slopes
  - Hotel availability would be an issue for any potential competition

#### **Other points , AOB & Follow up from previous meeting**

- Question on cycle tracks for roller skiing and are these opening (Jan already followed up with Glennis Dore)
- Need to be innovative and adaptable as we progress and look at events and having increased numbers. This is for all disciplines
- SWSA – are launching virtual racing to keep membership engaged. Will update on how this is received at next meeting
- Membership – consider extend or pro-rata / free membership until activity starts
- SE - Keep doing what we are doing
- Potential to use online meetings in future and cut expenses for Board, AGM staff meetings

Next Meeting: 4th June 2020

## Feedback to SSE Alpine Committee from TD Forum May 2020

David Manns. 31st May 2020

The Spring TD Forum meeting was held 'virtually' (using GoToMeeting) with 31 'attendees' including some who have previously found it impossible to attend this meeting in person. The Autumn (November) meeting will continue to be held 'physically' (barring any remaining issues with COVID19), but consideration will be given to holding future Spring meetings over the wire.

### Homologation

#### FIS Homologation

There is an on-going issue with snow slopes where at least some FIS homologation documents are written for World Cup standard, in some cases requiring considerably more security installations than would be needed for a 'normal' FIS event. Without clear written indication of the allowed 'step down' security any attempt to reduce the installation below that required by the homologation document could render the ROC/TD liable should any incidents occur.

There is also a significant different in the level of detail included in the documents; some have masses of detailed diagrams whereas others say little more than "put nets where you think you need them".

Both are issues recognised by FIS as being of concern and will be (were) discussed at the Spring FIS technical meetings. They currently have no direct impact on any events organised by SE.

#### BCR requirements

Under BCR, all seeded calendar races must take place on a slope homologated for the type of race. After some discussion it was agreed that the principle should remain that there be no planned use of slopes that are not homologated for the type of event (SL, GS, etc.) being run. The rules will be updated in November to explicitly state this.

No dispensations will be granted for any race that plans to use a slope that does not conform, whether that is due to insufficient vertical drop, type of event, or other reason. Slopes that have been used in the past must therefore be properly homologated before they can be used for seeded races (this includes the portions of the Lauberhorn used for the British Schoolboys, and potentially some Scottish races although all their homologations are due next summer).

BCR also allows for national as well as FIS homologation, but only where these are carried out under a recognised national system. This currently means only France and Italy. Again no change, and no effect on any events run by SE.

### Rule Changes

The changes made last May to allow points from published seed lists to be the only ones used for race acceptance and start order was applied from the beginning of the 2019-20 Winter season and raised very few concerns. It was however clear that there was a substantial reduction in work for ROCs in preparing race entries as they no longer had to deal with requests to 'find' points from earlier lists/seasons.

### Seeding

#### BCR Snow seeding

The final planned BASS list for 2020 was discarded following the cancellation of competitions due to COVID-19, and list 6 became the end-of-season list. A small number of competitors may have been disadvantaged by the absence of these last few competitions, but not enough to warrant making any corrections to the seed point calculations.

### BACR Artificial seeding

The opening 2020 BARTS lists were published in March, and no further lists will be published until there is a clear picture of how and when competition will resume.

Should the entire season be lost then seed points will simply be rolled over to the following season without the usual end-of-season loading.

Should it still be possible to run some seeded races towards the end of the season, then the Timing & Calculations SC will discuss possible means of accommodating these within the seeding system whilst trying to keep it fair to all, including those not able to access those remaining competitions.

### Medical Plans

After further discussion it was agreed – for now at least – to retain the existing wording that medical cover should (rather than must) be dedicated to the race. The Forum recognised the difficulties at some locations where the use of facility staff is mandated as part of their terms.

Some re-wording of the rules is being drafted to take into account of guidance from other sources including HSE but no substantial changes are expected.

### TD Qualification

Taryn Archbold and Kirsty Hope are progressing towards taking the GBR written exam in November and the practical examinations during Winter 2020-21.

Due to personal commitments Andy du Plessis is unable to progress to on-snow examinations but will remain active as an Artificial-only TD.

Other progress: Tristan Cole passed FIS on-snow exams; Shell Quaile took one FIS exam but the other was cancelled. Apparently the GBR TD development system is well-regarded by FIS, with an excellent (>95%) pass rate.

### FIS matters

Ireland have now joined the 'Lowlands Group' of NSAs.

There are proposals being tabled for lowering the age groups, and for limiting the number of starts for the youngest age group, but apparently there is considerable opposition to these proposals.

The FIS Medical Guide has been re-issued and there is a new medical checklist for event organisers to assist with planning.

FIS are also continuing to work on gender balance, something that the Forum notes regarding British technical officials and will continue with its current efforts to redress the imbalance.

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## Report on Officials' Training

3rd June 2020

Covid-19 has impacted on Officials' training as on everything else.

1. **We need to agree an extension of all validation and re-validation deadlines.**

It is unlikely we will get any more qualifying races in 2020 and those whose volunteering is confined geographically may well have already missed their chance to volunteer.

2. **There has, as yet been no planning for L3 Courses.**

This is not likely to be at the forefront of anyone's mind. As the year progresses and the lockdown evolves, it does seem possible that we shall, as usual, be able to run face-to-face courses in the autumn. However, we may also be in the midst of a bow wave of events pushed forward from the summer. The outcome of discussions with SSS may also impact.

**Liaison with Snowsport Scotland** A lengthy phone call with Iain of SSS suggests some possible pointers to our collaboration. SSS has slightly differing needs to ours and has traditionally had a different segmentation of delivery. I feel there is much to commend their approach.

The following is the rough outline of a way forward:

1. All roles are trained on-line, but face to face training remains possible.
2. All roles are trained individually.
3. All on-line training packages end with a quiz.
4. All training is public facing but quiz results are by log-in.
5. To log in you must be registered.
6. Once completed, each role, except CoR, must be "shared" (shadowed or observed) before being done.
7. CoR must be observed to be signed off.
8. One signed-off for a role, officials must perform most roles at least once every three years.
9. Roles taken together form levels in the SE sense
10. Greater logged experience will be required to perform in the mountains.
11. Roles can only be signed off by TDs and named L4 officials.
12. Moving to a 3-year cycle would bring officials into line with instructors and coaches

Paul Traynor has volunteered to look for suitable on-line material. The USSA Gate Judge training is an excellent example of what is already out there. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fc8ifaVrQ04>

Calcs would remain as a separate training pathway but I see no reason for Race Sec not to be included.

### Pathway

The pathway documents require updating. The outcome of our discussions about SSS integration will impact significantly on the new draft!

### Level 1 and SE website/registration issues

The SSS section above references registration, this continues to be an area of complexity. This is a pity as the stages are really not complex! To be on the Officials' Pathway has 3 requisites:

1. Registration
2. Opt-in (to the log for logging purposes)
3. Training

I feel we are close to being able to resolve this long running issue. Please can we do so for 2021?

- The opt-in need not be a separate issue, it should be an automatic extension of registration
- If the outcome of completing any training was dependant on being registered, we would remove most of the emails Claire has to forward to me!
- The outcome would be a secure list for race organisers which could include:
  - Officials
  - Course-setters
  - Coaches capable of acting as referee (UKCP2/BASIMC)

## Recognition of Officials and Volunteers

### Proposals for Snowsport England Merchandise

- All existing and aspirant level 3 officials (ie those who have completed the L3 course) and L4 officials who have volunteered at 5 or more events in a season should receive a red "Officials' hoodie"
- All officials/volunteers (at whatever level) who volunteer at events should accrue points to count towards a discount on Snowsport England merchandise. (They need to be 'registered' as an official/volunteer with Snowsport England.)

There are several points to consider with this;

1. Red Hoodies will only be available to qualifying officials. They will not be on the merchandise website available to all members. They will have a logo on the front left breast and also on the back with 'Official' in white text underneath. Both



and

logos will be used (a mock-up will be needed to decide which goes where). As the hoodie will be red, the text for the logos may have to be just white – or white and blue. Logos will be printed onto the garments and not 'sewn in'. The hoodies will be zipped.

2. Only those acting as volunteer officials should be included in this – not those who are paid such as slope staff or those acting as TDs.
3. Following the 2019/2020 season, there are likely to be just under 30 people who qualify for hoodies when they are available – these will be sent out free.
4. It needs to be agreed how many points have to be accrued for a discount to be awarded, what level this discount should be and when it should be awarded.
5. It needs to be agreed where race secs and calcs fit in. They are qualified in that role but may not be level 3 officials. (There are 3 of these to consider for 2019/2020.) Safeguarding and commentating roles may also need consideration.

### Certificate of thanks

- Another point to consider is all volunteers receiving a certificate of thanks from Snowsport England each year for being a volunteer – this will rely on volunteer information, name and email address, being submitted to SE and shared with Andrew.

### Proposal for a 'Roll of Honour' to be published on the Snowsport England website

- All officials/volunteers (at whatever level) who have volunteered at 5 or more events in a season to go onto the Roll of Honour

For this to be meaningful, all officials/volunteers and their activity must be recorded in the officials' log. This is currently not the case for 2 main reasons.

1. Not all chiefs of race submit a full list of officials/volunteers after their event.
2. When officials register, there is no way at the moment that they can give permission for their details to be shared with the officials' log.

Once the database is considered to be sufficiently up to date, the roll of honour will include everyone eligible unless they have opted out. It will be published on the volunteering page of the Snowsport England website.