

**Alpine Committee Meeting
Monday 17 April 2023 19:00
By Zoom**



Present:

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

David Manns (DM)
Tim Fawkes (TF)
Megan Whitmarsh-Ali (MW)
Andrew Hjort (AH)
Paul Telling (PT)

1) Apologies

Sally Bartlett (SB)
Gareth Case (GC)

2) Declaration of Interests

DG confirmed the committee members yearly declarations of interests have all been received.

3) Safeguarding

There were no safeguarding issues raised.

TF advised Mark Vaughan is the new lead on safeguarding, see Appendix 1, Mark's presentation to the Board outlines details to implement a minimum standard for Clubs and Academies. The project will be over 3 years and follows the same principles that he has implemented in Tennis, further details will be available in May,

4) Minutes from previous meeting

Minutes from the meeting on 14 November had been agreed and published on 5 December 2022. Minutes from meeting with GBS on 16 January 2023 had been agreed and published on 7 February 2023.

LJ reported that the GBS/APEX partnership will now not proceed, AH commented that it was presented by GBS as a carefully well thought out plan for moving forward and why now the sudden change of direction. LJ said that most are pleased with the decision not to proceed and decision was mostly down to the two parties not being able to agree the finances going forward.

TF commented although in his opinion it's the right decision not to proceed it has been a frustrating process for all however, this does now give Snowsport England an opportunity to look at pathways which Talent Lead Tom Farenden and GC are working on and will engage with Academies and Clubs.

LJ commented that it is yet to be seen what GBS will do to provide a World Cup Programme going forward. DC asked is there any other alternative for funding? TF confirmed GBS are working on finding a solution, however nothing confirmed. LJ commented that GBS had confirmed that fund raising would continue but again nothing confirmed.

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

- i Inclusivity and Photography updates.

LJ reported following the last meeting, the GBR invite template has been updated to include wording to welcome Para Athlete entries to the GBR Indoor/Outdoor events and the first GBR invite is live on GBSKI and other invites will follow shortly. The section on photography on all templates have also been updated to reflect the current process and requirements in the Snowsport England policy.

DG raised a concern that not everyone is using the template document generator for invites, is this something that needs to be mandatory going forward. DM commented the templates were designed to standardise invites and assist new racers in locating race information easier however, race organisers probably find it easier to amend last year's invite rather than start from scratch. AH said if mandatory it may end up with the committee producing invites. TF suggested TDs ask race organisers why they haven't used the template, DM will raise this with TDs.

6) Finance Update

LJ reported Q4 figures for 2022 are better than predicted as Snowsport England forecasted a deficit, however the Q4 figures show break even. The budget for 2023 has been agreed but the figures are challenging however, with Bormio being such a success this should help. Q1 figures should be available within the next month and will be circulated to the committee once received.

DE reported that the 2023 budget is conservative across the summer races. The feeling was that with the cost of travelling and hotels this could impact on participation numbers with people being more selective on which races they attend.

TF confirmed Snowsport England is processing the year end audit so Q4 figures may have a few final adjustments but still on for breakeven. 2023 Snowsport England budget is challenging and figures suggest a deficit but, with Bormio's success this deficit has already been reduced.

7) 2023 Calendar Planning update from AH

Calendar 2023

1. After much pestering, we have most information.
2. Swadlincote is a concern.
3. Hill teams for SE managed event are coming together.
4. Limited sign of enthusiasm for the Inter-Regional – though late booking is the norm.
5. Scotland may/or may not have an indoor venue.
6. The Red Bibs worked but we need to make more of them esp in Social Media.
7. The Club Competition, likewise.

Calendar 2024

1. AH proposes that we financial bid is added to the header above the Hill Team /RoC Spreadsheet
2. AH proposes that nominating an acceptable Hill Team and Slope be a condition of a bid progressing.
3. AH proposes that interested parties have sight of all bids made before we adjudicate/distribute dates.
4. AH noted that the three-nation planning meetings work well and we should bring forward the meeting for 2024 ASAP (can also cover the Braehead 2023 question).

LJ confirmed Scotland have another meeting with Braehead in the next week and a decision will be made as to whether races can continue. Braehead's refrigeration is still running, and it may be that Scottish races will be given the permission to train, if this is the case it's a strong possibility races can go ahead. TF confirmed if races cannot proceed it would likely the Welsh or English Indoor would count towards the GBR Indoor Series.

DM commented that a burst pipe had caused the main slope at Swadlincote to be unusable. DE confirmed a Facebook post suggested that the main slope was re-opening. The committee decided to wait and see in the next few weeks if any updates are received from the race organising committee.

8) **Perpetual Trophies**

LJ confirmed we have 2 new trophies to purchase:

- U10/12 Inter-Regional
- U10/12 Inter-Club

DC has organised the purchase of the Inter-Regional Trophy, TF to follow up with sponsorship of the Inter-Club Trophy.

DG confirmed she is in the processes of emailing last years recipients for the return of all the Perpetual Trophies ready for this season.

9) **Sponsorship**

i. **Update on advertising board (Appendix 2)**

GC has now completed the handover to DC. DC updated the committee with progress but commented work is still needed on what sponsors get for the gold, silver and bronze levels. TF asked what the funds would be used for and that a clear plan on spending funds needs to be established. DC to follow up with TF and update the committee at the next meeting. LJ felt DC would need some additional support and offered to help and requested any other committee members who would like to be involved in the project to contact him.

Action: DC to arrange meeting with TF and LJ.

10) **Officials' and Officials' Training Update from AH**

1. AH has had no time to run additional courses, as yet, but hopes to do so soon.
2. CoR Course- AH proposes that this should be two sessions. The first should be the Race Sec Training Session, the second the on the hill, on the day side of CoR.
3. Calcs – AH continues to hope that colleagues in Wales will provide this.
4. Sport 80. The Office has not, as yet, had time to arrange a meeting with AH

AH advised the Level 1 Officials' information on the website is becoming outdated and we need to get some pathway information out to avoid confusion how volunteers progress. DS confirmed she has struggled to find the Officials' training pathway and could the information be clearer. AH confirmed the main pathway document needs to be updated but also a simple flowchart would be beneficial. AH advised that Clubs and Academies should be taking on the responsibility for training Level 1 & 2, TF confirmed Snowsport England is at present visiting Clubs and this is something that could be communicated.

Action: AH to produce officials' pathway flowchart.

11) **Update from TD forum – LJ**

LJ confirmed no further meetings have taken place since November, but the new Medical Form with the added Defibrillator section is now live on GBSKI.

12) **Alpine Squad**

LJ advised although no Squad Manager has been appointed the selection process for the 2023 Alpine Squad will still go ahead. The Selection panel will be LJ, PT and the Talent Lead Tom Farenden and selection will follow the publication of the May seed points lists.

Action: LJ to arrange meeting with PT and Tom Farenden.

13) Dry Slope Ambassadors

DS confirmed the Dry slope Ambassadors have been announced for 2023 and new kit is being distributed. The squad focus this year will be articulating the benefits to the individual and Snowsport England. The first training day however, was cancelled due to many of the Ambassadors still training abroad.

14) Alpine Championships (Appendix 1)

DM reported the event was a success with the main difference this year being the split of weeks for the FIS and Childrens races. DM asked PT for feedback as it is proposed to run the same format in 2024. PT felt the change was well received and gave more opportunity in the timetable if races needed to be rescheduled. If the FIS races in Santa Caterina could have gone ahead then that would have kept Athletes in resort, maybe having a FIS race at the end of the Championships for 2024 would be beneficial.

15) Athlete Welfare (Appendix 2)

TF confirmed Mark Vaughan will be taking more of a lead on this going forward and the Board Champion for safeguarding is now Andy Howell.

16) AOB

TF confirmed a press release for the eola GBR series will be issued shortly. Lottie and Sophie will be attending several events across different disciplines over the summer and producing social media.

TF reported that a Race Secretary Webinar was recently held but was disappointed with the numbers of Race Secretaries that attended. Further documentation and flowcharts will be produced to clarify how to use the new system. Lots of race entries have been received however, some errors are occurring which are being worked through to resolve.

TF advised Steph and Jade from Snowsport England are at present running Cub engagement sessions to encourage Clubs to get more involved.

**The next meeting will take place by Zoom on
Monday 19th June at 7pm**

Actions from meeting:

REF	Who	Action	Completion date
9i	DC	to arrange advertising meeting with LJ and TF	Before next meeting
10	AH	to produce Officials' flowchart	Update next meeting
12	LJ	to arrange Alpine Squad selection meeting with PT and Tom Farenden	Before next meeting

Ongoing Actions log:

Who	Action	Update or completed
GC	to forward advertising proposal to TF	Complete
AH/TF	updates to sport 80 for logging officials' details and accreditation	Update at next meeting
TF	to follow up Perpetual Trophy sponsorship for U10/12 Inter-Club	Update at next meeting
TF	to send slope contact emails to AH	By next meeting
LJ	to purchase U10/12 Inter-Regional Perpetual Trophy	Complete
GC	to pass advertising proposal to DC who will update the committee with progress at the next meeting	Complete
AH	to update Officials' pathway on Snowsport England Website	By next meeting

Appendix %



Alpine Committee 17th April 2023

Report on Alpine Championships 2023

Wrapping up 2023

Team

The team this year were back to full strength from the 'slimmed down' version in 2022, mostly familiar faces with only one team member joining us for the first time.

Some roles continue to be difficult to fill in resort with 'volunteers' (notably commentary and start marshal) so some thought needs to be given to increasing team size slightly to ensure that all key roles are properly covered without relying on too much on-site arm-twisting.

This year also saw that inclusion of a dedicated media team of three, who devoted their time to generating content, holding interviews, etc. using various platforms, all of which seems to have been well received by participants and supporters.

Resort and Staff

With a change in personnel at the top level of SIB (the lift company) there was some concern beforehand about the possible impact on the relationship that had been built up with the local team over the years that the event has been in Bormio. As it turned out, Giorgio Scuri (replacing Pasquale Canclini) proved to be very hands-on and also very supportive of our event and pretty much anything that we needed. This bodes well for future years.

Race Programme

In something of an experiment, the FIS race schedule was brought forward by a few days with the races scheduled to run from Thursday through Tuesday with no racing on the 'middle' Saturday. This was done to help 'de-pressurise' the busy race week and avoid trying to do too much all at once.

This should have allowed a 'free' day on Saturday for the small sub-team who arrived early to meet with the main part of the team who largely arrived on Friday afternoon/evening. However, with the expectation of a large entry in our FIS Super-G races it was decided to move a Slalom from Monday to Saturday to allow the Super-G races to be split over Monday and Tuesday.

In the end, due at least in part to the expected large Italian entry deciding to race elsewhere, the Super-G races were under-subscribed but by that point the die had been cast.

On the Childrens' side the programme was largely as normal, commencing on Sunday and running through to the last races on Friday. Unfortunately, the new management on the hill did not want to run our team parallel under floodlight as we have in the past - most likely due to insurance issues related to using the front bucket on a piste machine to take competitors to the start! We therefore had to relocate this race to run on Thursday after the U14 Slalom. On the plus side, changes in the timing equipment provided by the resort meant that the U14/16 Team Parallel could be run as a genuine relay which made for a much more exciting spectacle.

Technology

As in previous years, significant use of several WhatsApp groups allowed us to keep both the team and the public (coaches, competitors and parents) informed.

New for this year was an experiment with using large-screen displays (TVs) to show information such as race programmes and live timing, driven by custom software written specifically for the event. There were some challenges with connectivity and in particular positioning of the screens to avoid them from being invisible in bright sunlight, but there are already some improvements in hand in terms of both hardware and software that should allow us to provide an even better service next time round.

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. Also, the FIS and NJR races will contain many of the same competitors, so the totals are not actually genuine totals but are a useful guide to the overall trend.

Category	2020	2022	2023
U10/12	169	113	147
U14	132	93	95
U16	128	125	130
FIS	174	191	163
NJR	164	169	152
	2787	2713	2710

Finance

Following the pattern introduced in 2022, foreign nationals were charged an entry fee of €30 per race to partake in our FIS races. All FIS racers and coaches were also allowed (as in previous years) to buy a daily lift pass from us which added another small but useful amount to the income stream.

With the team back to full strength after the reduced level in 2022, costs for transport and accommodation were expected to rise, but as it turned out the flights were more expensive than initially predicted.

With the Ambassador Hotel (our 'home' for several years) having closed for the season we moved our base to the Hotel Funivia across the road. This increased our accommodation costs compared to previous years, but the choice of appropriate hotel accommodation is limited.

Work on the final figures is under way, hampered somewhat by differences between budget model used by the ROC and the way some of the transactions then appear in the accounts P&L report. Suffice it to say that the event will once more show a healthy surplus to contribute to the overall Alpine budget.

Planning for the future

2024

Dates for 2024 have already been agreed, with the FIS races running from Thursday 8th to Tuesday 13th February, and the Childrens' races from Sunday 11th to Friday 16th February, with the latter matching the UK school half term dates for 75% of education authorities.

There will be some challenges in building the race programme to accommodate not only the enforced move of the U14/16 Team Parallel to daytime but also the impact of the various Carnival festivities which may require us to stage some races in the Oga ski area across town.

2025

Dates for 2025 will be agreed before we finish the 2024 event. The resort has already indicated that they do not expect to be required to run an Olympic test event as they already run FIS World Cup downhill, so we should be clear to negotiate our preferred dates as usual to fall in line with UK school holidays.

2026

For 2026 it is expected that our preferred dates will overlap with the Olympic schedule with Bormio hosting the Alpine events for men.

Our most likely option is probably to move our event to run a few weeks after the Olympics and accept that our entry numbers are likely to be lower, as it would be outside the school holidays. The alternatives are to find another venue that would be happy to host us for just one year, or to skip 2026 altogether. All possible options will continue to be discussed before any firm decision is made.

Board Meeting & AC Meeting – Update No 4 April 2023

Briefing Paper

Athlete Safeguarding & Wellbeing Initiative

Update April 2023

Presentation from Mark Vaughan at meeting 13/04/23 (Appendix 1)

Gareth Case 13/04/23

Update February 2023

Unfortunately, we experienced a delay in the final preparation of the questionnaire, however this delay resulted in a positive opportunity to embed the questionnaire within a document Snowsport England (Jade & Stephanie were preparing at the time to issue to the clubs & academies)

This document was issued W/C 06/02/23 ahead of the English Championships in Bormio

Note: I would like to express my thanks to Jade & Stephanie for the work they did to incorporate the Welfare & Safeguarding element into their questionnaire & still issue before our target i.e.) prior to Bormio

Whilst in Bormio SE held an open forum evening with Tim, Dominic & myself during at which I was able to present to coaches, parents our initiative around Safeguarding & Welfare, the Why, How, When etc. A Q&A followed, clarifying a few points, I am pleased to say the response was extremely positive both in the room on the night & over the following days where several interested parties spoke to me directly welcoming the initiative

It should be noted Robin Kellen (CEO SSW) & Georgina Kellen (Lead Welfare & Safeguarding Offices SSW) were extremely supportive & have requested we work together across NGBs to provide an aligned approach, I am already in communication with Georgina to progress this, once we have more shape, we can seek to engage with SSS also.

Next Steps:

- Engage Mark's experience having already rolled out something similar with the LTA
- Maintain engagement with Jade & Steph to ensure the above is captured & communicated within the work & services we are providing to our members
- Request Jade & Steph to follow up on the Questionnaire response (we requested returns mid-March) – keep the pressure on!
- Create a logo / symbol to identify accreditation (anyone in SE creative??)
- Draft a SE webpage which will identify accredited clubs & academies
- Start identifying the next areas of focus

To confirm Mark Vaughan & I have caught up briefly & are in the process of discussing how best to move this initiative forward to ensure focus, momentum is maintained

Gareth Case 21/02/23

Update November 2022

The Working Party (WP) have met on-line on a couple of occasions & have agreed the initial focus points to address in the first instance & is set out as below:

1. Request & capture detailed information from all clubs & academies confirming all staff, qualifications & contact details.
2. Request & capture detailed information confirming safeguarding & wellbeing policies which are in place & in date (& by default those which are not!)
3. Create an accessible database from the above information contained within items 1 & 2 can be managed by SE.
4. Develop a document for discussion (KASIS) keeping athletes safe on Snowsport, using key principles & learning taken from recent findings within other sports (gymnastics / football) & education

Progress to date:

The draft questionnaire is now complete with the intention to issue to Paul Telling (Evolution) to complete as a test to ensure robustness of system. Any feedback from Paul can then be taken on board with a view to issue the final document to all clubs & academies as identified no later than 09/12/22. Requesting the information to be returned no later than 31/12/22.

On receipt of the satisfactorily completed questionnaire, SE will award an accreditation, (logo to be created to represent safeguarding, which all accredited Clubs & academies will be allowed to display) to be updated annually as additional requirements are added.

The first draft of section one (four sections in total) of KASIS has been prepared, once again target date for completion of draft end of this year.

A member of the WP has also met with Ellie Souters father who is extremely supportive of our endeavours & is happy to support & share his findings of his own personal circumstances with us. An area where this may lead is concussion protocols & the correct application.

Would welcome the opportunity for SE to visit some clubs & academies whilst in Bormio, also maybe use the opportunity to present to all the clubs & academies whilst in resort (captured market! – all welfare officers should be in resort)

Dependant on the quality & detail feedback received this will allow us to establish the next steps in our focus.

Gareth Case 30/11/22

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, & when 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 they should 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