

Alpine Committee Meeting

Wednesday 22 July 2020 19:00

By Zoom

Present:

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

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

1) Apologies

Simon Bannister (SB)
Tim Fawke (TF)
Mike Frith (MF)

- 2) **Declaration of Interest and Safeguarding** - There were no new declarations of interest and no safeguarding issues. Declaration of interest forms need to be completed annually so all committee members will be asked to complete a new one.

Action: MC to ask all committee members to complete a new declaration of interest form

- 3) **Minutes from previous meeting** - These had been agreed and published on 15 June 2020.

- 4) **Finance** - BT reported that the first quarter accounts had been circulated in June. There had been no queries. The Alpine Championships in Bormio were a huge success. BT recorded thanks to DM and his team for making this happen. A 2020 financial projection for Snowsport England (SE) has been produced by BT. Even if there are no further Snowsport England races this year, the income from Bormio should mean that all fixed costs can be covered. DE and BT will work together on the half year accounts.

Action: DE/BT to present half year accounts when available

- 5) **Alpine Committee Terms of Reference** - The TORs of all Snowsport England (SE) committees are being reviewed and updated in line with SE's new Vision and Mission statements. The Alpine Committee (AC) have been asked to review a document of their TORs. Following discussions by BT with Nordic and Freestyle, it was felt that having a general document for all discipline committees (with a smaller one specific to each discipline) would be much simpler and would align the discipline committees better. Drafts have been prepared of each. The general document was discussed with Nordic and Freestyle committee chairs and the specific Alpine document was circulated to all AC members. Both were updated as a result of these discussions. The amended drafts have been sent to TF for presentation to the Board.

Action: BT/MC to update AC on TORs following feedback from the Board

- 6) **English Alpine Championships Update** - DM reported that planning for the 2021 event in Bormio is progressing well. He is awaiting confirmation of the race timetable from the resort. Adverts have been posted on the SE website to recruit members of the hill team and a van driver.

The question of additional prizes for race winners was raised and DM confirmed that the ROC was looking into this but no decision had yet been made whether it would be possible. PT asked if the ROC could consider the winners being given free entry to the following year's event as part of this consideration.

- 7) **2020 Calendar Update** – LJ reported that a Home Nations 2020 Post-Covid group has been set up. TF, LJ, AH, GC and Ian Findley represent SE on this. This last met on 7 July and meets again on 7 August. It has published a pathway for return to racing which has been published on the SE website.

A Sub-Working Group reporting to the above group has also been set up to look at specific preparations for running competitions during the remainder of 2020. This consists of LJ, AH, GC, and SB.

PT has recently run a camp at Stoke and will be running 2 more over the summer. He will share the details of the practices he puts into place for these regarding Covid with LJ.

Action: LJ to update the AC on the decisions made by the Post-Covid groups after the meeting on 7 August

- 8) **2021 Calendar Planning** - The calendar planning group of AH, DC, LJ and BT will be meeting in the next two weeks to discuss the 2021 plans. Consideration is being given to the inclusion of night races. DM confirmed that there would be no rule changes needed to run these. It was hoped that these could provide a sponsorship opportunity.

AH confirmed that he would develop a "return sheet" for Chiefs of Race (CORs) to provide details of which roles officials had performed at events. The difficulty has always been persuading all CORs to return this information.

Action: AH to produce return sheet for Officials' activity at races

- 9) **Perpetual Trophies** - It was decided that all trophy winners would be asked to keep their trophies until the 2021 season. MC will let all trophy winners know.

Action: MC to contact all trophy winners again to ask them to keep their trophies

It is proposed that a list of trophy winners should be published on the SE website and gbski at the end of each summer season. This will link with logging contact details for each trophy.

Action: MC to note that Alpine Secretary's role will include ensuring trophy winners' list is published following All England Championships

10) **Alpine Squad**

JS reported that the Alpine Squad Selection Notice has been sent out (appendix 1). This includes details of the selection criteria. (A notice will also be sent to the English athletes in the GB squad.) JS is planning two separate announcements of congratulations on the website one for congratulating the England squad athletes and one for the England athletes selected for GB.

It was agreed that there was overlap between the Alpine Committee and the new Talent Management Group in this process and concern was expressed that this could lead to confusion. For the future, it needs to be clear what the role of each is. Discussion on a talent liaison role for the Alpine Squad was deferred to the next meeting.

Post meeting note: It has been realised that appendix 5 of the Alpine minutes on 20 October 2019 was omitted in the published document. It is attached to these minutes as Appendix 2.

- 11) Course Setters' Courses** - GC asked if it would be possible to hold course setters' courses over the summer. PT offered to run a course and will contact Ryan Grewcock to get one organised and advertised.

Action: PT to contact Ryan Grewcock about running a course setters' course this summer

- 12) AOB** - It was announced that Mike Frith would be standing down from the committee. BT recorded a vote of thanks for all the work which Mike has done over the years. A formal letter of thanks will be sent to him. BT/LJ will liaise with TF so that an advert can be placed for Mike's replacement as a regional representative.

Action: BT/LJ to liaise with TF for advert to be placed for a regional rep on the Alpine Committee

MF's role as coordinator for equipment would be shared between DE and GC for the time being.

- 13) Date of next meeting**

Thursday 17 September at 7:00 pm by Zoom.

Actions:

2	MC	to ask all committee members to complete a new declaration of interest form
4	DE/BT	to present half year accounts when available
5	BT/MC	to update AC on TORs following feedback from the Board
7	LJ	to update the AC on the decisions made by the Post-Covid groups after their meeting on 7 August
8	AH	to produce return sheet for Officials' activity at races
9	MC	to contact all trophy winners again to ask them to keep their trophies
9	MC	to note that Alpine Secretary's role to include ensuring trophy winners' list is published following All England Championships
11	PT	to contact Ryan Grewcock about running a course setters' course this summer
12	BT/LJ	to liaise with TF for advert to be placed for a regional rep on the Alpine Committee

Snowsport England Alpine Squad – July 2020

Over the past few months Snowsport England has been reviewing the selection policy in light of COVID-19 and the situation that left many races cancelled and athletes not having a chance to complete a full season of competition.

We have sought advice from subject matter specialists on other NGB's on the best way to proceed with a squad selection to try and ensure a fair approach to the athletes given the unexpected situation everyone has found themselves in.

Snowsport England will contact all athletes who have met the criteria to inform them of the next steps.

Selection Criteria 2020/21

Selections will be made using the 2020.6 BASS list and 17th 2019/2020 FIS point list. To be eligible for selection to the England Alpine Squad athletes must meet the below criteria

- Must be a registered competitor with SSE in the 20/21 season.
- U18/U21 athletes must have a GBR FIS license in the 20/21 season

2004, 2005 YOB

Selection will be conducted from 2019.6 BASS list where athletes within 40 points of the best GBR racer or ranked within the Top 5 GBR racers, in at least 2 disciplines, within their YOB will be selected.

2003 YOB

Athletes with less than 135 points in two disciplines or 95 point in one discipline on the 17th 2019/2020 FIS point list will be selected to the squad.

2002 YOB

Athletes with less than 120 points in two disciplines or 80 points in one discipline, on the 17th 2019/2020 FIS point List will be selected to the squad.

2001 YOB

Athletes with less than 110 points in two disciplines or 70 in one discipline on the 17th 2019/2020 FIS point list will be selected to the squad.

2000 YOB

Athletes with less than 100 points in two disciplines or 60 in one discipline on the 17th 2019/2020 FIS point list will be selected to the squad.

Grace Period

Athletes who met the 2019/20 Alpine Squad criteria but failed to meet the 2020/21 criteria will be reselected to the squad and given a one-year grace period in which it is hoped they will make the improvements needed to meet the 2021/22 criteria.

Athletes selected to the squad via their grace year will be notified of this at the time of selection, while those who were selected to the squad in 2019/20 on a grace year and failed to meet the 2020/21 criteria will also be notified that their grace period has expired.

Appeals

Athletes are entitled to appeal the Alpine Squad selection if they feel the published criteria has not been adhered to. The process of appeal is outlined below

1. Athlete or guardian to send letter of appeal to Alpine Squad Committee (alpinesquad@snowsportengland.org)
2. The Alpine Squad Committee will review the original selection & respond to the appeal with further explanation behind the original decision or an apology for their oversight.
3. If the athlete or guardian are not satisfied with either the process or the outcome of the Alpine Squad Committee's review, then they may request that their appeal be considered by an Internal Appeals Committee.
4. The Snowsport England Appeals Chairman will constitute an Internal Appeals Committee made up of at least three people who are not part of the Alpine Squad Committee.
5. The Internal Appeals Committee will determine if the Alpine Squad Committee applied the selection policy correctly and respond to the athlete/guardian with their findings.

Appendix 2

Alpine Squad Report to Alpine Committee 20 October 2019

Key observations from JS:

1. Alpine Squad - by name only. It doesn't meet up. We need to get pride back into the National Squad.
2. Inclusivity – This is currently dependent upon £ of mum and dad. Although pulling best of that, it might be missing other athletes who maybe can't afford.
3. Funding - Although the Squad was sponsored by Burnt Custard, they had to pay for their own kit. We need to get proper funding in place.

I am pulling together a 3-5 year plan that would like to present at the next committee meeting.

Squad Selection (James Knock)

Having submitted a list of comments and suggestions to GBS in 2018 regarding the U14/16 International selections prior to their policy review meeting, it was disappointing to see that none of the feedback had been acted on and the same policy that has been utilised in recent years was regurgitated.

To try and make the best of the situation, I formed a focus group of coaches representing SE athletes that had finished Top 3 YOB at the English or British Champs or ranked Top 3 YOB on the BASS list. This left us with a representative for Ambition, Apex, BSA, Evolution, Excel & Kandahar.

Then, over many emails and a couple of conference calls, the group agreed upon a preferred selection outcome to submit to the GBS panel, which was largely reflected in the final selections.

Feedback on using this process so far has been mainly positive. There are still frustrations at the GBS policy and some of the things we do not have control over, but the efforts for getting everyone together to discuss and debate have been appreciated none the less.

We will use a similar format in January to again form a SE consensus view that can be submitted to the GBS panel.

As mentioned in earlier emails, Paul Telling who sits on the Alpine Committee for a separate responsibility was a part of the process, representing Evolution, and has agreed to enlighten the committee on what has been done if they're interested.

TASS (Julian Sambles)

In July 2019 we were award 8 TASS places for the TASS year 2019/20. These are awards which provide support services and a small amount of funding (£500) for each athlete. Athletes receive Strength and conditioning, performance lifestyle, nutrition, physiotherapy and access to a medical scheme. These services are delivered through a university near to the athlete's home address.

We have been working hard with our partners at Sport England/TASS/Sports Aid etc to ensure we can make nominations across all snowsport disciplines and this is now the case allowing us to nominate alpine athletes to TASS for the first time since TASS has been funded by Sport England.

Three alpine athletes have been nominated (Robert Holmes, Sophie Foster and Lois Jackson). The SE Talent Lead worked with staff from GB Snowsport (who reached out to academy coaches) to generate the nomination list. In addition, two ski cross athletes (Emma Peters and Nick Bingham) have TASS nominations, one Para athlete and two park & pipe athletes also have places. Whilst the number of places for Snowsport is low compared to the number of athletes across all Olympic disciplines, this does represent progress for us as a sport and we will continue to lobby for more places in the coming years.

DiSE (Julian Sambles)

The DiSE Programme will start in November. It is open to athletes in all disciplines (who meet age/education criteria as set down by the Department of Education). The level of interest was extremely high which was very pleasing however the number of athletes who were eligible was low with 3 alpine athletes taking up places. The programme places additional admin pressure on SE but with low numbers in year 1 it will allow us to evaluate the programme and establish what additional support is needed. The programme should deliver some resource to SE but this is based on athlete numbers. We can still recruit more athletes onto the programme if they can be registered by early November.