

Alpine Committee Meeting

Thursday 1 October 2020 19:00

By Zoom

Present:

Lloyd Jenkins (LJ)
Bryan Thomas (BT)
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)
Stephen Metheringham (SM)

BT welcomed SM to the meeting. SM explained that he was attending committee meetings of all the SE disciplines in an observation role. He would provide any links needed between the disciplines.

1) Apologies

Simon Bannister (SB)
Claire Pennell (CP)

2) **Declaration of Interest and Safeguarding** - There were no new declarations of interest and no safeguarding issues. All committee members have completed up to date declarations of interest.

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

4) **Finance** - BT gave an update on the adjusted accounts for 2019 and the first two quarters of 2020. 2020 is well ahead of budget due to an excellent result from the Alpine Championships. With the prospect of no SE calendar races in the third and fourth quarters of 2020, Alpine will incur losses due to fixed costs. However, there is every prospect that we will still be in surplus at the year end.

Budgets for both Alpine and Alpine Squad 2021 are in hand. (These will now be separate.) LJ is awaiting the race bids for the 2021 races to put into the budget framework. The budgets need to be submitted to TF and Simon Levene by the 25th October so they can go to the Board for the November meeting.

Action: LJ/DE/BT to submit Alpine and Alpine Squad budgets to TF by 25 October

5) **2020 Calendar Update** – The Alpine Committee is very disappointed that it has not been possible to organise any seeded races within the UK for the 2020 season. The added rules and local variations in the form of lockdowns as well as the general added worry and uncertainty, make it impossible to run the four outdoor races and one indoor race which it had hoped to provide. To provide only one or, at most, two races would seem unfair on those from other regions and, worse, be seen as encouraging unnecessary travel. The rules for spectators have added a layer of complexity.

LJ expressed his thanks to AH for all his efforts in trying to make racing possible. He also thanked DM for all the help provided by the TD forum.

The Alpine Committee would encourage and would be happy to support regions/clubs to run local "fun" races during the remainder of this year.

Action: LJ to put a further notice out to the membership explaining why no seeded races are possible in 2020

6) **2021 Calendar Update –**

- i. AH gave an update on Race Planning and Officials' Training for the 2021 season (Appendix 1). Invitations to bid have gone out to facilities, regions and clubs. It is likely that most of the indoor races will be at Chill Factore as other venues are considerably more expensive.
- ii. GC suggested that a Home Nations team competition take place within the next summer race season – possibly in the late spring. JS will contact other HNs to assess their level of interest

Action: JS to contact the other Home Nations to assess the level of interest in a Home Nations team competition

- 7) **Alpine ToR Update –** The ToRs for the Alpine (and other) Committees have been approved by the SE Board. TF will be having a meeting with the Regional and Committee chairs to take these forward. The ToRs will then be published on the website – with photos/job titles of all committee members.

8) **Alpine Championships Update –**

- i. DM presented a proposal to award free race entry as prizes for race winners at the Alpine Championships. Feedback from the 2020 competition (via online survey and various direct comments to ROC members) indicated a general perception that our prizes were sometimes of little value. The ROC will be working with sponsors as well as local outlets in Bormio itself to improve the prizes in general. The ROC is also proposing that the 'headline' prize for each race should be free entry into a race in the next Championships. The committee unanimously agreed that these prizes should be introduced. TF will announce them formally when appropriate.

Action: TF to make an announcement when appropriate about prizes at the Alpine Championships

- ii. DM reported that preparations for the Alpine Championships in 2021 were going well. The team is almost complete. JS will be the health coordinator at the event to ensure Covid safety. The FIS documentation (with appropriate adjustment for SE races) will be used as the guidelines. JS will also be driving the van out to the championships.
- iii. GC asked if there was a date at which it would be decided if the Alpine Championships could go ahead or not. TF confirmed that, currently, planning was for the event to go ahead. A discussion will take place in early January to review this and make a decision.

- 9) **Alpine Squad –** JS presented the current squad selection criteria (Appendix 2). The selection has taken place for the 2020/2021 squad and most letters have gone out to athletes.

The selection criteria for the 2021/2022 season will be published by November. They will be produced by the Talent Group and approved by the Alpine Committee. There are queries about age groups and racers with dual nationality which still need to be considered. The squad will be announced in April 2021.

Action: JS to circulate the selection criteria for 2021/2022 to the Alpine Committee before they are published in November

10) Alpine Pathway – DC presented an outline proposal for the Alpine Pathway. A clearly defined pathway with regionally based squads is being considered. More detail needs to be worked out such as the number of squads and the number of athletes in those squads. DC and JS will take this forward. and would welcome other thoughts and comments from the committee.

Action: DC/JS to provide Alpine Pathway update at next meeting

11) Perpetual Trophies –

- i. There are 2 trophies for the summer race season which have gone missing. (They were not presented to last year's winners.) MC will liaise with TF to organise replacements.

Action: MC to liaise with TF for replacement of the missing trophies

- ii. For the summer season, MC has a record of all trophies and who has won them (with contact details). DM will organise a similar list for the trophies awarded at the Alpine Championships.

Action: DM to produce trophy list (with holders and their contact details) for the Alpine Championships

12) Course Setters' Course – A very successful course setters' course was held at Swadlincote in September. A report from PT is attached (Appendix 3). PT felt that there were too many participants for the 2 trainers and would ideally suggest a ratio of 5 participants per trainer. A further course is planned at Norwich and this is already full.

PT recommends that anyone on the "A" course setters' list should shadow the trainers on a course so that they can then help to deliver courses in the future.

13) AOB

- i. Currently, level 3 officials' courses are led by two TDs. It is proposed that this be reviewed to see if they could be led by one TD and one senior official.

Action: AH/DM to review leadership of Officials' Courses

- ii. JS reported that he had received an email from GB Snowsports regarding the Children's team selections for the upcoming season. He and TF had a phone link with the academies and clubs and nominations have been submitted to GB Snowsport. Rob Bullen will continue to manage the nominations for the future. JS thanked all concerned for facilitating the nominations.

- iii. It has been announced that a new Chair has been appointed to the SE Board – Louise Wright. She will take over from Jamie Horner after the AGM in November. The Committee look forward to working with her and welcoming her to Alpine Events.

14) Date of next meeting

Wednesday 2 December at 7:00 pm by Zoom.

Actions:

4	LJ/DE/BT	to submit Alpine and Alpine Squad budgets to TF by 25 October
5	LJ	to put a further notice out to the membership explaining why no seeded races are possible in 2020
6.ii	JS	to contact the other Home Nations to assess the level of interest in a Home Nations team competition
8.i	TF	to make an announcement on the SE website about prizes at the Alpine Championships
9	JS	to circulate the selection criteria for 2021/2022 to the Alpine Committee before they are published in November
10	DC/JS	to provide Alpine Pathway update at next meeting
11.i	MC	to liaise with TF for replacement of the missing trophies
11.2	DM	to produce trophy list (with holders and their contact details) for the Alpine Championships
13.i	AH/DM	to review leadership of Officials' Courses

**Report for the Alpine Committee on Race Planning, Officials' Training
1st October 2020**

Races for 2020

Quite a lot of work was put into the plans/template for a set of races based on the Club National format. Unfortunately, the worsening Covid situation led to the cancellation of our plans. My thanks to all who helped and engaged positively with us:

- Lloyd and David for work on the template and rules
- Paul and David Hanlon for sharing their experience of running an event at Stoke
- The slopes who offered to host (and many of you reading this who I know were instrumental in encouraging the slopes to offer); Silksworth, Gloucester, Swadlincote, Rossendale and Chill Factore and our slope liaison at those slopes
- Finally, Tim and those trying to get clarity from a plethora of Government announcements.

Races for 2021

I should start by thanking the ad hoc (possibly standing?) sub-committee for their help, encouragement and advice. The publication of the bid documents was delayed while the possibility of running races this autumn was being explored.

The bid documentation was sent to slopes/clubs at 1400 on Tuesday 29th September with the request that bids are received (or intentions to bid are received) by 1700 on Friday 16th October.

There are areas to tidy but, as our plans may change once we have the experience of 2021, these need not be resolved now. I will, however, flag the following:

- Proportional division of the series given the disparate number of racers/clubs/slopes in each of the home nations
- Making the British Indoor Championship the championship race on weekend 3 of the Indoor GBR series
- Making the Inter-regional (outdoor) the second day of weekend 3 of the Outdoor GBR series

We have discussed the planned changes at length and understand the reasoning. We consulted and got next to no feedback and that which we got was from the same club (and, as it happens, the same family). Naturally, the plans will meet the approval of some (who will doubtless view them with contented silence) and the disapproval of some (whose reactions are likely to be more voluble). I trust we can all explain the benefits on a local level should the need/opportunity arise! At the heart of the changes is the wish to make the GBR series a "must" for top racers while freeing up the maximum number of dates for Club Nationals and other races.

As in previous years, I have created a project within "Basecamp" (project-management software for which I have a licence) and am happy to include any members of the AC who would like to view the bids as they come in.

Officials' Training

Some practicalities and one potential opportunity.

On a practical level, I suggest 2020 is a non-year for experience. So, anyone who had 2 years to maintain experience to remain, say, L4, from 1st January 2020 now has until 1st January 2023.

If we wish, this would also be the chance to move the time frame for experience gained from 2 years to 3 years. This would be in line with other qualifications. However, the amount of experience would need to increase proportionally.

I have not been in a position to take our discussions with SSS forward.

There are no plans to run an L3 Training Course in 2020.

Finally, the spreadsheet for inputting Officials is a work in progress and will remain so until I can actually send it to someone.

Andrew Hjort

Snowsport England Alpine Squad 2020/21

The 2020/21 England Alpine Squad selection criteria differs from that of previous years by no longer including first year of U16s, by increasing the desired minimum standard across all year groups & by the removal of a grace period. These changes are part of a bigger vision at Snowsport England, where over the coming years we aim to provide any resources that come available to a small group of elite performers.

Selection Criteria

Selections will be made using the 2020.6 BASS list and 19th 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 19/20 season.
- U18/U21 athletes must have a GBR FIS license in the 19/20 season

2004, 2005 YOB

Selection will be conducted from 2020.6 BASS list where athletes within 20points of the best GBR racer or ranked within the Top 3 GBR racers, in at least 2 disciplines, within their YOB will be selected.

2003 YOB

Athletes with less than 135 points in two disciplines on the 19th 2019/2020 FIS point list will be selected to the squad.

2002 YOB

Athletes with less than 120 points in two disciplines, on the 19th 2019/2020 FIS point List will be selected to the squad.

2001 YOB

Athletes with less than 110 points in two disciplines or 80 in one discipline on the 19th 2019/2020 FIS point list will be selected to the squad.

2000 YOB

Athletes with less than 100 points in two disciplines or 70 in one discipline on the 19th 2019/2020 FIS point list will be selected to the squad.

Injury Status

Injury status allows athletes who achieved the 2019/20 selection criteria but failed to achieve the 2020/21 criteria due to injury the opportunity to still be selected to the squad. Any athlete wishing to request selection to the England Alpine Squad via Injury Status must complete the form found in **Appendix 1** [*this form is not included in these minutes*] and return it to the Alpine Squad Committee before 1st July 2020 for their request to be considered.

Results prior to injury along with injury severity & prognosis will be taken into consideration when deciding whether to grant injury status is appropriate.

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.

Course Setting Course Report

Alpine Committee Meeting 1st October 2020

Course Setting Course, Swadlincote, 20th September

Following the obvious restrictions and cancellation of the summer season, myself and Simon delivered the first course setting course of the summer a couple of weeks ago at Swadlincote Ski Centre, organised by Snowsport England.

Broadly speaking, the course was a great success in that 14 participants went away with both a better understanding as to what and why we course set, and a lot more practical experience in setting.

The print outs were useful, with around half the group making notes through the morning and most of the participants taking them with them at the end of the day.

What on paper seemed like quite a long day turned out to be very short, with sessions run both in the “classroom” in a socially distanced manner whilst wearing masks, and out on the slope in groups. We overran by about 30 minutes in order to get everything covered, and in reality could have done an extra hour of practical work both on the slope and finishing off a few bits in the classroom. That is not to say that the course needs to be longer, but perhaps we could be more concise, or bits could be covered in other courses. However, if possible, a course that is 30 minutes longer wouldn't hurt.

With 14 participants and two trainers delivering the course we just about managed to give everyone the feedback and attention they needed to benefit from what is largely a “hands on” course, either in terms of practicing setting or interacting with the trainers. In an ideal situation we would be looking at 5 participants per trainer in order to get the most out of the session. With 14 we had to make 2 groups of 5 and 1 of 4 in order for them to practice setting different courses, and with two trainers could only be hands on with 2 or the 3 groups, so had to rotate between them. With 10 trainees this would have been fine, or a third trainer and 15 trainees, also fine. As you can imagine, if we had split the group into two groups of 7 for myself and Simon to work directly with them, there would have been a lot of standing around within each group.

Finances are obviously a key component in making the numbers work, but I feel that all of the participants left happy and would probably have seen the value in paying £10 more in order to have better ratios for feedback.

We used the majority of the slope throughout the day, with the 3 groups each needing 2 – 3 mats width to set the different courses they were practicing. There was a period of the day when the lower right hand section of the slope was in use, so we were forced to work around this. Again, this limited what we could do practically, and it is worth raising the point that we should ensure the whole slope is booked for the course in future (an oversight from myself and Simon this time.)

If you were to run with 2 groups of 5 and 2 trainers, you could get away with using 2/3rds of a slope, but my feedback would be that for each 5 people attending you need a trainer and 2-3 mats of slope space – from there you just scale up.

The “on slope” portion of the day is obviously the most important, when participants can practice setting and it was extremely helpful having a selection of forerunners come and ski the courses so the course setters could see firsthand the mistakes they were making. Everyone had several opportunities to set, receive feedback and make changes, and throughout the day we increased the difficulty of the courses we asked them to set, and explained the reasons behind it.

A lot of the participants were also unsure of the routes and next steps into setting at races, so Simon talked through the process of getting experience at Club, Regional and then National level, and how the course setters list works in allocating setting to certain levels of races. Many seemed unaware that they could be

involved in shadowing and helping set at regional / national level, and so it was suggested they got involved in that.

With the volume of content that needs to be learnt, and the importance of being able to set not just well, but safely, and seeing the level of the participants (the majority of whom were SE UKCP or UKSS qualified) I would strongly suggest that the next step would be to integrate the Course Setters course into the Level 1 coach courses as a module that has to be completed before they are signed off.

Once you understand the fundamentals, a huge part of course setting comes from experience and there is no need for people to “do refreshers” but a Level 1 Course Setters Module to become an artificial slope coach, and a Level 2 Course Setters Course to become a UKCP2 should be a minimum requirement to ensuring safely set courses that allow skiers to progress.

Finally, it would also make sense to require anyone on the “A List” for UK Course Setters to attend the course in a shadowing role, so they understand the content and are then capable of delivering. At present having only myself and Simon to lead the courses makes no sense, but we should not have people delivering the course who have not been on it.

Paul Telling