

**Alpine Committee Meeting
Monday 11 September 2023 19:00
By Zoom**



Present:

Lloyd Jenkins (LJ)
Debbie Gunton (DG)
David Chapman (DC)
Sally Bartlett (SB)

Davids Eaves (DE)
Andrew Hjort (AH)
Paul Telling (PT)
Tom Farenden (TF)

1) Apologies

Gareth Case (GC)
David Manns (DM)
Megan Whitmarsh-Ali (MW)
Diane Sarkar (DS)

2) Declaration of Interests

All declarations of interests are up to date.

3) Safeguarding

None.

4) Minutes from previous meeting

Minutes from the meeting on 19 June 2023 had been agreed and published on 10 July 2023.

5) Matters arising from previous meetings.

i. Update on Course Setting / Coaching Courses, and how we can influence this (PT)

This will be covered later with AOB.

6) Finance Update - DE (Appendix 1), LJ (Appendix 2)

LJ reported monies have now been received from Bormio Tourist Office and revenue from the Lowlands Championships is still to come. Planning for 2024 budget will begin over the next few weeks.

7) 2024 Calendar Planning update – AH (Appendix 3)

AH presented to the Committee his proposed venues for the GBR/National weekends, the Committee agreed with the proposal.

DC raised a question for the committee to consider splitting the GBR weekends and pairing with a CN, LJ confirmed that following an open question and answer meeting at the All England several parents had raised concerns that the calendar has too many races and SE should be providing the committee with guidance for the 2025 calendar planning.

AH raised that GBR weekends were originally spread over several weekends and were amalgamated several years ago to help with costs to parents. The attraction for a club hosting a CN and GBR over a weekend would mean the CN would attract more racers but the disadvantages are more travelling and higher costs to parents. AH also raised concerns that if the last race of the series was not going to affect the results some racers may decide not to attend.

DC confirmed feedback he has received is that if racers missed one weekend, racers would still be in the running for the title if races were spread out over more weekends, SB advised she had received similar comments from parents. SB also suggested a later start time on Saturday morning to allow for travel on the morning of the race to cut costs of Friday night accommodation.

AH raised concerns that within an already busy calendar this could potentially block more weekends as the series would be split over 5 weekends instead of 3. The GBR series numbers are indicating that the series is already very successful on its own.

PT added that both options have valid points but also the changes made several years back were made to discourage people from travelling and minimise the number of weekends. PT suggested that the committee needs direction and clarity from SE as to what we are aiming to achieve with the race series. As no pathways exist, parents have no clear direction of which races will best suit their child.

TF added that pathways and clear direction is required to better educate parents to pick the correct races. LJ agreed that racers do not need to attend every race on the calendar and should participate in more training.

PT suggested the Committee approach SE and request some guidance from them for the 2025 calendar planning.

Action: LJ to discuss with Domonic McGonigal the Committee's concerns of the lack of strategies and pathways within SE.

8) Perpetual Trophies

LJ confirmed a U10/12 Interclub Perpetual trophy has been purchased and Robin Kellen has purchased Perpetual Trophies for the British Outdoor Women and Men Masters categories.

LJ thanked DG for all her hard work in retrieving the 80 Perpetual Trophies again this season for GBR and Championship events.

9) Sponsorship - DC

i. Update on advertising board

This is on the on-going action log for LJ/DC/GC to arrange a meeting and discuss the proposal.

10) Officials' and Officials' Training Update - AH (Appendix 4)

AH confirmed he is looking at running more Officials' courses in the future, especially for COR and Race Secs.

The SE website is now very outdated and needs reviewing. However, priority at the moment is to move forward on logging Officials' onto Sport80 which will also require involvement from Claire Pennell.

DE raised that within the budget there is an allowance to spend on recognition for volunteers but nothing documented as to what that will be provided this season.

Action: LJ, DE, AH to arrange a meeting to discuss options for volunteers recognition.

11) Update from TD forum – LJ

LJ confirmed the next TD Forum meeting in November is in Manchester and will include decisions around U16 random draws that was trialled in North America. The conclusion is likely to be that Home Nation Championship events will not have a random draw, but other organisers have the choice to do so and the BACR rules will be updated to reflect this.

LJ advised that the rules update seminar on the Saturday is open to Level 3 & 4 Officials' to attend and will be advertised on GBSKI.

Any further items the committee would like to raise at the next TD forum need to be sent to LJ within the next 2 weeks following this meeting.

12) Alpine Squad (LJ)

LJ confirmed the squad selection process has now been fully completed.

TF reported the uptake for the DiSE Programme had been disappointing this year from members of the Alpine Squad.

13) Dry Slope Ambassadors (DS, MW)

No update on the Dry Slope Ambassadors'

14) Alpine Championships (DM)

LJ confirmed that the initial Championships planning has been focussing on the budget preparation and work is now beginning on forming the Bormio Team.

DE asked who will be taking on the organising of the event going forward, LJ confirmed that David Manns and Andrea Grant with some assistance from LJ are proceeding with the arrangements for 2024 event.

PT questioned if the intention is to run the same programme as last year and to include the extra FIS races, LJ confirmed that is the plan.

15) Athlete Welfare (GC)

No further update.

16) AOB

PT raised the following questions:

- i. Update on Course Setting / Coaching Courses, and how we can influence this.

Will be discussed at the next meeting.

- ii. Plans for Alpine policy within SE.

PT confirmed following conversations with GBS they have indicated their resources will be purely focused on the World Class Programme and that they have no available funds or resources to look beyond that. This means the gap between World Cup and grassroots is bigger than ever before, so that the only option available for athletes is via the private sector route. GBS seem to be implying that an Alpine Pathway should be available via the Home Nations. How can this be moved forward to give athletes clear direction and progress pathways?

TF confirmed he is in the process of building pathways and how SE can fill those gaps, this will be presented to the SE board at the next board meeting.

PT requested that TF provides the Alpine Committee with a copy of his paper once agreed by the board to allow the Committee an opportunity to make comments.

TF confirmed by the 9 October he should be able to share the document with the Committee. Therefore, it was decided that pathways should be added as an agenda item to discuss at the meeting on 13 November by which time the Committee will have had a chance to review the document.

Action: DG to add Pathways to next Committee meeting agenda.

- iii. Futures Championships end of September.

PT advised the Futures Championships has not been well advertised and requested the committee share with clubs the event being held at Norfolk Snowsports Club on the

30 Oct / 1 Nov, Saturday will be a training day followed by competitions on the Sunday across different disciplines.

LJ confirmed he has already spoken with SE to add the event to social media platforms and will speak with Claire Pennell to get the information emailed out to the Alpine racers who last year were unaware that the event was taking place.

**The next meeting will take place by Zoom on
Monday 13 November at 7pm**

Actions from meeting:

REF	Who	Action	Completion date
7	LJ	LJ to discuss with Domonic McGonigal the Committee's concerns of the lack of strategies and pathways within SE	13 November 2023
10	LJ,DE, AH	to arrange a meeting to discuss options for Volunteers' recognition	13 November 2023
AOB	DG	To add pathways to next Committee Meeting Agenda	13 November 2023

Ongoing Actions log:

Who	Action	Update or completed
AH	updates to sport 80 for logging officials' details and accreditation	Update at next meeting (Currently on hold)
LJ	to follow up Perpetual Trophy sponsorship for U10/12 Inter-Club	Completed
AH	to update Officials' pathway on Snowsport England Website	By next meeting
AH	to produce Officials' flowchart	Flowchart was more confusing therefore, action closed
LJ/DE	to check that monies due from Bormio Tourist Office are received	Completed
LJ	to contact Robin for Masters Trophies	Completed
LJ/DC/GC	to arrange meeting to discuss Sponsorship proposal	By next meeting

Appendix 1

Finance Update

Alpine: Every year the financial performance of the English Alpine Championships (EAC) in Q1 has a substantial bearing on the Company's overall performance for the year. The EAC is our premier event and is supported by a dedicated set of volunteers from our Alpine community as well as our central staff team. In 2023, the EAC exceeded expectations both in the delivery of the event and in its financial performance. Mostly due to the EAC, Alpine provided a surplus in Q1 of £22.7k compared to a budgeted surplus of £15k. A great result and our thanks to our colleagues in Alpine and our central services team for their work on this event.

However, for the summer races I've shown performance against actual for SSE race events.

As you have advised GBR and indoor events have held up well but we have seen drop off in some Club Nationals plus Inter Regional and All England Teams numbers against our original plan.

Against the budget this will see us circa 5k behind plan for the summer budget excluding the surplus carried forward from Bormio on gross income.

Travel & hotel costs have impacted some clubs and the events they hold which in turn then impacts Alpine income.

This could see some clubs perhaps considering if a Club National is viable for them when slope hire / trophies costs etc. are taken into account.

TD expenses and other expenditure items are still to filter through which given hotel cost will potentially see these above the budgeted figures we prepared last year and reduce the overall surplus.

Hopefully these will be to hand shortly to assist with the budgets for next year which we will need to work on shortly.

Appendix 2

2023 Artificial Season Report

I have done an analysis of the entry numbers. The 2023 season in general, saw sustained entry numbers across the season in most of the events to date.

Comparisons have been made with 2022 numbers and the 2023 season saw the number of Indoor GBR Series maintained after the cancellation of two indoor races at Snow Factor (Braehead). This was managed by allowing other indoor events count towards the GBR Series awards. The 2023 season saw 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 outdoor in 2022 for indoor CNs.
- The male entries have seen a slight fall for outdoor CNs compared with 2022. Female entries have fallen once again for Outdoor CNs compared with 2022.
- The largest entries for Club Nationals were at Hemel CN for indoor and Silksworth and Welwyn for outdoor CNs.
- Outdoor CNs markedly down on entries. Overall entry numbers saw a 25% fall– mainly down to fewer U14+ female numbers and some reduction in U10/U12s
- Indoor CNs also saw a slight overall reduction in entries by 16% (Holding steady on U10/U12 numbers

GBR Events

- Outdoor GBRs were up slightly by 9% compared to 2022 for overall entries (Holding steady on U10/U12 numbers) – mainly down to higher U14+ male numbers.
- Indoor GBRs up by 6% against what was a very good year in 202.
- 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 2023 and look forward to working with them as we hope that they continue their sponsorship of the GBR Series in 2024

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 disappointing to see a reduced entry of teams at the Inter-Regional Event at Silksworth with 8 teams entering in 2023. The event also saw the Inter-Regional U10/U12 event with a total of 4 Regional teams taking part. The reduced entry is clearly due to the early scheduling of the event at the beginning of the season.

Championship Events

SE was responsible for organisation of the English Indoor Championships in 2023. The event, held at Chill Factore, was a big success with some 176 entries again.

The All-England Championships were held at Norfolk in August 2023 and saw entries of 162 racers taking part on the Saturday. The Inter Club and Team Dual Slalom event on the Sunday saw 21 teams competing in the U14+ event. The U10/U12 Team Dual Slalom event that saw 7 teams competing. The weekend event was very well supported by sponsors Rossignol and other suppliers of ski racing equipment.

Lloyd Jenkins

Calendar and Officials' Training Report

Alpine Committee, 11th September 2023

1. Calendar 2024

Most bids have confirmed, some still waiting to hear from venues before confirming bid.

2. Officials' Log 2023

I will contact Chiefs of Race for updated lists of Officials from this year's races.

3. Sport 80

I have still to arrange a meeting.

4. Simple flow chart for the Pathway

Tried, ended up much more complicated than the 4 page document!

5. Pathway changes for the 23 edition

- L1 and L2 now "in club"
- L5 removed and tutors for L3 and above restricted to TDs and nominees of the AC
- L5 (CoR) course, when written, will take the Race Secretary Course as part 1.

6. GBR/National Weekends 2024

My recommendations, based on the bids, would be:

All England: Silksworth

GBR Weekend: Norfolk

Inter-Regional: Gloucester