

Alpine Committee Meeting
Wednesday 13 April 2022 20:00
By Zoom



Present:

Lloyd Jenkins (LJ)
Debbie Gunton (DG)
Gareth Case (GC)
David Chapman (DC)
David Eaves (DE)
Sally Bartlett (SB)

Diane Sarker (DS)
Andrew Hjort (AH)
David Manns (DM)
Claire Pennell (CP)
Paul Telling (PT)

1) Apologies

Louise Wright (LW)
Tim Fawke (TF)
Megan Whitmarsh-Ali (MW)
Julian Sambles (JS)

2) Declaration of Interests

DG is awaiting completed declaration of interests from MW and JS.

Action: DG to send reminder emails for outstanding forms.

3) Safeguarding

There were no safeguarding issues raised.

4) Minutes from previous meeting

Minutes from the meeting on 2 February 2022 had been agreed and published on 24 February 2022.

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

- i. Update on SnowSport England Race Manual V10.1 Dec 2018 and the SnowSport England Alpine Ski Competitions Race Secretary's Booklet.

DM confirmed the work is now complete on race manual V10.1 and the Race Secretary Booklet and is on target to be published within timescale agreed.

Action: DM to publish updated manuals.

LJ raised a question about whether race secretaries can have access to the on-line entry system so that they can assist with racers who are having issues booking into races.

Action: CP to establish if access for race secretaries to Snowsport England On-online entry system is possible.

- ii. Club National template

DM reported the template is now live on GBSKI for GBR and CN races. Some of the early races have already made use of them but, as more clubs start to use them throughout the season this will give a clearer indication if any updates are required.

6) Finance Update

DE confirmed the budget will be updated with the figure's following the completion of Bormio races once the accounts have been finalised. DE suggested that we continue to review the figures and budget throughout the year adding in the additional income from the planned new U10/U12 races.

7) 2022 Calendar and 2023 Calendar Planning (Appendix 1) –

- i. New U10/U12 race for Inter-Regional and Inter Club Competition

Following the announcement of the format on GBSKI, the general response from clubs has been favourable. The committee has received several emails with feedback from clubs which will be reviewed to see if any alterations need to be made to the format before the start of the season.

Action: LJ,AH,DC,DE to revisit format following feedback.

The committee has received an email raising concerns that an additional Schools race has been scheduled on the GBSKI calendar that clashes with another race within the same region already on the calendar. The consensus of the committee was that as neither of the races were seeded it was not within the remit of the committee to decide where/when a race can be run. Although sympathetic, the committee can only suggest that when a club is scheduling a race that they consult the GBSKI calendar to avoid clashes within their region.

LJ advised that TF has contacted the Chief of Race for the Schools race in question to see if an alternative date can be arranged.

8) Perpetual Trophies and Trophy Return

DG confirmed we are still missing the Atomic Cup Trophy for the outdoor GBR series which was taken from the All England but has not reached the recipient. DC confirmed an email has been sent to all racers present at the race but so far, no responses have been received. DC suggested we try different social media platforms to try and target a wider audience.

Action: DG to contact CP regarding placing a post on Snowsport England social media. DC to email DM to add a post to GBSKI.

DG reported that Snowsport Scotland has now posted the remaining trophies for the EOLA GBR indoor series to the winners however, some of the Perpetual Trophies are still to be located.

Action: DG to continue to pursue GBR indoor series trophies.

9) Sponsorship

GC presented details of an advertising board opportunity for businesses to partner with Snowsport England for an annual subscription. GC suggested it would be a front-page design within the Snowsport England website with the company logo and links to their own websites.

Action: Committee to review document with comments back to GC.

LJ advised that TF has written a proposal sponsorship paper for a meeting with Rossignol looking at the possibility of them extending their sponsorship to also include the English Indoor and All England race.

Action: LJ to circulate Rossignol sponsorship paper to committee once finalised.

10) Officials and Officials Training Update (Appendix 1)

i. Volunteer recognition

Spend and merchandise has been approved, the committee will finalise a pathway for how recognition will be awarded to volunteers

Action: LH,AH,DC,DE to agree a pathway for recognition.

ii. Allocation of course setters for the 2022 Championships and GBR Series.

PT suggested it would be good to firm up course setters for this season and ask the Chief of Races to consider looking for setters in advance that have no connection with the venue. GC also recommended the Chief of Races look at appointing some setters from the 'B' pool list to shadow. By doing so this will potentially give the opportunity for some of these setters to move to the 'A' list giving a vast range of experience to utilise for future seasons.

ii. Secretary Webinars

AH confirmed that TF was arranging some sessions for this month and invite emails would be sent out.

11) Alpine Squad

JS has announced he will be stepping down as Alpine Squad Manager once this year's athlete selections have been confirmed.

12) Dry Slope Ambassadors

DS reported a training session for the squad has been arranged for Monday 18th April with 12 Athletes confirming their attendance, some athletes are not able to attend this session as they are still completing their snow season.

13) Alpine Championships (Appendix 2)

14) AOB

i. Stephen Metheringham submitted a question on whether a race start time could be added to GBSKI for GBR1 at Chill Factore advising of a late start time on Saturday.

LJ commented he would prefer people read the whole invite which the committee agreed on. DM suggested placing a highlighted section on the GBSKI calendar advising people to check invite for full details and start times which was agreed.

Action: DM To update GBSKI with advisory to check full invite

ii. GC raised two questions from Stephen Metheringham – when will the committee's review of the Terms of Reference and the Board of Strategy be completed?

The committee agreed that both items have already been reviewed and signed off.

The next meeting will take place by Zoom on

Monday 20th June 2022 at 7pm

Actions from meeting:

| Ref | Who | Action | Completion date |
|-----|-----------------|---|---|
| 2 | DG | to send reminder emails for outstanding forms | Update 20 June 2022 |
| 5i | DM | Publication of updated Race and Secretary manual | Completed and published https://gbski.com/docstore/CG/SE%20Race%20Manual%2011.0.pdf https://gbski.com/docstore/CG/SE%20Race%20Secretary%20Booklet%202022.pdf |
| 5ii | CP | To establish if access for race secretaries to Snowsport England On-online entry system is possible | Update 20 June 2022 |
| 7i | LJ,AH DC,DE | to revisit format following feedback | Update 20 June 2022 |
| 8 | DG | To contact CP regarding placing a post on Snowsport England social media | Completed |
| 8 | DC | DC to email DM to add a post to GBSKI | 1 May 2022 |
| 8 | DG | to continue to pursue GBR indoor series trophies | Update 20 June 2022 |
| 9 | All | Committee to review document with comments back to GC | Update 20 June 2022 |
| 9 | LJ | to circulate Rossignol sponsorship paper to committee once finalised. | Update 20 June 2022 |
| 10i | AH,LH, DC,DE | to agree a pathway for recognition | End of May 2022 |
| AOB | DM | To update GBSKI with advisory to check full invite | Completed |

Ongoing Actions log:

| Who | Action | Update or completed |
|-------------|---|--|
| LJ/AH/DC/GC | calendar planning group to review team competitions | Completed |
| LJ | to recontact Zena Heulin regarding a race survey | Completed |
| AH | to look into allocation of course setters for the 2022 Championships and GBR Series (in discussion with the other Home Nations) | Completed |
| DM | to collate information on wireless timing for the TD forum and report back to them so the Alpine Committee can then be updated | June 2022 |
| JS | to ask Ian Findlay who is overseeing the squad selection policy and what the rationale behind it is | Completed |
| DG | to send all committee members a new declaration of interest form | Completed |
| DM | to collate comments for race manual and secretary booklet and publish | Completed |
| AH | to organise Webinar sessions before the start of the summer season | Completed |
| DG | to continue to pursue missing Perpetual Trophies | Update 20 June 2022 |
| DG | to establish who collected the Atomic Trophy for the recipient | Update 20 June 2022 |
| GC | to produce a detailed document on advertising board proposal | Completed |
| AH | volunteer recognition spend | Completed |
| TF | to liaise with Robin Kellen to obtain the British Masters Trophies | completed |
| TF | to raise with the board for Louise Wright to attend a committee meeting | Completed |
| DM | to complete Club National template ready for use | Completed and published https://qbski.com/genbulletin.php |
| DM/LJ | to agree and include U10/U12 format with Race Manual updates | Completed |

Appendix 1

Officials' Training and Calendar Planning

Report for the Alpine Committee on Wednesday 13th April

Officials' Training

No further courses have run since the last meeting. The next step for those who took the courses is to shadow, and then be observed doing the roles. I will run the courses again in May.

Changes to the Pathway

I would like to suggest we remove the post-course test and make the course "pass by attendance". Final sign-off would then be by appointed TD (or Level 4T Official) on race day.

SE System

A long and slightly baffling meeting with Sport 80. Main message seems to be they can do anything (for a price). As I have (and do not wish to have) a budget, this means any suggestions will need to go to Tim, via the AC.

The substance of the discussion is to be found, here:

<https://confluence.external-share.com/content/01646a1e-6052-4a46-b04c-72b60f43c4c4>

Calendar Planning

For simplicity, I have emailed an Excel spreadsheet to all ROCs. Response has been patchy.

The information is wanted by TDF and Safeguarding so I suggest for next year we introduce the ROC form from the start and make it clear it is mandatory.

Calendar Planning for 2023

I think the bidding process can move on-line with a tick box to accept the T&Cs of the bid process.

Red Bib Competition

I have one suggested change. I think we should award according to the club on the start list so, if someone changes club, they ski for the new club. Previous points stay put!

Inter-regional and Inter-club Competitions

A task and finish groups agreed parameters for U12/10 competitions. The older age group competition will be unchanged. The following was announced:

The Alpine Committee is pleased to announce that both the Inter-Regional Competition 2022 and the Inter-Club Competition 2022 will have a separated race for U12/10 racers!

The competition will be for teams of 4, any mix of U12/10s, any mix of girls/boys. All team members must be registered and must race for their first named club. The race will be a parallel stubbie slalom and organised as a series of leagues, followed by a knockout.

For the Inter-regional competition, we will welcome teams from other home nations. For the Inter-club competition, we will welcome teams from clubs based in other home nations.

The announcement gained generally favourable response.

Appendix 2

Alpine Committee 13th April 2022



Report on Alpine Championships

2022

Wrapping up 2022

Entry numbers

These are figures taken from the actual race data posted to GBSKI, so they reflect final entries into each race rather than number of entries originally made or paid for.

The 2020 event was a record entry for us, so anything approaching those totals was going to be a bonus. As it turned out, the figures show that the overall FIS entry was almost the same as in 2020 and the entry for the Children wasn't far behind. This is a very encouraging result and is probably indicative of the desire for athletes (and their parents!) to get back to racing after two years of interruptions.

| | 2022 | | | 2020 | | | |
|------------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|----------|
| | Men | Women | Total | Men | Women | Total | Variance |
| FIS SL | 118 | 73 | 191 | 100 | 74 | 174 | 110% |
| NJR SL | 104 | 65 | 169 | 87 | 77 | 164 | 103% |
| NJR GS | 108 | 59 | 167 | 104 | 75 | 179 | 93% |
| FIS GS | 137 | 74 | 211 | 115 | 89 | 204 | 103% |
| FIS SG All | 53 | 43 | 96 | 71 | 33 | 104 | 92% |
| | | | 834 | | | 825 | 101% |
| CH SL | 119 | 99 | 218 | 145 | 115 | 260 | 84% |
| CH GS | 114 | 95 | 209 | 144 | 113 | 257 | 81% |
| CH SG | | | | | | | |
| MIN GS | 107 | 91 | 198 | 64 | 50 | 114 | 174% |
| MIN SL | 45 | 44 | 89 | 70 | 51 | 121 | 74% |
| All CH | 45 | 41 | 86 | 67 | 50 | 117 | 74% |
| | | | 800 | | | 869 | 92% |

Race Programme

Overall, the race programme ran very well, with good support from the local teams. The weather was against us at times, and the lack of snow and warm conditions led to the cancellation of one of the two Children's Super-G races and both the FIS Super-G. Otherwise most things went to plan; we just have to accept that this is a relatively 'dry' resort, and perhaps the lift company did not invest quite as much as usual into snow-making this season after a couple of years with greatly reduced income.

TD Candidates

We had not one, not two but three British TD Candidates with us this time, each undertaking their final practical exams as the last step to gaining their TD licence. It is gratifying to be able to report that all three passed the test and will shortly be ratified by the TD Forum as newly licensed Technical Delegates ready to fly solo! Despite operating with a reduced number of officials, the team stepped up to the challenge of rotating roles where necessary to allow these examinations to take place.

Finance

In line with FIS race organisers elsewhere in Europe, foreign nationals were charged an entry fee to partake in our FIS races. This fee was set at €30 per race which was accepted without argument by the teams/coaches turning up to pay, despite this being the first time such a fee was charged at our event. All FIS racers and coaches were also allowed (as in previous years) to buy a daily lift pass at €21 (although with hindsight this should have been set at €20 to simplify pricing) which added another small but useful amount to the income stream.

Costs were kept to an absolute minimum to help ensure that the event did not end up in deficit, mainly by reducing the size of the team and hence reducing travel and accommodation costs. There was some exploration of other methods of transporting the 'kit' to replace the overland van journey with palletised shipping, but these turned out to be impractical for what we needed to achieve.

There is still some work to be done on the finances, mainly in the attribution of income and expenditure to the correct nominal accounts in the office accounts system and the detailed assignment of cash income and expenditure. Given the new income flow from FIS entry fees and the good level of entry numbers it is hoped that the surplus for the event will be greater than the budget forecast indicated.

Planning for 2023 and beyond

Contract

The contract for 2023-25 is still being negotiated. The lift company have proposed an increase in cost from €19000 to €24000. Our counterproposal is €22000, and we are negotiating what extra options they would be prepared to offer for this increased cost.

The main discussion point is around dates, as they would like to minimise any clash with their local Carnival event when the resort is very busy with visiting Milanese. The lack of any definitive information on school holiday dates beyond 2023 meant that we were unable to accede to their request to specify dates for all three years of the contract. For 2023, our current proposal fits with the majority position for half term (13th-17th Feb, at roughly a 60/40 split), and avoids Carnival which falls on 18th and 19th.

It is almost certain to be agreed by Bormio Ski, but the challenge remains to get them to commit to this before their season ends and they largely go 'offline' for weeks if not months at a time.

Possible dates for 2024 are 8th-16th or 15th-23rd, with the second week missing Carnival on 10th and 11th. For 2025 we would use 6th-14th or 13th-21st, both of which would miss Carnival which is late that year, on 1st and 2nd March. Ideally we would agree these year-by-year, with the 2024 dates being agreed with the lift company as soon as we are in resort for the 2023 event.

The larger problem looming on the horizon is of course 2026 when Bormio will be hosting Alpine Olympic events at the same time we would normally be in the resort. Various possibilities are being considered, including alternative venues and alternative dates, but no firm proposal is currently on the table.

Programme

We are proposing a slight 'extension' to the Championship week by sliding a couple of FIS races earlier. This would see racing starting on Thursday 9th and running through to the following Friday 17th. This appears to be acceptable to the lift company and would thus be agreed at least for 2023 when we sign the contract. This change would allow us to relieve pressure on some of the difficult points in the programme and provide a more balanced timetable which should help to avoid too high a workload on the officials' team. The current provisional programme uses only the two race pistes in the main ski area (Stella Alpina and Stelvio), thus avoiding the use of the Adler piste at Oga which isn't always in top racing condition.

Also in the programme for 2023 is a return to the normal operation for the GBR seeded races, with U14 and U16 being raced on separate days. Separating them into their own races ensures that we can more easily cope with large

entry numbers including space for foreign entries. It also allows course setters to set something more appropriate to each age group.

Other normal features such as the night parallel slalom will also return, hopefully with some technical improvements to the equipment that would allow this race to be run as a 'true' head-to-head relay rather than racing in pairs with a totalled time difference over the four legs.

Additional features such as live streaming of races on the hill and the use of large display screens for timing information are also being investigated as we return to our usual pattern of trying to improve the overall competition year-on-year for everyone involved.

Officials

The team will return to the normal numbers of around 22 people to cope with the return to the usual race programme. Travel dates and numbers will have to change to take into account the earlier start date for FIS races, with the exact details still being worked out. Alternative accommodation options are also being investigated as the current hotel is less than ideal.

Existing and previous team members will be polled in the next couple of weeks for their initial thoughts on availability, and notices/adverts will also go out more widely to open discussion with any other officials who might want to put themselves forward to be considered. It is important to avoid the impression that this event operates a 'closed shop' or 'inner circle' with preferential access to the team. It is also vital to build a proper succession plan for all roles, but especially the key positions on the organising committee.

It is also hoped that more can be made of the opportunities for 'education' while in resort, not just for race officials at various levels but also to improve communication with parents and supporters. No firm plans are in place yet, but this could include drop-in or Q&A sessions, workshops, and on-hill shadowing of official roles.

Course Setters and Referees

The usual practice of requiring clubs who set courses to provide coaches to act as Referees is working well and will be continued. However, there was some feedback after this year's competition that some of the courses were not really of sufficient standard for a championship event. Discussions will need to take place about how to address this issue, possibly by appointing a small group of one or more experienced coaches to vet the list of proposed setters before any final decisions are made.