

Alpine Committee Meeting

Wednesday 2 December 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)
Stephen Metheringham (SM)

1) Apologies

Simon Bannister (SB)
Tim Fawke (TF)
Claire Pennell (CP)
Louise Wright (LW)

2) **Declaration of Interests and Safeguarding** There were no safeguarding issues. GC has submitted an updated declaration of interest form.

3) **Minutes from previous meeting** – Minutes from the meeting on 1 October 2020 had been agreed and published on 12 October 2020

4) **Introduction of Louise Wright (New Chair of SE) to Committee** – Unfortunately, Louise was unable to attend the meeting at the last minute. She hopes to attend next time – and also to attend some of the calendar events in the 2021 season.

Action: BT to send LW details of the next Alpine Committee meeting as well as the 2021 calendar

5) **Finance Update** – BT reported that TF and Simon Levene had sent all the discipline and regional chairs detailed statements of SE's third quarter and year to date Financial Accounts.

Key points to note are:

- i. **Alpine** There was no activity in the third quarter, just fixed costs producing a small loss. However, because of a very successful Bormio 2020, Alpine are showing a surplus as of 30th Sept and will still be in surplus at the year end.
- ii. **Coaching, Freestyle, Nordic and Schools Advisory** due to no activity are all showing losses due to fixed costs (primarily Central Services charges).
- iii. The Sport England grant is now available to be allocated to cover Central Services costs. This together with the Alpine surplus means that SE (as at 30th Sept) is in surplus. However, the prediction for the year 2020 is an overall loss of £10,000.

6) **Alpine Championship Update** – DM gave an update on the current situation for the Alpine Championships in Bormio scheduled to start on 14 February 2021. No decision has yet been made as to whether the event can go ahead. The TD forum are meeting on 16 December to consider all British competitions planned for February. The organising committee will meet after that and the final decision will need to be ratified by the SE Board before it can be announced. It is hoped this will be by 20 December.

PT asked whether the final decision could be deferred until the end of January. He had been in Bormio last week and noted that 2 FIS races had been moved to Santa Catarina and had been well run (although no spectators were allowed and there were limited lift passes). He felt that, if the decision were deferred, there would be more chance of a compromise event being staged. DM noted this and would take the information back to the organising committee.

- 7) **Update from TD forum** – DM gave a report from the recent TD forum (Appendix 1). He confirmed that LJ would now be the SE representative to the TD forum.

There are new FIS guidelines on the management of concussion which will need to be updated into the GB policy. It was confirmed that the BARTS list from the end of the 2019 season will be rolled over for 2021.

- 8) **Report from Chairs' Meeting** – BT circulated the notes from the Committee and Regional Chairs meetings held on 22 October and 27 November (Appendices 2 & 3). TF is looking for new initiatives for 2021 in order to plan for the new season.

- 9) **2021 Calendar update** – AH circulated notes to the committee before the meeting. He confirmed that the calendar was now set and that there was an additional CN weekend at Pendle & Rossendale. DM agreed to start uploading the dates onto gbski. The races are well spread out this year leaving space for regions to schedule local events.

Unfortunately, Chill Factore is the only financially viable venue for indoor races. This means that additional indoor races could not be scheduled.

EOLA have generously agreed to be the sponsors again for 2021. However, there is still scope for additional sponsorship from academies (potentially as bursaries) and companies (with kit/equipment prizes). It is felt that this would add to the attractiveness of the series. BT will discuss this with TF.

Action: BT to discuss additional sponsorship opportunities with TF

PT reported that 3 dates for Dash for Cash races in 2021 have been set. They have avoided the GBR dates and looked at CN weekends. Any profits are put into bursaries for athletes from the region in which the event is held.

PT is also looking at possible links with the Irish and Welsh events – and would be open to links with SE events. The main issues at the moment relate to Covid. Firstly, will the events be able to take place with spectators – as spectators are important to the success of the event. Secondly, as the events are aimed at raising money, sponsors need to be able to attend and set up stands.

BT felt that integration of these events with the SE calendar would be a good plan. It was hoped that this may provide a stepping stone to more media links – as suggested by JS. DE suggested that live coverage eg on Facebook might be a starting point. SM wondered whether local colleges running Media courses might be interested in providing this.

Action: PT, AH and JS to discuss links between Dash for Cash and SE events and present at the next meeting

- 10) **2022 Calendar Planning** - LJ proposed, and it was agreed, that a planning group for the 2022 calendar should be set up and that this should liaise with the other home nations. The bidding documents should be sent out around Easter to help avoid clashes with regional races. There will be 3 indoor and 3 outdoor weekends set.

Action: 2022 calendar subcommittee to be set up at the next meeting

- 11) **Officials' Training** - AH reported that a successful tutor lead level 1 course had taken place at Silksworth by Zoom. Technically, it went well and received positive feedback from the participants.

There are also plans for level 3 courses to be modular and online. (It is thought ~6 modules would be needed.) SSS are already moving forward with this. It is hoped that this will make training and revalidation easier.

Race secretary and Calcs training could also develop in this way.

There will be a small investment needed in software – but it is felt that this is a positive way forward.

Action: AH/DM to take officials' training forward and report at the next meeting

- 12) **Alpine Pathway and Alpine Squad Update** – This is work in progress. DC/GC together with JS (as Squad Manager) and PT (as coaching rep) will talk through the options and give an update at the next meeting.

Action: DC to give an update on the Alpine Pathway at the next meeting

JS had circulated the proposed current Alpine Squad Selection document to the committee and asked for any feedback to be sent to himself and/or Ian Findlay asap. The plan is for the criteria to be announced before Christmas. The squad will then be announced around Easter.

A squad Zoom call took place on 20 November and a further one is planned for 14 December. A third of the squad were represented on the call. The notes from the meeting are attached (Appendix 4).

- 13) Volunteer Recognition** - SM has raised this on behalf of ERSA and asked what progress is being made. Although a proposal has been in place for some months, with SE's current financial situation (as a result of Covid and associated loss of income) it has not been possible to move forward. It may be more appropriate for SE to have a corporate approach to volunteer recognition across all disciplines and groups.

Action: SM to ask the Board whether Alpine can progress with volunteer recognition or whether a more corporate approach is appropriate

- 14) Course Setting** – SB has announced he will be standing down from the Alpine committee due to work commitments. It is hoped that he will still be able to help with delivery of some local courses in the future. BT recorded a vote of thanks for all the good work SB has done on course setting for the committee.

How the course setting role will be filled in the future will be discussed at the next meeting. (These courses can be delivered by "A" list setters who have been on the course themselves.)

Action: MC to send a letter of thanks to SB

There was discussion as to whether the course setting course could be integrated into the level 1 coaching pathway – or whether it should stand alone as a "compulsory" component. This will also be discussed at the next meeting.

Action: Course setting role on AC and course setting courses to be discussed at the next meeting

- 15) Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 20 January at 7pm by Zoom.

Actions:

4	BT	to send LW details of the next Alpine Committee meeting as well as the 2021 calendar
9	BT	to discuss additional sponsorship opportunities with TF
9	PT/AH/JS	to discuss links between Dash for Cash and SE events and present at the next meeting
10	All	2022 calendar subcommittee to be set up at the next meeting
11	AH/DM	to take officials' training forward and report at the next meeting
12	DC	to give an update on the Alpine Pathway at the next meeting
13	SM	to ask the Board whether Alpine can progress with volunteer recognition or whether a more corporate approach is appropriate
14	MC	To send a letter of thanks to SB
14		Course setting role on AC and course setting courses to be discussed at the next meeting

Feedback from TD Forum (David Manns)

Representation

Lloyd Jenkins has agreed to take over from DM as SE Representative on the TD Forum. He is of course already a full Forum member in his own right as a qualified TD.

Homologation

FIS have confirmed that any homologation that is due to expire (or has already expired) this year will roll over to the end of the 2020-21 Winter season, given that COVID has made it impractical to carry out re-homologations over the summer.

It was also noted that work is on-going to ensure that security measures detailed in FIS homologation documents should consider more than just World Cup level. Unfortunately, this will take time to work through the system as slopes come up for re-homologation but at least this has been recognised as an issue. Races run by SE or affiliated clubs are not affected, but it will for example mean that the RAF Alpine Championships at Hintertglenn cannot run Downhill until the slope is re-homologated as the current requirements mandate over €30,000 of netting on the course!

Medical

Concussion continues to be an area where significant effort is being made at FIS level and this of course 'trickles down' to the races we run. It was noted that in the USA a strong process is in place: if an athlete is suspected of concussion then one phone call to USSA has them immediately 'de-listed' with a mandatory 28 day lay-off.

The Forum's position on concussion was re-affirmed: the TD (hopefully with the Jury on board) may decline a start for any athlete suspected of concussion unless medical evidence to the contrary is presented; this decision would be backed up by the Forum and GBS. A new statement on this policy is being drafted and relevant British rule changes are also being considered.

Seeding

Following the complete lack of seeded artificial slope races this season, it was confirmed that the usual end-of-season loading/calculations for the BARTS lists would not apply, effectively rolling over the points from the end of 2019 to the beginning of the 2021 season as if 2020 had not existed.

As for snow seeding, BASS lists will be published as normal during the season but any adjustments to the seeding process will be considered once we have a better picture of how the season eventually pans out.

Operating 2020-21 season

A wide-ranging discussion including, but not limited to: fairness of the BASS system with a limited season; impact of local and national restrictions on holding events with regard BASS and travel; duty

of care to TDs, Officials and Athletes; pressure on individuals to travel and attend events during the pandemic; the desire to support events where appropriate.

After voting on several options, an agreed position was reached (also discussed post-meeting with HN representatives) which has already been widely promulgated online:

1. The British Calendar will be locked immediately so no further BASS events would be accepted this season.
2. A TD will not be assigned – and therefore no seeded races – for any competition until 20th January.
3. The TD Forum Executive will review the situation to discuss extending this restriction, with review dates of 20th December for races Jan 21st – Feb 20th, 20th January for Feb 21st – Mar 20th and 20th Feb for Mar 21st – Apr 20th.

TD development

SE continues to ‘sponsor’ aspirant TDs, the latest of these being Taryn Archbold who passed her written TD exam earlier this month and now looks forward to practical tests on snow this Winter – COVID situation permitting.

The Forum continues to welcome new aspirants who are able to show a reasonable CV of officials roles and commitment to the process including attendance at the annual Update Seminar (which incidentally was held online this year but still failed to break any attendance records).

Courses

DM presented the possibility of a course covering “Course Setting for TDs” to gauge likely update. The response was enthusiastic, so having already discussed this prior to the meeting with Paul Telling, and given the indications from Taryn Archbold that something like this (course setting for officials) may already exist, planning for this to happen – perhaps around April/May – can begin.

Future Forum dates

The Spring meeting (Forum members only) will be Saturday 8th May 2021. This meeting is almost certain to be online only.

The Autumn meeting (Update for all officials, coaches, etc., followed by closed meeting for Forum members only) will be 6th and 7th November 2021. The location for this weekend has yet to be agreed.

Committee & Region Chairs meeting

Thursday 22nd October 2020

Attending

Bryan Thomas – Alpine
Richard Barbour – Coaching
Martin Carr – Freestyle / Yorkshire
David Hanlon – CESA
Stuart Robertson – SWSA
Zena Huelin – LSERSA / SE Director
Stephen Metherringham – ERSA / SE Director
Chris Stroud – Members Director

Staff

Jan Doyle, Luke Williams, Ryan Grewcock, Ian Findlay, Tim Fawke, Bridget Owen

Apologies

Glennis Dore – Nordic
Lloyd Jenkins – Alpine
John Greenwood – NESAs
Andy Putman – Snowsport South

1. Launch of new committee structure

Tim Fawke went through the timeline for the launch of the committees and explained the process for advertising and the nomination and approval of chairs for each committee.

TF to send out key points for adverts for vacant committee roles
Committees to feedback roles that need advertising with adverts and role descriptions
All adverts to be completed by 9th November
TF to email Freestyle and Snowboard and Alpine committee members regarding chair role

2. Safeguarding

Bridget Owen joined the meeting and put the question forward regarding how does safeguarding fit into their committee. It was agreed that we didn't need a full safeguarding officer on each committee but there should be a named person on the committee to champion safeguarding. We need to be proactive and consider safeguarding in all elements that we do.

Points to note

- There are safeguarding officer fluorescent vest available in the office and we will be sending these out to club that run CN's and also regions.
- The medical form could also include the event welfare safeguarding officer. Bridget to follow up with David Manns

- Chairs for committees and regions plus safeguarding champions to be included in CWO mailer
- Bridget Owen email address is now Welfare@snosportengland.org.uk rather than the DBS@
- Webinar next week and we will circulate details if you can promote to the clubs in your region

3. Affiliation & Renewals update

TF gave an update on registration and renewals.

- Send the renewal notification emails to regions so they can help to promote.

4. New membership system Sport 80 – update

We have started the process to put new membership in place and the planned launch is 31st March. We maybe in touch as we look to make sure the system does what we need and add more automation to our processes.

5. Eola

Bryan Thomas wanted to confirm that eola was still sponsoring next years GBR series which is still the case. TF has monthly meeting with them to touch base. RG confirm that eola has been mentioned on club drop in calls and a number of clubs are now using their online booking system.

6. Next meeting – agreed for Thursday 26th November 7-8pm

- Talent update
- Louise Wright – New chair to join
- Stephen Metherringham asked regional grants to be added to agenda

7. AOB

Stephen Metherringham – Asked about the alpine official's recognition. This had been paused due to no activity and wanting to cut expenditure. It was asked if this could be promoted so it would help clubs to recruit officials for the CN events next summer. Bryan Thomas said it would go back on the Alpine agenda.

It would also be good to get regional submissions to happen as this was a good practice in setting plans out for the year ahead. We would look at simplifying the forms. Tim Fawke also stated the funds for this will be going to the participation and insight committee and wont be distributed in the same way as previously.

Stuart Robertson – Opportunity for clubs to link with Uni clubs as Uni races not happening.

David Hanlon – Said it was a challenging time for facilities and at the moment if they are hitting 40% of what they did previously that is doing well. Also a concern regarding guidance going out and the accuracy of this. Ryan Grewcock explained the challenges we face on changing guidance and the need to get this out. In the future if there are any questions then please call as we are doing this to help activity to happen in a safe way.

Zena Huelin – Lots of camps happening across the country for half term. A lot harder for camps abroad to happen so there are lots of opportunities in this country for athletes to do.

Tim Fawke – AGM on 19th November, notice will be going out next week. If you can publicise and if possible attend.

Committee & Region Chairs meeting

Thursday 27th November 2020

Attending

Louise Wright	SE Chair
Bryan Thomas	Alpine Committee co chair
Lloyd Jenkins	Alpine Committee co chair
Richard Barbour	Coaching Technical Panel
Martin Carr	Freestyle & Snowboard & Yorkshire Region
David Hanlon	CESA & Stoke Ski Slope
John Greenwood	NESA Chair
Zena Huelin	LSERSA Chair / SE Director
Stephen Metherringham	ERSA / SE Director
Amy Gambrells	Nordic
Lindsay Ayton	Secretary LSERSA / Bromley

Staff

Jan Doyle, Luke Williams, Ryan Grewcock, Ian Findlay, Tim Fawke, Claire Pennell

Apologies

Glennis Dore	Nordic (sent replacement)
Andy Putman	Snowsport South Chair
Stuart Robertson	SWSA Chair
Chris Stroud	Members Director

1. Introductions

Introduction made as a number of new faces on the call and also Louise Wright new chair of Snowsport England

2. Talent update

Ian went through presentation on talent slides attached. Key points to note

- Fantastic development at GB and success across all disciplines
- Real challenge for us on how we can deliver across disciplines up to GB with the level of performance increasing and our limited resources
- Presentation sets out where we are in each discipline and the gaps and what funding we require to make an impact.
- This has all been done in partnership with GBS and other HN's and a need to be fully aligned.
- Key for our next funding submission to Sport England

3. Priorities 2021

Key priorities are

Getting activity back up and running
Membership (both clubs & Individuals)
Engagement (membership)
Backing the best project - Manchester
Funding
Engagement (external)
SCO Courses
ESSKI & NSSA

4. Regional plans

The form circulated by TF was confirmed as okay to use for regions to fill in and show what plans they had for 2021. TF to circulate with date for submission. Regions to go through their plans on the next call.

5. Promotion of summer events

We need to have a real focus on our core events and courses and will be focusing on how we can promote but keen to hear any ideas that committee & regions have.

6. AOB

a. Volunteer recognition

BT said that Scottish triathlon seemed to have a clear recognition policy and is there something that we could learn from Louise. TF said he would follow up and look at what they had done. However this doesn't stop Alpine proceeding with a mechanism to reward officials that help run the events through out the summer.

b. BT asked for an update on the insurance renewal

TF explained there had been a delay as the premium had gone up considerable and to minimise this increase, we had change broker. This has now been resolved and while there is still an increase in premium this is much less than originally quoted. We will have a new insurance portal set up



England Alpine Squad Briefing – Notes from the meeting

Friday 20 November 2020 by Zoom

Present:

Julian Sambles – Alpine Squad Manager
Ian Findlay – Talent Lead for Snowsport England
Rachelle Rogers – Performance Lifestyle Adviser
Mary Calvert – Alpine Committee Secretary

1. This is the first squad briefing to take place this season. Each of the four representatives from Snowsport England introduced themselves. Julian then outlined his plan that these meetings will be held regularly and that he hoped the athletes (and their parents) would find them useful. He will be sending out further information to the Squad in the next week or so.
He invited those present to ask questions via the chat facility during the meeting.
2. Julian interviewed Rachelle to provide an insight into what had motivated her during her racing career. She also highlighted how she had coped with her transition out of racing into being a commercial airline pilot.
3. Ian outlined the current situation regarding upcoming events with relation to the Covid situation. Snowsport England are in constant touch with Sport England and the resorts due to hold events this winter. Regular guidance updates have been issued on the SE website and social media platforms. These will continue to be published – but Ian recommended using the government website if considering overseas travel.

The TD forum issued a statement on 18 November 2020 stating:

- As of 15 November, the TD Forum will not accept any results for BASS seeding, nor assign any TDs, to calendar events between now and January 20th 2021.
- A decision will be made on the 20th of each month on whether TD support and seeding will resume for events in the calendar as follows:
 - 20th Dec for races 21st Jan to 20th Feb.
 - 20th Jan for races 21st Feb to 20th Mar.
 - 20th Feb for races 21st Mar to 20th April.

Snowsport England has published a bulletin on the English Alpine Championships today. It is hoped that, by 20 December, a decision can be made as to whether the event will go ahead.

4. Ian also clarified the situation regarding classification as an “Elite” athlete for the purposes of being allowed to travel for training and competition during the Covid restrictions.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-phased-return-of-sport-and-recreation/elite-sport-return-to-training-guidance-step-one--2>

The guidelines state that athletes need to be earning their living from the sport or be at World Cup or Europa Cup standard to automatically qualify.

He also confirmed that no under 16s would qualify for this status – neither are they currently allowed to travel. Over 16s on a recognised development pathway may qualify – but are subject to any travel restrictions in place. This effectively means that no athletes may travel out of England at the moment.

If an athlete is on a TASS programme - Talented Athlete Sponsorship Programme (<https://www.tass.gov.uk/>) – Snowsport England *may* be able to classify them as “Elite” but Sport England set the rules. (It is possible that the rules set in Scotland and Wales will be different.) (Please note we will do a deeper dive into TASS in our next ‘briefing’)

5. Ian also said that a “Covid Support Fund” has been set up and that 1 or 2 athletes may be able to get SportAid through this - but only in very extreme circumstances. He asked that if anyone wanted to explore this possibility, they should get in touch with him.
6. Finally, Ian announced that the new selection policy for 2021/2022 will be released by the end of November (in collaboration with the other Home Nations and GBSnowsport). If the Covid restrictions continue, it may be that this policy will need revision.
7. Julian gave an update on the Squad kit. The designs are being finalised and he will have more information soon.

Another call will be scheduled before Christmas.