

Alpine Committee Meeting
Monday 13 November 2023 19:00
By Zoom



Present:

Lloyd Jenkins (LJ)
Debbie Gunton (DG)
David Eaves (DE)
Gareth Case (GC)
Jade Gerrard (JG)

Diane Sarkar (DS)
Andrew Hjort (AH)
Paul Telling (PT)
Tom Farenden (TF)
Maggie Still (MS)

1) Apologies

David Manns (DM)
Megan Whitmarsh-Ali (MW)
David Chapman (DC)
Sally Bartlett (SB)

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 11 September 2023 had been agreed and published on 2 October 2023.

5) Matters arising from previous meetings.

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

PT raised DM has mentioned that from a TD perspective it would be beneficial for Officials' and TD's to attend Course Setting Courses. PT questioned with an already busy Calendar who should these Courses be aimed at, dates and Locations?

LJ suggested the end of April and end May - early June would be suitable and aimed at TDs, Officials' Level 3/4 and CoR.

DE raised that trainees who have recently attended the UKCP L1 would benefit from the Course Setters Course as a natural progression.

PT advised this was discussed several years ago but nothing progressed. Could the Setters course be added to the existing UKCP L1 course as a mandatory section to be completed before signed off as licenced?

Action: LJ to email Coaching Panel to discuss adding Course Setters Module as a mandatory section to UKCP L1 within SE.

Action: PT to contact SE to schedule courses into Calendar.

PT also raised concerns on Course Setting standards for Snow Alpine races and should setters only be signed off Licensed UKCP L2 (or foreign equivalent)?

LJ confirmed setters should be experienced and chosen by the COR, but happy to move forward with PT suggestion.

PT confirmed this would raise standards and encourage coaches to become licensed and complete the full course and the UCKP L3 could assist UCKP L2 trainees become qualified.

Action: LJ to discuss with DM to add setting standards into the BCR.

6) **Finance Update - DE**

DE reported the Budget has been submitted to the Board but since several more races have been added to the Calendar which will improve to the original figures.

The Budget is cautious again on numbers, last season saw a drop in CN numbers to what was anticipated however, the Indoor and GBR Series numbers were high. DE felt the costs of fuel and hotel bills will again likely impact the numbers this season.

LJ confirmed the forecast has been set to be as realistic as possible and Simon Levene is happy. Once the budget has been fully approved by the Board LJ will circulate the document to Committee Members.

7) **2024 Calendar Planning update – AH**

AH confirmed the Calendar is pretty much complete for 2024. The Indoor Welsh, Scottish and English will all be held at Chill Factore. Other Indoor Races are Ambition races and Hem/SMK CN'S. Telford and Midlands are still to be confirmed as are some of the Academies.

Chatham has submitted a late bid with a suggested date the same weekend as Hem/SMK. It was agreed by the Committee that this was acceptable as one is Dry and one is Snow.

8) **Sponsorship - DC**

i. Update on advertising board

Deferred until next meeting.

9) **Officials' and Officials' Training Update - AH**

i. Updates to sport 80 for logging officials' details and accreditation (AH)

AH confirmed to progress officials' logging. It requires a meeting with sport80 to discuss and SE to agree costs. JG advised this process currently happens on Sport80 with coaches and felt this could be an easy adaption on Sport80 for logging officials.

Action : AH/JG to arrange meeting to discuss logging officials' on sport80.

ii. Updates to Officials' pathway on Snowsport England Website (AH)

AH agreed that the current pathway on SE Website is becoming out of date and suggested it should be removed to avoid any further confusion.

Action: AH to contact JG to progress the removal of the Officials pathway document.

iii. Volunteers Recognition (LJ, AH, DE)

AH confirmed that, following a meeting with LJ and DE, a list of volunteers for this season has been compiled and includes several volunteers who are members of other HN's. Therefore, the SE clothing range may not be suitable for all.

Action: LJ, AH and DE to re-visit Volunteers recognition list and costings.

JG suggested that once the list has been finalised, this should be communicated via SE website to promote further, recognise our volunteers and encourage others.

10) **Update from TD forum – LJ (Appendix 1)**

GC raised concerns on limited starts and would this impact on GB Athletes? LJ, PT both agreed this would not have any significant impact to GB athletes and is a re-introduction of rules from a few years back.

GC questioned if any further information was available on the new Athlete Welfare Unit. LJ confirmed he would circulate a link round the committee members.

11) **SE Pathway (TF)**

TF shared initial thoughts from SE of how to develop the alpine pathway. This was discussed with the committee and members were able to provide feedback and input thoughts on the proposal, and current pathway. There will be an ongoing process the committee will be able to feed into, with any details only being shared wider once confirmed. This included a brief discussion about how to resource any changes or developments within the pathway as one of the largest barriers to what is possible.

12) **Alpine Squad (LJ)**

LJ confirmed that he will circulate the draft Alpine Squad Selection Policy for the 2023/24 to the Committee for comments.

PT suggested it would be beneficial to add back physical testing with base levels targets to be achieved and include educational days. LJ agreed that this can be added and that he will circulate details of previous tests for PT and TF to comment upon.

13) **Board update (MS/JG)**

MS confirmed she will be staying on longer in the role as CEO and is delighted to be working with SE moving forward.

MS advised that her core focus is to ensure that the Board, staff and sub-committees all align. She has been looking at specific objectives for the organisation and to ensure everybody is focused on achieving the core aims outlined in the SE strategic plan. Several new committees will be formed to help feed information directly into the Board and that SE needs to work closer with GBS moving forward. MS observations so far of SE is that the Board is very focused to deliver changes and we have fantastic relationships with our key support partners.

JG gave an update on the current team at SE, the DBS admin role has been re-advertised, the Participation role has received a significant number of applicants. A recent recruitment has seen a number of non-exec members appointed with a vast amount of experience.

JG also confirmed the current trans policy is being updated and will be published shortly, any queries in the interim to be directed to her. Also, a new Alpine Officials' LV1 online course is under development.

MS reported she is also working on the commercial strategy looking at improving members' benefits. SE has signed up to a Metal Health partner which athletes will be able to access.

14) **Dry Slope Ambassadors (DS, MW)**

DS reported the Dry slope season has now come to an end, and we saw some great performances from the Ambassadors. Letters of recognition to Ambassadors will be going out to ambassadors in the next few weeks. The Ambassadors, in the main, have been great role

models, however there were some reports of individuals not upholding behaviours one would expect. Expectations of the role of Ambassadors will be enhanced and reiterated for next year's Ambassadors.

The CEO award was not awarded this year due to the change of leadership. Ambassadors were asked to nominate a fellow athlete that they felt worthy of the award according to the criteria, however, there was an extremely poor response rate and therefore not viable.

Once the final outdoor seed list is published the process for next year's Ambassador selection will commence.

There is an opportunity to enhance and raise the profile of the role of the Ambassador for SE and this will be considered over the forthcoming months.

Alpine Championships (DM) (Appendix 2)

PT advised as the race programme has now been confirmed with FIS starting earlier in the week, some FIS teams are proposing to run some races towards the end of the week to retain athletes in resort, these races will be added to the programme once the resort has confirmed.

For English Champs in 2026, PT confirmed that Reiteralm through the Schladming Tourist Board are proposing to offer a venue as a temporary resort but to also include some freestyle competitions within the week.

15) Athlete Welfare (GC)

It was agreed to merge Athlete Welfare and Safeguarding for the next meeting.

16) AOB

i. Definition of a Club and an Academy for SE classification

LJ advised that clarity is needed around the definition of Club and Academy, this is mainly for the awards at the English Champs as the SE affiliation costs are the same. It was agreed LJ and GC would meet and set out clear guidelines for the future and ensure current affiliated Clubs and Academies were registered correctly at SE.

Action: LJ, GC to meet and set out clear guidelines for Clubs and Academies.

ii. Dates for 2024 meetings:

15 January
22 April
17 June
9 September
18 November

The next meeting will take place by Zoom on

Monday 15 January 2024 at 7pm

Actions from meeting:

REF	Who	Action	Completion date
5i	LJ	to email Coaching Panel to discuss adding Course Setters Module as a mandatory section to UKCP L1 within SE.	15 January 2024
5i	PT	PT to contact SE to schedule courses into Calendar	15 January 2024
5i	LJ	to discuss with DM to add setting standards into the BCR	15 January 2024
9i	AH/JG	to arrange meeting to discuss logging officials' on sport80	15 January 2024
9ii	AH	to contact JG to progress the removal of the Officials pathway document	15 January 2024
9iii	LJ,AH, DE	to re-visit Volunteers recognition list and costings	15 January 2024
AOB	LJ,GC	to meet and set out clear guidelines for Clubs and Academies	15 January 2024

Ongoing Actions log:

Who	Action	Update or completed
AH	updates to sport 80 for logging officials' details and accreditation	Update 15 January 2024
AH	to update Officials' pathway on Snowsport England Website	Complete (document to be removed from SE website)
LJ/DC/GC	to arrange meeting to discuss Sponsorship proposal	Completed
LJ	LJ to discuss with Domonic McGonigal the Committee's concerns of the lack of strategies and pathways within SE	Complete
LJ, DE, AH	to arrange a meeting to discuss options for Volunteers' recognition	Completed
DG	To add pathways to next Committee Meeting Agenda	Completed

**Alpine Committee Meeting
Monday 13th November 2023 19:00
By Zoom**



Update from TD Forum Meeting November 2023 (Lloyd Jenkins)

The TD Forum met on Sunday 7th November in Manchester and this followed the Rules Update Seminar on the Saturday.

The key points to note were as follows:

FIS Matters

- A proposal to limit race starts for entering FIS for Year 1 & 2 was briefly discussed and will be voted in the May FIS Conference and seems likely to be approved.
- Lack of cross-nation assignment of TDs since COVID, starting to be addressed.
- Where special quotas are granted following an application by a nation, the take-up will be monitored, with the possibility of refusing future requests for such quotas if allocated places are not taken up.
- Scheduling of World Cup events is intended to cover several years ahead in order to help resorts plan their investment.

Current Medical matters activities include:

- New Athletes Health Unit has been approved by council, looking at all aspects of health and well-being across all disciplines, looking at injury statistics, mental health, etc
- Projects on concussion under way, including review of wearable devices to measure impact. Podium Analytics are carrying out a study of concussion using sensors in mouth guards.

ICR Changes

As mentioned in the update following the May Forum meeting, ICR Rules have been changed with regard to not allowing any climbing back in SL after coming to a stop, to bring it into line with other disciplines. This has been introduced for 2023/24 season for FIS events now published on the FIS website.

The Northern Hemisphere precisions in relation to this are posted on GBSki.com and the changes in relation to this are included below:

Complete stop for Slalom events

614.2.3 Interdiction to Continue after a competitor stops
If competitors come to a complete stop (e.g. after a fall), they must no longer continue through previous or further gates. ~~This interdiction is valid in all events with a fixed start interval (Downhill, Super-G, Giant Slalom, Parallel). Only exception is for Slalom (art. 661.4.1), as long as the competitor: -does not interfere with the run of the next competitor or, -have not been passed by the next competitor.~~

661.4.1 A gate has been passed correctly when both the competitor's ski tips and both feet have crossed the gate line. If a competitor loses a ski, without committing a fault, e.g. not by straddling a pole, then the tip of the remaining ski and both

feet must have crossed the gate line. ~~This rule also applies when a competitor has to climb back up to a gate. (art. 614.2.3)~~

804.3 Where there is no outside pole, both feet and ski tips must have passed the turning pole on the same side, following the normal race line of the slalom crossing the imaginary line from turning pole to turning pole. If competitors lose a ski, without committing a fault, e.g. not by straddling a pole, then the tip of the remaining ski and both feet must meet both requirements. ~~If competitors have not correctly crossed the imaginary line from turning pole to turning pole and does not follow the normal race line, they have to climb back up and pass around the missed turning pole.~~ Where there is an outside pole (first and last gate, delayed gate, and combinations (hairpin, vertical) art. 661.4.1. is valid.

The use of electronic noticeboards such as WhatsApp are to be allowed explicitly, removing the requirement for publishing paper forms, such as Start Lists and Referee Report Forms. These are to be announced at the Team Captain's Meeting.

There will be some clarification on allowing double entry by an athlete if two events are scheduled in same location on same day. Details are defined in the FIS Northern Hemisphere ICR Precisions

New TD

Jonny Gillespie Passed written exam in November 2023. On-snow exams this season.

Sanctions and TD Feedback

A TD reported recent use of social media to 'troll' juries following potentially contentious decisions. This is unacceptable and will be monitored and if this continues may result in some sanctions being applied.

Rule Changes BACR/BCR

BCR

It was agreed that the FIS rule changes that disallow stepping back (hiking) in Slalom (614.2.3, 661.4.1, 804.3) **will** be applied at all BASS seeded calendar races (and any accompanying U10/12 races). No changes are needed in BCR rule books as we have no British precisions for these ICR articles, but education needs to be widespread to ensure the message is clear to everyone.

It was also agreed that for other events (for example, unseeded, club or regional races, or team competitions where failure to complete a run can influence team results) may allow stepping back, but the organisers must ensure this is clearly explained in pre-race information.

A news article will be posted on GBSki.com

BCR IV (Event Regulations and Calendar) needs a section documenting the rules for incorporating Lowlands Indoor Championships results into BASS seeding, to be drafted by DJM and LJ to be presented at the May 2024 meeting.

BACR

Stepping back in Slalom

The changes described above under ICR will apply in the same way to **all** BARTS (artificial slope) seeded calendar races and any accompanying U10/12 races.

Artificial slope calendar process

BACR Book IV (Event Regulations and Calendar) Section 8 requires a complete replacement as given in a document circulated prior to the meeting.

U16 Race Format – random draw

A proposal to use a random draw for U16 races as has already been successfully trialled in the USA. It was agreed that use of a random draw for U16 first run could be a positive step in athlete development, but it would be prudent to allow a further period of discussion and reflection before changes are implemented.

It was also agreed that such a change would not apply to HN and GB championship events, which would continue to draw using seed points. It was further agreed that no changes would be proposed for U14 draw.

Rule changes to formalise this and collate a clear description of why these changes are being proposed are to be developed and these will be tabled at the May 2024 meeting for Forum agreement, then published for public discussion and feedback before a final decision is made at November 2024 meeting.

Next TD Forum Meeting

The 2024 May TD Forum meeting will take place on 18th May 2024, online.

The 2024 November TD Forum meeting is planned to take place on 1st/2nd/3rd November 2024 in Manchester.

Lloyd Jenkins



SE Alpine Committee

English Alpine Champs Update

November 2023



Team

The team of 'full time' officials is now complete apart from two media/PR people who are being recruited through the SE office. If anything changes then as usual we may need to look for additional people to plug any gaps. Although the list below indicates some split between FIS and GBR, for the latter part of the week we will only be running children's races so a change of 'hats' is needed partway through.

	FIS	GBR
Race Secretary	Andrea Grant	Sylvia Flahive
Chief of Race	Lloyd Jenkins	Dermot Flahive
Timing & Calcs	Alan Bullock	Deb Manns
Hill Team	Taryn Archbold [TBC], Andrew Hjort, David Eaves, Gareth Case, Jez Spring, Karen Conde, Malvina Trust	
Media/PR	Charlotte Chrystall (SCGB), A. N. Other x 2	
Race Director	David Manns	

Programme

The race programme is also complete and agreed with the lift company (SIB) in resort. The FIS races are already on the FIS calendar which implies approval from FIS for us to run our races in their country. In return we have agreed an increased quota for Italy with 30 in the FIS races and 20 in the NJR races, although presently this is showing in the FIS quota listing as '30 and 30' which we are in the process of trying to resolve.

Due to the expected presence of a large number of Italian public enjoying their 'carnival' holidays we have had to agree to place two races (U14 and U16 Giant Slalom) on the Adler piste on the opposite side of town to relieve the pressure on their main public slopes at the end of the week. SIB are fully aware that they have to play their part in ensuring good snow conditions on that piste.

The programme follows the model started in 2023, with FIS races starting on Thursday 8th February with two days of GS racing, followed by two days of Slalom on Sunday and Monday, rounding off with a double header Super-G on Tuesday.

For the children, racing starts on Sunday 11th with U10/12 GS, through to the closing race on Friday 16th with U14 GS.

Finance

The budget for this event has been completed, and incorporated in the overall Alpine budget which was recently approved. This shows an expected surplus of just over £13k (or £20k if you include sponsorship) which is 11% of budgeted income, a slight increase on last time.

Club or Academy

The distinction between Club and Academy has been called into question by several coaches/organisations. This is particularly in terms of so-called clubs who are clearly operating in the same way as recognised academies, but are then eligible to win the EAC 'best Club' award rather than competing for the 'best Academy award'.

The decision on whether a given organisation can affiliate with SE as a Club or an Academy is currently being considered by the Board. Whatever the outcome of this, a clear statement is needed well before the EAC so that each organisation is assigned to the correct competition.

Succession Planning

This is a perennial issue across the board with race officials and organisation, not restricted to just this competition.

However, despite this being the largest and most complex Alpine event on the SE calendar, we have made a reasonable start on documenting the event and the planning that goes behind it.

There is more work to be done on this, but it is a good start. However, there is clearly a limit to how much can be written down rather than experienced first-hand by shadowing the roles.

The real difficulty lies in identifying and nurturing people to take over the key roles who haven't already been on the team for decades.

Future Events

We are already fully aware that the 2026 Winter Olympics is looming on the horizon, with Bormio hosting races right when we would normally be in resort.

There is also the possibility that there will be test events in 2025 that could also push us out of the running for a slot in their calendar. The planning for this supposedly lies with the municipality of Bormio in conjunction with the Olympic LOC, so is outside the control – or apparently even the knowledge – of the Bormio lift company.

Therefore, for at least 2026 and possibly 2025 as well, we have three choices:

1. Stay in Bormio but shift to alternative dates.
2. Skip a year (or two).
3. Find a (temporary) alternative venue.

Option 1 would see a drop in attendance. We have always stuck to running the event in the week that matches most half-term school holidays, so running outside of those dates would surely prevent at least some of the children from attending.

There is also the possibility that if we vacate that half-term slot, someone else would put some races on during that slot and potentially establish a foothold which could be difficult to dislodge for 2027 when we would expect to be back in Bormio as normal.

It is also quite likely that the resort team in Bormio would not be able to give us their usual level of service if they will be or have been focused on running their test and/or Olympic races.

Option 2 is clearly not a good choice, given the painful financial hit that would be incurred. It would also allow someone to jump into the half-term slot in the same way as option 2.

Unless anyone can find a fourth choice, we are then left with option 3, to find an alternative venue that (a) wants (and can handle) an event of our size descending on them across February half-term and (b) is prepared to do so at a reasonable cost.

Note the assumption that that any alternative venue would be temporary, with us expecting to return to Bormio for 2027. There is the possibility that a venue switch could be more permanent if the right host can be found at the right price, that also ticks all the boxes that have made Bormio such a popular destination with our athletes and supporters over the years we have been going there.

David Manns

8th November 2023.