

Alpine Committee Meeting

Wednesday 10 March 2021 19:00



By Zoom

Present:

Lloyd Jenkins (LJ)
Bryan Thomas (BT)
Sally Bartlett (SB)
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)
Tim Fawke (TF)

1) Apologies

None

2) Declaration of Interests and Safeguarding

There were no safeguarding issues. All committee members are up to date with their Declarations of Interest and the Snowsport England website is up to date with photos.

3) Minutes from previous meeting

Minutes from the meeting on 20 January 2021 had been agreed and published on 1 February 2021.

4) Matters arising from previous meeting not on the agenda elsewhere

- i. SB confirmed that she is happy to maintain the Course Setting Policy.
- ii. LJ reported that, once races are confirmed, he will send a bulletin on concussion to all race organisers.
- iii. AH confirmed that a slide on concussion has been added to the officials' training course. He is also organising a standalone course on concussion.

5) Finance Update

BT reported that the accounts for 2020 as circulated were more or less as had been predicted in July 2020. There was a useful profit and contribution to SE in spite of no artificial race calendar. This was due to a very successful English Alpine Championship. Costs were tightly controlled apart from one or two non-budgeted items. Other revenue was down due to registrations and renewals being some 16% lower than budget.

GC raised queries regarding certain expenses seeking greater detail which were partially answered but any further queries would be answered post the meeting.

(It should be noted that the figures referred to above relate to the Alpine Committee budget only and not the wider Snowsport England performance.)

TF reported that there has been a decline in membership renewals over the last 2 years but a recent questionnaire indicated that 70% of lapsed member renewals would be renewed once activity restarted and Covid restrictions eased.

TF also reported that, overall, Snowsport England would probably show a £10.5K deficit for 2020. (An £8K deficit had been budgeted.) However, 2021 would be a bigger challenge.

6) Alpine Championship Update

DM confirmed that planning for the 2022 Championships was underway.

7) Update from TD forum

LJ provided an update from the TD forum (appendix 1). He confirmed that there would be no snow events run by the British Home Nations for the rest of this season.

The TD forum will move forward with allocation of TDs for the summer season as soon as possible. The rules put into place in 2020 for running races in a Covid secure way will be reviewed.

8) 2021 Summer Calendar update

LJ reported that a meeting of the Home Nations had taken place on 24 February. A report is attached (appendix 2). It takes into account that time should be allowed for athletes to restart training before races restart. Indoor competitions will not start before the beginning of June but it is possible that outdoor competitions may start sooner. (The first seeded race is unlikely to be before 17 May. (Consideration needs to be given to continued travel restrictions and the availability of accommodation.)

No decision has been made on Club National races in April/May yet. They may go ahead as unseeded races – due to travel and accommodation restrictions. MC asked that the award of the Club National Series Trophy be reviewed for this year. This event encourages clubs to attend as many Club National events as possible around the country. Government travel guidelines therefore need to be considered.

A further meeting of the Home Nations will take place on 19 March – after further announcements from the Welsh and Scottish governments.

**Action: LJ to discuss the CN Series Trophy for the 2021 summer season at the meeting with the other Home Nations
LJ to circulate notes to AC after Home Nations meeting on 19 March**

Trophy return for the GBR races and All England Championships will be organised once the events are confirmed. It was noted that 2 trophies are missing – the Ann Bates Memorial Cup (for the most improved female) and the Arrows Memorial Trophy (for the Zero point BARTS Seeded Male).

Action: LJ to continue investigating the whereabouts of the missing trophies

9) Calendar Subcommittee for 2022

LJ and AH will continue their meetings with the other HNs for the 2021 summer season. Once that is more settled, they will start the 2022 process. DC and GC will also be involved in this.

It is hoped to simplify the bidding process for the future using an automated form. It would include a need for the bidder to agree to meet all the necessary criteria.

10) Alpine Officials' Update

AH gave an update on Officials' Training and Calendar Planning (appendix 3). He has now met with Snowsport Scotland. There is enthusiasm for shorter, more modular courses.

AH also presented a draft Officials' Pathway and asked for comments and queries. He needs the pathway to be agreed and published in order to progress with the development of modular courses.

Action: All to feedback to AH on Officials' Pathway

11) Alpine Pathway

JS reported that a meeting will be held on 17 March for parents interested in the Alpine Pathway Programme.

He confirmed that he was in discussion with Ian Findlay regarding the selection policy for the English Alpine Squad. The original plan had been to announce the Squad at Easter. He is waiting

on an update of how to manage the criteria given the problems of the 2020/2021 season. (This is on the agenda for the next Squad Zoom call on 24 March.)

Action: JS/Ian Findlay to report back to the Alpine Committee after the Home Nations and Squad meetings

TF confirmed that there was currently no ring-fenced funding for the Alpine Squad.

12) Volunteer Recognition

SM had nothing to report from the Board. TF will look into available funding to allow recognition of volunteers to take place. This could be with specific merchandise, a roll of honour on the website and/or the taking of Officials' Team photos at races.

Officials should be reminded that registering as an official with Snowsport England is free and gives the benefit of Snowsport England partners offers and third-party insurance.

TF agreed to ask the Board for an overall policy on Volunteer Recognition and to then give the Alpine Committee guidance.

Action: TF to ask the Board for an overall policy on Volunteer Recognition

13) Dry Slope Ambassadors

GC proposed that the Dry Slope Ambassadors from 2020 be "rolled over" to the 2021 season - even though this means that a couple of them will be in the U21 age group. New Ambassadors will be appointed for 2022. This was agreed.

Action: GC to let the current Dry Slope Ambassadors know that they can continue in their role for 2021

14) Sponsorship

It was agreed that Covid has made it very difficult to obtain new sponsorship this year.

- i. LJ confirmed that he had joined the Snowsport England call with EOLA
- ii. PT reported that he has reserved slopes for his Dash for Cash events. These tie in with his summer camps and precede Club National races. He has also made early enquiries with local universities and colleges which have media courses to see if they are interested in helping with presentation of the events.

15) AOB

- i. SM asked how cancelled race dates would be re-allocated future dates. AH confirmed that organisers should go through the normal bidding system (which has never closed). Clashes are to be avoided with other known events, especially those run by Snowsport England. Organisers will need to show that they are Covid secure.
- ii. PT announced that he would be stepping back from the Alpine Committee for a while. He is resolving an issue with someone who has worked for Snowsport England in the past and does not want to compromise his own or anyone else's position.

16) Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 28 April 2021 at 7pm by Zoom.

Actions:

8	LJ	to discuss the CN Series Trophy for the 2021 summer season at the meeting with the other Home Nations
8	LJ	to circulate notes to AC after Home Nations meeting on 19 March
8	LJ	To continue investigating the whereabouts of the missing trophies
10	All	to feedback to AH on Officials' Pathway
11	JS/Ian Findlay	to report back to the Alpine Committee after the Home Nations and Squad meetings
12	TF	to ask the Board for an overall policy on Volunteer Recognition
13	GC	to let the current Dry Slope Ambassadors know that they can continue in their role for 2021

Update from TD Forum Meeting February 2020 (Lloyd Jenkins)

The TD Forum previously met in January around the time of the last Alpine Committee Meeting and agreed to extend the suspension of assignment of TDs or acceptance of results for BASS seeding at European locations will continue until 20 Mar2021 at the earliest.

It was also confirmed that BASS seed points will not attract end of season penalties for athletes unable to race due to the ongoing pandemic; thus athletes would not see an increase in points for the season 2020/21.

A further meeting was held on 18th February to review the situation to the end of the winter season. It was agreed that in light of current restrictions, within and without UK, that seem unlikely to ease significantly before the end of the Easter holidays the TD Forum reluctantly concluded that it would be unwise to support any racing for the remainder of the season, both within UK and in Europe. Thus the BASS list was now closed for the 2020-21 season. This was not a decision taken lightly, reflecting not only the challenges for athletes to travel, but also their ability to train before an event. Overriding this were the significant challenges facing organisers with Covid restrictions within event locations and the associated costs, making many events unviable; if indeed locations were able to prepare safe racing slopes for them at all. All HNs had reluctantly acknowledged they would be unable to host their own championships prior to this.

The following statement was agreed and was released immediately.

The Home Nations and the TD Forum met on 18th February to conduct their scheduled review with regard BASS Seeding and TD assignment for the remainder of the 2020-21 on-snow season.

The review looked at the current and ongoing restrictions imposed by Governments at a national and inter-national level, including local and regional lockdowns and current travel restrictions; particularly noting the challenges these regulations impose for organisers and officials, as well as athletes and their supporters. The following was decided:

- *The provision to accept results for BASS seeding from events in the UK Geographic area was withdrawn with immediate effect. TDs will not be assigned, nor results accepted from any event within UK for the remainder of the season.*
- *The suspension of the assignment of TDs and the acceptance of results for BASS seeding from events held in Europe was extended until the end of the season.*

This ends BASS sanctioned events for the 2020-21 snow season and thus the BASS List will be closed for the season with immediate effect. As there have been no BASS seeded races in the 2020-21 snow season it is intended to carry forward the closing BASS list from the end of the 2019-20 season as the start list for the 2021-22 snow season, subject to technical considerations. More details will follow in due course.

The Home Nations and the TD Forum will now focus on supporting the artificial ski slope events in UK across the summer should restrictions allow. Snowsport England, Scotland and Wales, will review the summer calendar in light of all relevant restrictions, ensuring that events are supported where travel and regional restrictions allow for fair and safe racing across the whole ski community; noting that time for athletes to train prior to the restart of racing is an important safety factor.

The TD Forum will assign TDs and accept results for seeding in support of the Home Nations approved programme and will review the necessary rules, including those adopted for the 2020 summer season, to ensure safe, fair and compliant events prior to the start of the season.

David Manns will work with SE to confirm the summer calendar and assign TDs in the hope that by late spring we can start running artificial slope events again.

The TD Forum aims to assign TDs from as close to the event as possible to reduce the risk of travel complications and the need for overnight stays etc. The TD Forum Rules Sub-Committee will review the rules put in place last year so that we can be best prepared for racing, even if minor restrictions remain. The focus remains on safety, both physical and pandemic related, and thus the HNs will only allow racing when they feel there has been sufficient time after restrictions are lifted for athletes to train to race safely.

Appendix 2

Covid Lockdown: Proposed Easing of Restrictions and Implications for 2021 Summer Race Calendar Zoom Meeting 24th February 2021



Present:

Lloyd Jenkins
Andrew Hjort

Robin Kellen
Mark Vinter

Meeting was called by SE to discuss the recent announcements made by English, Scottish and Welsh governments on their proposals for easing Covid lockdown restrictions in the coming months and to review the potential implications on the scheduled 2021 Summer Race Calendar and to propose any actions.

The Key Dates that each Government had recently announced in relation to facilities and sports were set out:

England	8 th March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Return of children to schools. Sport in schools and sport as part of wraparound care (i.e., after-school clubs) can resume from 8th March 2021
	29 th March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor facilities are permitted to open, but with restrictions on group numbers still in place (like those permitted immediately prior to last lockdown) Ability to resume competition unclear
	No earlier than 12 th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor snowsports facilities open for individual/household use only. Indoor children's sport resumes for larger groups, including group coaching etc. Hospitality venues including pubs reopen outdoors only, subject to social contact restrictions (rule of 6) Guidance to minimise domestic travel where possible remains in place
	No earlier than 17 th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social contact restrictions relaxed to maximum 30 people outdoors (formally organised sport already exempt from this outdoors from 29th March 2021) Rule of 6 or two households indoors Organised indoor 'adult group sports and exercise classes' resume Large events permitted within capacity limits subject to strict Government guidance Hospitality resumes indoors Domestic overnight stays in hotels, hostels and B&Bs permitted line with social contact restriction Possible restart of international travel (subject to review)
	No earlier than 21 st June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of limits on social contact – Enable large events above Step 3 capacity restrictions, subject to the outcome of the Scientific Events Research programme, and potentially using testing to reduce the risk of infection, subject to further evaluation

Scotland	16 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Government to confirm if/when outdoor facilities available to open and training can commence
	End of April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earliest date that indoor facilities can open • Tiers may be re-introduced across Scotland (restrictions to be confirmed) • Organised sports and events unlikely to be possible until June at the earliest
Wales	12 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Government Review to confirm if/when outdoor facilities can re-open and training can commence • Welsh government regulations allow organised events in Tier 1 areas • It was felt that national seeded events were unlikely to be possible until July at the earliest

As outlined in the recent update published by the TD Forum and HNs, it was agreed that time should be allowed for athletes to train prior to the resumption of seeded racing.

After some discussion it was felt that competitive events indoors would effectively only be possible from the beginning of June.

It was also noted that it was unlikely that seeded national events would be possible due to on-going travel restrictions during March/April until 17th May at the earliest when travel restrictions are eased, and hospitality and accommodation is permitted to re-open.

The impact upon seeded events and potential proposed alternatives were discussed as follows:

Type of Event	Planned Event/Dates	Action	Alternative Proposed
GBR Events	GBR Outdoor 1 & 2 1 st /2 nd May 2021 (Organised by SSW)	SSW confirmed that these would not go ahead	Welsh Outdoor Champs on 11/12 th September 2021 could count towards GBR Outdoor Series points/awards.
	GBR Indoor 1 & 2 15/16 th May 2021 (Organised by SSW)	SSW confirmed that these would not go ahead	Anglo-Welsh/British Indoor Champs on 14/15 th August 2021 could count towards GBR Indoor Series points/awards
	Fir Park/GBR Outdoor 3 (Hillend) 5/6 th June 2021 (Organised by SSSc)	May not be possible if Tier restrictions prevent travel.	Scottish Outdoor Champs on 4/5 th September 2021 could count towards GBR Outdoor Series points/awards.
Indoor BASS races	Landgraaf 29-31 st May 2021 (Organised by SE)	Unlikely to be possible due to international travel restrictions	Alternative dates of 7/8 th August being sought. If not possible, this event will need to be cancelled

After some further discussion it was agreed that the HN events planned for May 2021 will not go ahead and that the alternatives proposed above would be progressed.

There are several Club National races planned to take place during April/May 2021, namely:

RTR CN NESACN races 24/25th April 2021
Silksworth

Ambition/Excel Indoor CN races 22/23rd May 2021
Chill Factore

Chatham/Bromley CN races 22/23rd May 2021
Chatham

AH is to contact the above clubs and venues to determine their aspirations to proceed with the above events. If travel and other restrictions prevent a seeded event taking place, then it may be possible to run a Covid-secure event using the amended rules defined during 2020.

The various Government are scheduled to make further announcements as follows:

Welsh Government 12th March 2021
Scottish Government 16th March 2021
English Government Prior to 29th March

It was agreed that this group would arrange to meet again on 19th March to review any updated announcements and any further potential impact upon the 2021 Summer Race Calendar.

In the meantime, it was agreed that a joint statement would be issued by the HNs to confirm the proposed changes in May to HN-organised events.

NASTAR Style Events

RK described some good work that had been done in SSW in trials at Pontypool to look at how some timed events could be used by clubs to develop a defined set of standard levels for 'standard' slalom courses.

RK agreed to circulate details to the HNs, and these would be made available to Regions and Clubs.

Appendix 3

Alpine Officials' Training and Calendar Planning Report (A Hjort) *March 2021*

Alpine Officials' Level 1 Training Courses

I have run six Level 1 Training Courses. The courses each took just under 2 hours.

	Club	Attendees
17 th Feb	Aldershot	12
22 nd Feb	Welwyn	9
24 th Feb	Western Counties	12
26 th Feb	Midland	15
1 st March	Hemel	26
3 rd March	SPSRC	13
	Total	87

Feedback

Please follow link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-VLPBDN52/>

Moving forward

I think we have demonstrated that online courses are well received and shorter, more focussed courses are favoured over 1~2 day residential courses. I have circulated a paper suggesting a revision of the pathways that will encourage maximum engagement.

Snowsport Scotland

I had a lengthy chat with Snowsport Scotland about where they are going with training. Their model can be summarised as:

1. All modular
2. All online
3. All recorded (no interaction)
- 4 Post-course, shadow and do

Their mechanism for verification will be a set of can-do statements which the experience official, sharing the "shadow and do", can tick off as they go along. SSS feel there is little need to create/take videos for training and intend, instead, to use available video through web search. More formally, they are going to ask USSA for access to their training stock.

The Scottish Parliament has given them access to Brightspace, a virtual learning environment which they have, as yet, not explored.

My view is that a recorded training session would be an excellent revision tool but I have misgivings about it being the totality of training offered. Much on-line training is recorded but is done so in a fairly sophisticated way with the recording being mirrored by text on screen, and with the ability to fast-forward removed until the recording has played. The SSS model would be less complex but I would question if it a replacement for a tutor-led course.

Pre-course and Post Course

I did not share the slides, because a set of slides which accompanied verbal explanation is of limited value. What I would suggest is that we look at aligning the material available of GBSki so that the briefing document, any pre-course and post-course handouts and the courses form a coherent package.

Take as a simple example, the various elements for "Gate Judge". I have attached these for ease of reference:

- Gate Judges Briefing -current and taken from GBSki
- Simplified Gate Judges Briefing
- Digest of the slides used for the Level 1 Course

Please note the second and third of these are drafts for the purpose of illustration!

Other Courses

A Race Secretaries' course could easily be developed. Timing and Calcs is wanted but is very clearly outside my area of competence! My suggestion (a practical "set up the timing" course and an online "do the calcs" course) will require input from the current pool. Alan Bullock has produced a course in the past but has understandable misgivings about the course being public unless protected from commercial exploitation.

I suggest we need to form a task and finish committee to put a course and accompanying material together. I would also suggest that rules are set for the commercial use of this, and other training material.

Calendar 2021

Lloyd, Robin, Mark and I met virtually to discuss the summer calendar.

The formation of a new planning task and finish committee was raised and we confirmed that this will be a feature for 2022.

Calendar 2022

As I indicated at the last meeting, I feel one of the lessons of the process in 2021 was the need for simplification. My suggestion is that bids are made on an online platform with the acceptance of a set of conditions being mandatory. I have prepared a draft for the CN/Inter-regional races.

Please follow link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/D5SZNVM>