

Alpine Committee Meeting
Monday 12 September 2022 19:00
By Zoom



Present:

Lloyd Jenkins (LJ)
Debbie Gunton (DG)
Gareth Case (GC)
David Eaves (DE)
Diane Sarkar (DS)
David Chapman (DC)

Tim Fawkes (TF)
Megan Whitmarsh-Ali (MW)
Andrew Hjort (AH)
Paul Telling (PT)
Simon Levene (SL)

LJ started the meeting by welcoming Simon Levene, SE Finance Director on the Snowsport England Board as a guest to the meeting.

1) Apologies

Sally Bartlett (SB)
David Manns (DM)

2) Declaration of Interests

All declarations of interests are up to date.

3) Safeguarding

There were no safeguarding issues raised.

4) Minutes from previous meeting

Minutes from the meeting on 20 June 2022 had been agreed and published on 11 July 2022.

5) Matters arising from previous meetings (not on agenda elsewhere)

- i. DC submitted a question on guidance of gender identity for competitions. The Snowsport England Interim Policy was circulated to the committee, did this clarify the matter?

DC confirmed the Interim Policy did clarify the matter and had no further questions. TF advised that Snowsport England is working with Snowsport Scotland, Snowsport Wales and other sports to look at how the policy can be moved forward.

6) Finance Update

DE advised the Alpine Budget for 2022 was set cautiously but actual overall race entries were higher than forecast, but we must remain cautious when setting the 2023 budgets to consider rising costs, the main impact being rising fuel costs and inflation. DE reported the U10/12 figures have now been included within the budget and the Alpine figures for 2022 will feed into the Snowsport England Q3 figures. This then leaves a small contribution from the Lowland Championships that will conclude the 2022 season.

DE confirmed planning for the 2023 Alpine Budget will commence over the next few weeks once the 2023 race bid documents have been received back from clubs.

DE confirmed the Q2 figures had been better than predicted and SL summarised Q2 figures for Snowsport England, advising that the 5-year funding agreed with Sport England has been secured and is similar to previous funding. Going forward the forecasted figures tail off in years 4 and 5 and importantly, do not take into consideration rising inflation. The aim is to break even each year as rising costs increase for the next 4 to 5 years. SL/TF will now focus on the 2023 budget planning beginning the start of October with an aim for approval by the Board in Dec/Jan.

7) **2022 Calendar Planning (Appendix 1 and 2)**

2022 Race Summary

LJ reported we were back to a full race season post COVID restrictions in 2021 (5 Indoor races and 5 Outdoor races). Participation numbers were slightly down for outdoor races but indoor races well above the forecasted levels. DE commented outdoor figures may be slightly lower due there being more choice for racers at outdoor venues. LJ also confirmed the new U10/12 team events had been well received with good attendance of 9 teams. Although there had been some questions initially raised over the disadvantage/advantage of it being any 4 racers, no further comments had been received post races.

2023 calendar Planning (Appendix 3)

AH reported the bid documents have been published inviting clubs to bid for GBR's, Club Nationals and Championships and will be a paper submission as per previous years. Only changes on the bid documents are a greater emphasis on first aid requirements and misting systems. The GBR Series will be the same format as this year's format being 3 weekends for each, however some questions have been raised as to whether a GBR could be tagged with a Club National in future years.

AH suggested the committee re-visit the date for the Inter-Regional as this year it was paired with a Club National during holiday season resulting in lower entries. It was agreed to wait for the clubs bidding documents to be returned and assess then. AH also requested the committee to consider the team size for the Inter-regional should this be a 7-person team or in line with other competitions and reduce the team size to 4. LJ advised for a 7-person team, this would ensure we have a good mix of competitors from across clubs, if we reduced the numbers to 4 the likelihood is that they may well all be from the same club and not necessary from across the regions. DE considered that larger teams gave more opportunities for racers to participate. DC agreed the Inter-Regional stands out from the Inter-Club and has more opportunities for people to race in the 'A' team. The conclusion by the committee was to remain with a 7-person team.

DC raised a concern with the GBR Indoor date set aside of 20/21 May is the same day as the Great Manchester Run which the committee may need to take into consideration when picking a venue. LJ confirmed that, if necessary, the two May weekend GBR's could be swapped around.

GC raised a question concerning the bid documents and whether we should ask the question on the documents if the bidding slope has an in-house shop. GC considered it important when choosing bids that the committee consider the location and whether the normal supporting travelling shops that have supported the region all season can attend. The committee agreed this should be considered in the bidding confirmation process.

GC also raised a question with how the clubs go about securing a paramedic and the cost implications going forward. LJ advised several clubs across the region currently hire in trained paramedics to cover events within their club. TF suggested that within the budget the committee pull together some figures for using paramedics to predict costings going forward.

Action: LJ/DE to consider paramedic costs in 2023 budget Planning.

8) **Perpetual Trophies and Trophy Return**

LJ thanked DG for all her work co-ordinating the return of the Perpetual Trophies this season and was pleased to report the missing GBR indoor Perpetual Trophies from Scotland had now been retrieved and presented to the 2022 recipients. Following several requests, it has been decided that for next season the Perpetual Trophies for both the GBR Indoor and Outdoor will be presented at the last race of the season in both events.

AH suggested that as the U10/12 races were here to stay could Perpetual Trophies be sourced for the 2023 season. TF advised an offer had been made from RTR that a sponsor had come forward to purchase trophies for next season.

Action: TF to follow up Perpetual Trophy Sponsorship offer

9) Sponsorship

i. Update on advertising board (GC)

GC confirmed that due to the complexity of the Athlete Welfare project he has undertaken he has not had any available time to progress this but will take this forward with an update to TF/LJ within the next 2 weeks.

10) Officials and Officials Training Update (Appendix 4)

i. Volunteers Recognition

Emails have been sent out to those identified by AH as supporting Snowsport England including the process on how to order their Hoodies. DG volunteered to co-ordinate the delivery and sizes with the supplier and will update the committee at the next meeting with progress made.

Action: DG to update progress at the next meeting.

ii. Updates for Sport 80 for logging officials' details and accreditation

TF confirmed that Snowsport England has now more resources on board to support the progress of sport 80 and the next stage is for AH to look at the capability of the new system for logging Officials' details.

Action: TF to invite AH to next Sport 80 meeting.

TF confirmed the new Sport 80 system will give a better opportunity for Snowsport England to communicate information to keep parents/members up to date with rules and information.

DC advised he had received several questions raised by people asking how they find out what level official they are and what they need to do next. DC suggested as an interim solution could an updated officials list be published to clarify what level officials are currently while we wait for the Sport 80 work to be completed.

Action: AH to publish current officials' list

iii. Implementation of new Snowsport England on-line entry system

TF reported the new system is now in place and will be used for the winter season races to identify any issues with it then being rolled out to Race Secretaries by Webinar before the 2023 summer season races start.

11) Update from TD forum – LJ

No update since the last meeting, the next TD forum is scheduled for November

LJ confirmed the following points will be raised at the November Meeting:

- Provision of first aid at races following a TD report after an injury at Swadlincote.
- Single run to be considered for seeding.

Any further comments for the TD forum from the committee need to be sent to LJ by the end of September.

12) Alpine Squad

LJ reported that following Julian Sambles standing down as Squad Manager a selection panel of TF,PT and LJ was formed for this year's selections. Selection to the 2022/23 squad has been

completed and squad members notified. A few appeals have been raised and dealt with accordingly however, one appeal needed further consideration by an independent committee and a final decision has now been reached and communicated.

LJ advised he had circulated the proposed 2023/24 Squad Selection Policy to the committee for review, comments back to LJ by 18 September with a view to publish by the end of September 2022.

LJ confirmed the Squad Manager position has been advertised and applicants are being interviewed and considered, a further update will be circulated once a decision has been made.

13) **Dry Slope Ambassadors (Appendix 5)**

DS reported the Ambassadors' have been more visible at races and been proactive helping with setting up and prize giving and now have an Instagram page. DS confirmed the attendance of athletes over the season has been variable and will look at that more closely next season, GC raised the point that the fall out at U21 is generally due to them perhaps not being so activate on the Dry Slope racing and focussing more on snow races.

Following DS recommendations for next season the committee agreed the following:

- 2nd year U14's should be included.
- Lowest seeded male and female in the Seniors and Masters categories to be included but should not increase the budget.
- Clothing will be long sleeve top only next season.
- Selection for 2023 season will be from the last Obarts list (2022.7) following the Irish Champs.
- Potential to offer some free race entries based on Athletes level of attendance throughout the season.

MW suggested instead of hoodies maybe a cap would be more appropriate especially for podium photos. MW also reported the team days very beneficial for the team to bond and train together and proposed they have more than one day next season.

TF thanked DS and MW for all their hard work on the programme this year and felt it had been a very successful first year with lots of positive feedback.

14) **Alpine Championships**

TF took the lead in the absence of DM. TF confirmed Bormio has paid Snowsport England the 2021 contribution from the Tourist Office and that several meetings have already taken place with them for the 2023 races and planning was on track. TF also confirmed that within the budget a small grant was awarded to the athletes who attended the World Juniors in Canada last year and is looking to support them again next season.

- i. **To consider the possibility of running an additional FIS race at Bormio Alpine Championships**

TF confirmed that Marc Telling has agreed to run an additional FIS race at Santa Caterina to bridge the gap in racing and encourage FIS athletes to remain in resort for the final prize giving.

15) **Athlete Welfare (Appendix 6)**

GC advised the Athlete Welfare project is being driven primarily by Snowsport England but is looking for involvement from the other Home Nations. A working party has been formed and will aim to have the first 4-6 key points in place before the winter season. The project is looking to deliver a tiered system of accreditation for Clubs and Academies and to the start this process first a survey will be sent out to all Clubs and Academies to obtain detailed information about their Club/Academy. DE suggested maybe to also send surveys to parents to obtain feedback on what

their child's experience of a Club/Academy is. SL raised the point that Affiliation agreements need to be checked to ensure SnowSport England are following the agreement.

16) **AOB**

- i. **GC raised a question on Louise Wright's return back to work.**

SL confirmed she is still on long term sick and the Board is reviewing the situation but, in the meantime, Morwenna Angove is standing in as chair.

- ii. **PT requested an update on several questions that had been submitted directly to LJ from Stephen Metherringham.**

LJ confirmed he had replied directly to Stephen Metherringham and his questions had been answered.

- iii. **PT confirmed a Future Project competition was being organised at Norfolk Ski Slope for the weekend 1st/2nd October and will cover several disciplines. (Appendix 7)**

**The next meeting will take place by Zoom on
Monday 14th November at 7pm**

Actions from meeting:

Ref	Who	Action	Completion date
14	LJ/DE	to consider paramedic costs in 2023 budget Planning	Update 14 th November
8	TF	To follow up Perpetual Trophy sponsorship	Update 14 th November
10i	DG	To update committee on volunteers' recognition	Update 14 th November
10ii	TF	To invite AH to next Sport 80 meeting	Update 14 th November
10ii	AH	To publish current officials' list	Update 14 th November

Ongoing Actions log:

Who	Action	Update or completed
DG	to continue to pursue missing GBR indoor Perpetual Trophies	Complete
LJ/TF	to circulate Rossignol sponsorship paper to committee once finalised.	Complete
DM/LJ	To take forward to TD forum to Consider a single timed run on indoor and Dry Slope races	Update 14 November
GC	To forward advertising proposal to TF	By end of September
AH/TF	Updates to sport 80 for logging officials' details and accreditation	Update 14 November
AH	Implement volunteer recognition plan	Update 14 November
DS	Pursue coaching and volunteers' pathways for Ambassadors	Update 14 November
DM	Consider possibility of running an additional FIS Slalom race at Bormio Alpine Championships	Complete
GC	Progress report on Athlete Welfare and Safeguarding policy	Update 14 November



Appendix 1

2022 Artificial Season Report

I have done an analysis of the entry numbers which is attached. It is pleasing to report that after some continued restrictions during the early part of the 2021 season. The 2022 season in general, saw sustained entry numbers across the season in almost all the events to date.

Comparisons have been made with 2021 numbers (which had a reduced number of Indoor GBR Series events due to cancellation of two indoor races at Snow Factor (Braehead)). The 2022 season saw a return to 5No Indoor GBR races (and 5No GBR Outdoor races).

I have listed the key points below:

Club Nationals

- Average entry numbers are significantly higher for Indoor Club National events compared to Outdoor. The female entry numbers are higher for Indoor CNs and average male entry numbers are higher than in 2021 for indoor CNs.
- The male entries have been maintained for outdoor CNs compared with 2021. Female entries have fallen for Outdoor CNs compared with 2021
- The largest entries for Club Nationals were at Hemel CN and Midland CN.
- Outdoor CNs down on 2021 (Holding steady on U10/U12 numbers) – mainly down to fewer U14+ female numbers
- Indoor CNs significantly up (Holding steady on U10/U12 numbers)

GBR Events

- Outdoor GBRs down on 2021 by ~12% (Holding steady on U10/U12 numbers) – mainly down to fewer U14+ female numbers
- Indoor GBRs up by 21% (25% up for U10/U12)
- The largest entry numbers were at GBR Indoor 1 and 2 and GBR Outdoor 1 and 2 at Llandudno and GBR Outdoor 5 at Hillend
- Budget entries comparisons look good, particularly GBR Indoor.
- eola were active in supporting all of the events and I would like to thank them for sponsoring the GBR series in 2022 and look forward to working with them as they continue their sponsorship of the GBR Series in 2023

It is also clear that we continue to have strong entry levels of U10/U12 at all events and we need to encourage this as it bodes well for future race entries if this is sustained.

It was encouraging to see a strong representation at the Inter-Regional Event at Swadlincote with 13 teams entering in 2022. The event also saw the addition of an Inter-Regional U10/U12 event with a total of 9 Regional teams taking part.

Championship Events

SE was responsible for organisation of the first English Indoor Championships in 2022. The event, held at Chill Factore, was a big success with some 176 entries.

The All-England Championships were held at Chatham and saw entries of 167 racers taking part on the Saturday. The Inter Club and Team Dual Slalom event on the Sunday saw 27 teams competing exceeding the number of teams that took part in 2021. For the first time the even included a U10/U12 Team Dual Slalom event that saw 9 teams competing. The weekend event was very well supported by suppliers and distributors of ski racing equipment.

Lloyd Jenkins

2022 Artificial Season

Date	Event	Cal Code	Others				Club Nationals				GBR				Championships			
			Women	Men	Total	U10/U12	Women	Men	Total	U10/U12	Women	Men	Total	U10/U12	Women	Men	Total	U10/U12
23-Apr-22	SSW Club National , Pembrey	C1000	23	30	53	14												
24-Apr-22	SSW Excel race, Pembrey	C1001	14	26	40	12												
30-Apr-22	GBR Outdoor 1, Llandudno	C1004								48	67	115	33					
01-May-22	GBR Outdoor 2, Llandudno	C1004								48	69	117	33					
07-May-22	GBR Indoor 1 Chill Factore	C1052								60	88	148	48					
08-May-22	GBR Indoor 2 Chill Factore	C1052								55	86	141	46					
14-May-22	RTR Outdoor CN, Silksworth	C1005					36	41	77	14								
15-May-22	NESA Outdoor CN, Silksworth	C1006					34	33	67	12								
21-May-22	Pendle Outdoor CN	C1007					34	44	78	25								
22-May-22	Rosendale Outdoor CN	C1008					28	39	67	24								
21-May-22	Evolution Outdoor CN, Welwyn	C1010					33	45	78	32								
22-May-22	Welwyn Outdoor CN	C1009					47	49	96	37								
28-May-22	Ambition Indoor CN, Chill Factore	C1012					51	68	119	23								
29-May-22	Excel Indoor CN, Chill Factore	C1013					48	67	115	23								
03-Jun-22	Landgraaf BASS races		Cancelled															
04-Jun-22	Twin Peaks, Fir Park	C1125	35	58	93	31												
05-Jun-22	LSRA Twin Peaks, Hillend	C1076	32	51	83	35												
11-Jun-22	Hemel Indoor CN,	C1015					58	69	127	53								
12-Jun-22	SMK Indoor CN, Milton Keynes	C1016					44	66	110	45								
18-Jun-22	GBR Indoor 3, Braehead	C1018								49	59	108	44					
19-Jun-22	GBR Indoor 4, Braehead	C1018								53	60	113	44					
18-Jun-22	Western Counties Outdoor CN, Glos	C1017					18	48	66	23								
19-Jun-22	Gloucester Outdoor CN	C1076					21	46	67	29								
25-Jun-22	Vikings Outdoor CN, Ipswich	C1019					36	48	84	25								
26-Jun-22	Norfolk Outdoor CN, Norwich	C1020					33	43	76	27								
02-Jul-22	Midland Outdoor CN, Swadlincote	C1021					47	66	113	40								
03-Jul-22	Telford Outdoor CN, Swadlincote	C1022					42	67	109	33								
09-Jul-22	Chatham Outdoor CN	C1023					31	41	72	25								
16-Jul-22	GBR Indoor 5, Chill factore	C1024								45	79	124	41					
17-Jul-22	British Indoor Championships, CHF	C1025												50	79	129	47	
30-Jul-22	GBR Outdoor 3, Pendle	C1026								29	46	75	22					
31-Jul-22	GBR Outdoor 4, Rosendale	C1027								32	47	79	24					
06-Aug-22	CESA Outdoor CN, Swadlincote	C1028					48	56	104	22								
07-Aug-22	SE Inter-Regional, Swadlincote	C1029			13 Teams													
13-Aug-22	Welsh Indoor Championships, CHF	C1030												57	68	125	45	
14-Aug-22	English Indoor Championships, CHF	C1031												59	71	130	46	
20-Aug-22	SSW Club National , Gloucester	C1002	28	52	80	19												
21-Aug-22	Welsh Open Champs, Gloucester	C1003												25	46	71	17	
27-Aug-22	All England Champs Chatham	C1032												55	70	125	42	
28-Aug-22	Inter Club, Chatham	C1033											44	27 Teams		9 Teams		
04-Sep-21	Scottish OD Champs/GBR Outdoor 5, H	C1034								47	56	103	45					
05-Sep-21	Scottish OD Open Champs, Hillend	C1035												42	47	89	26	
11-Sep-21	Welsh National Champs , Llandudno	C1036												57	70	127	29	
12-Sep-21	British Outdoor Champs, Llandudno	C1037												57	71	128	35	
24-Sep-22	North Wales SC Club National	C1005																
01-Oct-22	Irish Open , Kilternan	C1040												XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	
02-Oct-22	Irish Champs, Kilternan	C1041												XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	
02-Oct-22	Craig Macfie Classic, Hillend	C1042																
08-Oct-22	Scottish Indoor Champs, Braehead	C1149												XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	
09-Oct-22	GSR Indoor Challenge, Braehead	C1147	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX												
03-Dec-22	BSC West Coast Bairns & Lassies	C1114																
04-Dec-22	LSR Bairns & Lassies, Hillend	C1115																

Totals	689	936	1625	512	466	657	1123	424	402	522	924	287
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2022 Totals (Outdoor)	488	666	1154	368
2022 Average (Outdoor)	35	48	82	26
2021 Average (Outdoor)	45	49	94	26

2022 Totals (Indoor)	201	270	471	144
2022 Average (Indoor)	50	68	118	36
2021 Average (Indoor)	41	46	87	34

2022 Totals (GBR Outdoor)	204	285	489	157
2022 Average (GBR Outdoor)	41	57	98	31
2021 Average (GBR Outdoor)	49	63	112	34

2022 Totals (GBR Indoor)	262	372	634	223
2022 Average (GBR Indoor)	52	74	127	45
2021 Average (GBR Indoor)	45	60	105	35

Appendix 2

Officials' Training and Calendar Planning 2023

Report to the Alpine Committee, Monday 12th September

GBR Series 2022

Red Bibs and Club Competition

Both ideas were well received. Moving forward we need to foreground both social media and preevent information.

Prizes

It would be nice to find a more formal way of recognising both competitions.

Appendix 3

GBR and Nationals 2023

The bid documents are out though David's holiday and national events may delay publication

Changes

Aside from a simplified format, there are few changes. The need for the misting system to be a feature rather than an aspiration has been clarified. The major change is the wording relating to first aid.

Our current assumption is that slopes have adequate first aid cover. This assumption seems to be based on an optimistic set of assumptions about paramedic response times. The first aid courses which are a mandatory part of coaches' accreditation are seldom specifically designed to deal with serious injury.

First Aid is immediate, temporary care of the ill and injured. "Immediate" in this case, is the challenge to be addressed.

Inter-regional and Inter-club

The addition of a U12/10 race was a success and drew very positive comments. I have had no negative feedback about the loss of the open competition at the Inter-club.

The Inter-regional had a less promising place in the timetable and, in any case, being paired with a Club National is unlikely to have the draw of being Day 2 of the All England. We need to consider timing and format. We might start by considering team size, perhaps bringing it into line with the other competitions?

Perpetual Trophies

If the U12/10 competitions are here to stay, it is only right that they are marked with perpetual trophies.

Format and Gender

The “any 4 racers” format for the U12/10 competition did not disadvantage either gender – though it may have disadvantaged the U10s.

I will raise a further issue under AOB

Appendix 4

Officials' Training

When I get time, I will run another series of L3 courses.

Officials' Log

I am logging hill teams for 2022 and will be pestering for a few outstanding lists. Moving forward, in line with the Officials' Pathway I propose the following:

1. Registered Officials can log, on the SE site, each time they carry out a role or take a course
 - a. The roles/courses would be set from a drop down
 - b. The log would be verified
2. Validation would be for 3 years from approval of the log.
 - a. This may require some retrospective course taking
3. Accreditation would be the product of validation
4. A list of those who can run L3 training courses would be kept separately
5. L4 in perpetuity status would be in the gift of the Alpine Committee
6. The L1 Course on the SE website must be withdrawn or at least modified so that it does not lead to the expectation of action by the SE Office, an expectation which is often forwarded to me
7. We must clarify that any L4 (or TD) can run L1 Courses
8. We must clarify that any correct use of paperwork, supervised by an L4 or TD counts towards L2 Accreditation
9. We will need a mechanism to acknowledge L2 acquisition not through qualifying events.

Officials' Recognition

The provision of hoodies is in process.

For 2023, I would suggest we need to offer something more tangible. I would suggest something like a Costa loyalty card with every instance of volunteering getting a stamp and, say, four stamps getting a free race entry. For those not related to a competitor some alternative would be needed.

Appendix 5

Dry Slope Ambassadors Update - September 2022

1. Purpose of Paper

To provide an update to the committee on activities of the Dry Slope Ambassadors over the 2022 Dry Slope season.

2. Purpose of SnowSport England (SSE) Dry Slope Ambassadors

- To promote the sport of Dryslope Ski Racing and to encourage participation in it
- To recognize the achievements of the highest performing athletes in their age category
- To provide a pathway and goal for athletes to follow

3. Team Selection

The team were selected from the OBARTS list of the three English registered lowest seeded individuals, male and females for each age category (U16, U18 and U21).

The code of conduct and offer letter were reviewed and updated and offer letters sent to athletes / parents. 89% (16/18) were signed and returned as requested.

Team Selected

U16 Females

Anna Sarkar
Amber Fennell
Daisy Putman

U18 Females

Grace Laws
Charlotte Holmes
Lauren Bloom

U21 Females

Chloe Chapman
Eva Pascoe
Eleanor Eaves

U16 Males

Alex Colling
Toby Watson
George Brown

U18 Males

Alex Penneck
Charlie Deem
Ryan Bunton

U21 Males

Robert Holmes
Joseph Thompson
Toby Case

4. Kit

Team hoodies (£25) and long sleeve tops (£18) were purchased for each athlete and Team Managers.

5. Team Building Day

A team building day was held on 18th April 2022 at Swadlincote ski slope. 11 athletes attended supported by 2 coaches, Dan Curtis from Essex Ski Racing Club and Ray Brown from Bromley Ski Racing Club. The day consisted of fitness training, skills and drills and timed runs. Expectations of the role of Ambassadors was also discussed.

6. Expectations of Ambassadors

Expectations of the Ambassador role includes:

- Participate in Dryslope races at Regional, Club National and GBR levels
- Actively promoting the sport and encourage new and existing racers

E: info@snowsportengland.org.uk

T: 01509 232323

W: snowsportengland.org.uk

Snowsport England, SportPark, Loughborough University,
3 Oakwood Drive, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 3QF



- To use social media, appropriately to promote their activities within the sport and to promote the events they have attended.
- To volunteer their services to race organisers, assisting with races in ways which help uphold the aims of the programme.
- To attend and get involved in at least one introductory race each season, for example a schools' race or regional race.
- pro-actively contacting race organisers and offering their services.
- Wearing their Ambassador clothing at races where they are undertaking those duties.
- To actively participate and work as a team
- To uphold the highest standards of behaviour at all times during related events.
- To be role models for younger and less experienced racers

7. Benefits of being an Ambassador

- Promotion on SSE website and social media platform
- Will take precedence over other racers in representing England in any National Dry Slope races.
- Will be applicable for reduced rates for level 1 coaching / instructing courses.
- Snowsport England will provide relevant letters for Dryslope Ambassadors to support University / Higher Education applications.
- Will receive a long-sleeved top to wear and will have the option to purchase additional items of clothing.
- Will have the opportunity to attend additional training events / on- line sessions to support their development

8. Visibility and Contributions of Ambassadors

- All level of races, from schools to GBR races have had representation of a SSE Dry Slope Ambassador
- On most occasions, Ambassadors have been visible from their SSE top. It is however recognized that there is a balance with representing their local ski racing club/team too
- Some key contributions of the Ambassadors has included:
 - Setting up SSE flags and banners
 - Supporting younger and less experienced racers with course inspection
 - Assisting in setting up for prize giving
 - Presenting prizes to successful athletes
 - Supporting and encouraging other racers and each other as a team
 - Promoting SEE in a positive manner
 - Writing of race reports (limited)

9. Media and communications

Following the COVID pandemic, with limited racing and therefore limited visibility of Ambassadors, it was identified there was a need to energise the role and visibility of the Ambassador at races.

Actions taken:

- Instagram account created (dryslope_ambassador_sse)
- Announcement of selected team on SSE webpage
- Individual photos
- Parent and athlete WhatsApp group established (not all opted to join)
- Ongoing posts on Instagram, promoting both the role of the Ambassadors and SSE
- One athlete interviewed by EOLA as part of GBR series



10. Parent and athlete engagement

As part of re-energising the role, it was essential to engage with and listen to the athletes to understand their views. Throughout the summer views from athletes and/or parents have been sought on three occasions.

1. 18th April – on the training day, a short questionnaire was populated for the athletes to complete on the day

The key focus was regarding:

- What they wanted to achieve from being a Dry Slope Ambassador
 - What they could contribute as an individual to the team
 - How they could / would promote being a flagship for SSE
 - How they wanted to be seen / thought of
2. 26th June (CN race) – those present, were asked to meet together to discuss the opportunities for promotion and enhancement of the roles.
Feedback included:
 - Free race entry – to some key races
 - Development / fitness training programme
 - BASI training
 - Short sleeve t-shirts
 - Bigger discount for ski racing suppliers
 - Training days within regions
 - Progression for officials training
 3. 26th June - Feedback of the above shared with parents, nothing additional added

11. Attendance (Appendix 1)

Attendance from athletes has been variable over this season, however, it is recognized that many would have been undertaking GCSE and A levels, have injuries and be participating in alpine training and racing. (It should be noted that within the code of contract it states: “Athletes must undertake duties in support of the sport, including participation in Regional, Club National and GBR Dryslope races”).

12. Feedback

Feedback from race organisers and others, has mainly been positive. There was some negative feedback regarding Ambassadors “pushing in” at the lifts at the beginning of the season, no further negative issues have been reported regarding behaviour.

Positive feedback has included the following:

- Visibility of individuals
- Always willing to help
- Positive attitude to racing



Feedback from athletes:

- Increased confidence and motivation
- Felt have achieved more
- Supportive for applications (University and Sport application funding)
- Felt part of a team

13. Letters of support for Ambassadors

One letter of support for an athlete has been produced upon request.

14. Annual CEO Dry Slope Ambassadors Award

To further support, recognize and acknowledge exemplary behaviour of individual Ambassadors, an Annual CEO Perpetual Award will be awarded to one male and one female Ambassador.

This award will be awarded to one male and one female Ambassador who have “stood out” by their positive behaviour and contribution and participation in the support of racers, promotion of SnowSport England and dry slope ski racing. The award will be presented by the CEO at the end of the British Championships.

The criteria for this award will be by direct observation by CEO / Race Organisers and any other verbal feedback (This is not about ski race performance) and will include:

- Attendance at a range of races (Schools / Regional / CN / GBR)
- Supported racers in course inspection
- Visible to race organisers / offering help
- Good / effective engagement and communication
- Positive team contribution / support
- Proactive offers of support
- Positive promotion of SSE on social media
- Wear team kit with pride

15. Recommendations

15.1 Selection

- Selection of teams is carried out following the publication of seed lists after the last dry slope race
- Selected individuals are informed within 7 days
- To increase profile of Ambassadors and SSE as well as acting on feedback from individuals at races the number of athletes selected will be increased to 3 / year of birth (in line with alpine). This will also include second year of U14 as they will have seed points and will be seen as a positive aspiration for the first year U14. Also, to include the lowest seeded male and female Masters and Seniors.
- Code of conduct and offer letters to be reviewed
- Hoodies will not be provided only long sleeve tops, this will offset the potential financial impact of increasing the number of Ambassadors
- Short sleeve T-shirts will be “mocked up” for athletes to purchase
- Publication of newly selected Ambassadors on SSE website and social media



15.2 Team and Individual Development

- Three training days to be provided, at different locations between selection and first dry slope race in 2023
- Individual discussions with Team Managers regarding development opportunities
- Session to be provided on mental health and well-being for athletes
- Consideration for an pilot programme for health and well-being support
- Pathway opportunities to be explored to include, fitness, coaching and officials training
- Team Managers to continue / complete appropriate training
- Letter of recognition at end of season to be sent to Ambassadors for their contribution and participation over the previous season and a collective review of their initial objectives of being a Dry Slope Ambassador (if appropriate)

15.3 Other Opportunities

- Free race entry – to All England if raced in a minimum of 75% CN and GB races
- Discussion with ski racing suppliers / photographers regarding increased discount for Ambassadors
- Engagement opportunities with athletes / parents / other stakeholders

Diane Sarkar – Dry Slope Team Manager 05/09/2022



Appendix 6

Board Meeting – August 2022

Briefing Paper

Athlete safeguarding & Wellbeing Initiative

History & Inception:

I have been involved in the Alpine racing circuit for 10+ years, during this time I have heard many tales of safeguarding issues, I am sure some have been exaggerated for affect, that said I am aware of many very real issues, the most recent being 2no athletes attempting to take their own live / cry for help through taking an overdose. The above events coupled with the tragic case of Ellie Souter a few years ago, prompted me to speak with Tim & Lloyd to propose improving the Safeguarding & wellbeing of our athletes who spend time away from home with either a club or academy (c/a)

You will be aware of the horrific reports which have come from the Football league, British cycling & more recently British gymnastics (Whyte Report – 300-page document, containing 30 pages of urgent recommendations).

At present there is no regulation or control – effectively anyone can set up a club / academy at any time. If you review many (c/a) websites they are all very professional & engaging, the reality is they are allowed to do what they want, & we you dig a little deeper they lack the credentials they purport to deliver.

Example: A new academy has just announced themselves; I am aware of the owners so I dropped them a note wishing them good luck in their new venture & asking if they could confirm their Pastoral lead as the claim to offer *excellent pastoral & educational care & facilities*. Still waiting for a response!

Goal:

Create a recognised accreditation which will continually evolve (constantly looking to improve & better the existing criteria), This **must** be monitored & upheld by SE, a public register will be available on the website to show interested third parties which Clubs & Academies are meeting the standard & which are not.

The purpose of the above is to create something which currently does not exist, in most instances SE do not know who is, the safeguarding lead or welfare officer for each (c/a) We are starting from the very bottom!

The intention is not to push a (c/a) out of the picture but to ensure they all meet a recognised standard, SE, parents & athletes then have a tangible & consistent metric from which to judge. You would like to think parents (holding the purse strings) would be placing their children into an environment which has an accreditation rather than one which does not.

If we achieve our goal the (a/c's) who are not initially engaged have a choice, carry on as they are, leave altogether, or pursue accreditation to prevent them losing anymore athletes & therefore damaging the bottom line. We accept most are running businesses, but the bottom line should not come at the cost of athletes safeguarding & wellbeing

Action to date:

Identified approx. 30 (c/a) who have athletes in their care

Invited the above to an introduction meeting 28/07/22 – 3 academies & 1 club attended!!

I suspect there is a genuine feeling that as they have never been held to account before then why should they engage in this new initiative, also many of the younger owners – just do not understand the issues & the potential implications.

Those who did attend & who are very supportive were Ambition, Excel, Evolution & Sandown, which is positive as they are the larger more sophisticated (a/c's) & will have influence within our sport

A Working Party has been created as set out below:

- Anthony Shaw – SE Welfare lead
- Phil Hart – Parent of Artificial racer (Retire Headmaster)
- Clare Wilberforce – Works for Football league academies
- Sarah Case – 4 years House parent / safeguarding lead / Welfare officer with Excel Race Academy
- Paul Telling – Director of Evolution

Anthony has arranged Mental Health Awareness Meetings 8/9 & 22/9 all the previous leads have been invited.

Next action:

Working party to meet in early September to agree 6-10 key items which we recognise should be in place as a minimum for the 22/23 season.

These will then be driven with a view to completing as many as possible no later than 30/11/22.

Summary:

As you can appreciate the topic is vast, & can also change quite quickly, the next few months is all about getting some principals & basics in place, once these are established, we can look to put more meat on the bone & eventually review every facet of running a (c/a). I am sure there will be significant resistance or even lethargy to the idea, but I believe it is the right thing to do.

Would welcome the Boards further thoughts & comments

Gareth Case 13/08/22

APPENDIX 7

FUTURES CHAMPIONSHIPS

ski&boarder cross · moguls · slopestyle

1-2 October

Norfolk Snowsports Centre

Day 1 - Coached Training Day
(£30 half day / £45 full day)

Day 2 - Futures Championships

ENTER COMPETITION:

entries.snowsportengland.org.uk

ENTRY FEE:

£30 per event or £45 for all three events

info@snowsportengland.org.uk

01509 232 323



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