



The English Ski Council

**Alpine Racing Committee
Minutes of the 93rd ARC meeting held on Saturday, 27th July 2002
At Swadlincote Ski Centre**

PRESENT:

Des Pirkhoffer	DGP	Peter Heath	PH
Ian Roberts	IR	Paul Hothersall	PH^
Sandra Palmer	SP	Wendy Dean	WD
Alan West	AW		

APOLOGIES

Graham Beck	Alan Ashfield	Mark Telling	Gillian Gilyead
Willie Taunton-Burnet			

10.00h ARRIVAL

Action

93.1.0 **MINUTES** (already circulated)
Minutes of the 92nd meeting held on 20th April 2002 were approved subject to the following addition under 92.3.7 STP Report:

IR reported that there was no positive response from BARC, BSSF or any of the other Member Groups for taking forward the organisation of an official World Dry Slope Championships. Agreed that ESC should take no further action on the subject.

93.2.0 Matters Arising not on the Agenda

A copy of all ARC minutes from the 88th meeting (June 2001) to date and all future minutes to be sent to the ESC office for distribution to Council & the Board. **DGP**

A copy of reports from Alpine Championships and IR's report from STP to be circulated to ARC members with these minutes. **DGP**

Minutes of the 92nd meeting were reviewed as follows:

92.2.2 - FIS Starts - Policy still outstanding. **WTB**

92.3.1 – AGM Allocation of Funds Issue – no vote taken.

92.3.5 – Budget Finance Update

STP income and expenditure statement submitted and approved. IR to send AW a copy. **IR**

The problem of budgetary control of the GP races was discussed, as they are not under ROTP's direct control. Agreed that ROTP should examine the costs of races to date and instigate a review of financial control for GP & Championship races. **AW**

DGP to establish the level of financial recording in the office to see if a true P&L account can be achieved, which may highlight areas of sensitivity. **DGP**

DGP to obtain detailed figures from the office for 2001 & 2002 to date & forward to AW. **DGP**

Any requirement for the Chief of Race or other to be responsible for financial control should be included in the Race Manual.

92.3.6 - Sub-committees – AW to send future ROTP agendas to WD for circulation to ARC members. **AW/WD**

92.4.1 DGP reported that Tim Fawke has attended the APC3 course in Canada. The possibility of financial support is still not resolved. DGP to discuss with the Board **DGP**

Agreed that future minutes should not be reviewed in such detail. Outstanding actions would be covered and any amendments required to approve the minutes would be noted.

93.3.0 EUROPEAN CHAMPS

Continuing confusion regarding the entry criteria. The original communication from VSSF appeared to invite individual entries for the SL and GS races in addition to HN team entries for the International Team event. It now appears that all entries must be made by the HN and that there is a limit on the number of entries per nation.

DGP to ask Sandy Telling if he is prepared to organise the entry on behalf of ESC. **DGP**

DGP to invite Paul Barrett to be responsible for team selection for the Home Internationals at the Welsh, Irish, British and European Dry Slope Championships. He should be free to select the best eligible team regardless of seed points. Ground rules should be current performance and a team that has the best chance of winning. It was also agreed it wasn't necessary for Paul to attend himself, but he would need to appoint a Team Manager. **DGP**

IR agreed to discuss the entry problems with Maree Rudd - the BSSF appointed TD. **IR**

93.4.0 CHANGES IN HELMET REGULATIONS/INSURANCE

ESC Board has decreed that we must comply with any requirement by slope owners or their insurers for racers to wear helmets during any race related activity at their slope. Compulsory wearing of helmets is to be incorporated in the regulations for each relevant event, stating that the rule is to satisfy the slope's insurance requirements.

To date Wycombe Summit is the only confirmed slope where this is the case.

Racers must be notified as quickly and efficiently as possible - via Britski.org and in the next bulletin for the All England championships, but the exact requirements must be clarified prior to publication **DGP**

DGP will contact Wycombe Summit to ascertain clear guidelines from them as to what their insurance company's requirements are. AW / ROTP will ensure the Chief of Championships nominates a suitable experienced race official to monitor the wearing of helmets during races and we will pass this information on to Wycombe Summit. **AW**
PH

It was decided the guideline principle for the helmet would be a "Helmet designed for ski racing" i.e. one complying with European Standard: EN1077

93.5.0 ROTP REPORT

Race Officials database now available. AW to discuss data protection issues with Andrew Jolly to determine how the data should be made available. **AW**

Level 1 courses have been arranged at Pendle, Sunderland, Sandown Park & Swadlincote. The Level 2 course will be at Stoke Rochford Hall, Grantham on 23/24th November. ESC is liable to 50% fee from September & full cost 2 days before course.

ROTP meeting 4th August. Any calendar requests to AW before then.

ROTP were asked to consider holding incentive events to encourage attendance at races, especially at two-day events on the Saturday as most people are not in a rush to get home. Agreed that Race Bulletins may give details of supplementary events at CN & GP races. **AW**

Need more feedback from coaches on what competitions they need for their racers. Significant support from the Coaching Scheme Conference to use stubby poles at CN races. Potential safety issues to be resolved - need to agree pole specification. Understand that SPM now make poles for diamond shaped matting.

Agreed in principle that a CN race round stubbies could be seeded.
Ask ROTP to consult clubs to assess interest and to invite regions to trial at regional races. **AW**

Noted request for race organisers to arrange a dedicated waxing area, preferably with electricity to allow hot waxing.
To relieve pressure during the summer term, agreed to allow calendar races to be held in late July & August.
Both referred to ROTP to include in letters to clubs/slopes. **AW**

93.6.0 **STP REPORT**

The races so far this summer have all been successful and TDs have commented positively on the quality of race organisation.

The new FIS equipment regulations are likely to be imposed by BSSF this winter for non-FIS snow races. ESC/SCOW TDs agreed in principle last December to follow BSSF precedent for dry slope races from April 2003. This decision was published in January 2002. Further changes to the FIS rules are anticipated for the 2003/4 season, mainly in the interest of increased skier safety.

IR to prepare a list of issues for discussion at the next ARC meeting. PH^ advised that he had been asked by GB to table that he doesn't want a minimum length to be imposed on plastic. **IR**

For the English Alpine Championships, it is essential that all Junior and Senior racers comply with the FIS regulations. IR to produce a statement. **IR**

PH offered congratulations to IR for becoming qualified as British TD for SL, GS and SG.

BSSF TD Symposium (9th Nov) and Forum (10th Nov)
Symposium is the annual update of FIS rules and their application to British snow races. It is open to all race officials - "Current, potential & just interested". Very important for all those involved in the English Alpine Championships and all TDs to attend. AW and IR to promote attendance. **AW/IR**

The Forum is for FIS & British TDs, Member Group TD Representatives & National Seeders only. Items for discussion include:

Super-G races for minis

Seeding of mixed age group races on snow.

PH reported the large disparity between points earned by children in mixed age group races (generally club organised races) and those earned in children only races (all championship events). The Forum will be asked to consider separate seeding of children's results regardless of how the race is organised. Comments to PH before November. **ALL**

93.7.0 **REPORT FROM COACHING SCHEME CONFERENCE**

DGP reported briefly on the conference, highlighting some of the feedback relevant to ARC - especially from his presentation on Alpine Racing Performance Coaching.

Many coaches present appeared totally unaware of the organisational structure: ARC, ROTP, STP etc., also that the performance criteria for selection to the England Alpine Team is almost totally based on snow race results only

DGP agreed to write to the Coaching Committee to ensure that coaches attend Race Officials Training sessions. **DGP**

In order to increase the race coaching input to ARC, it was agreed that DGP should invite Hedley Beavis, Paul Barrett and Dave Durgan to the next meeting **DGP**

PH attended the session on dope testing. This is now arranged by Sport UK, who only have funding to cover elite sports with a high incidence of drug taking. ARC considered that ESC has a social responsibility to discourage drug taking among young skiers at all levels of performance. Education by circulation of leaflets is not very effective. Dope testing at GP and Championship races is much more effective, but external funding is essential. Agreed to consult ESC's Medical Adviser before taking this any further.

Post Meeting Note: Skiing is deemed a low priority sport by Sport UK (only 3 tests in skiing last year funded by Sport UK - all on elite athletes). The average cost to UK Sport of a test including sample collection and analysis is over £300.

DGP then raised the subject of racers who only race on plastic. How do we recognise their achievement and support the best skiers? In 2000, ARC approved in principle the formation of an English dry slope squad, but no detailed selection policy or squad structure was developed. PH^ to discuss possible implementation with Paul Barrett.

PH^

93.8.0 **ENGLAND TEAM SELECTION**

Selection for 2002/3 was completed by the end of May based on the agreed policy. Three approaches were made to DGP regarding the selection, but no formal appeals have been received.

A revised selection policy is required for 2003/4. DGP/WTB to prepare a draft for circulation outside ARC and for approval at the next meeting.

DGP/
WTB

Suggestion that Selection Panel members be appointed in the autumn so that they can view athletes through the winter season and be generally more involved. To be discussed at next meeting.

Code of Conduct – GG has produced a draft for submission to the Board. Copy to be circulated to ARC with these minutes, also to Selection Panel members.

DGP/
GG

There is much to be done to support WTB and the Team members. Shortage of funding and human resources are a major concern.

DGP and SP to arrange a meeting with the athletes' parents to discuss the formation of a formal support group and to develop sponsorship contacts.

DGP/SP

93.9.0 **ENGLAND TEAM 2002/2003 PROGRAMME OUTLINE**

DGP to send out the outline programme with the minutes.

DGP

93.10.0 **HOMOLOGATION/SAFETY OF DUAL SLALOM RACES**

IR reported on recent discussions concerning the suitability of the slopes at Wycombe Summit for parallel slalom relay events. On request, the Jury for the Inter-Regional race had inspected the slopes in May and reported a number of concerns. Aware that a number of ESC parallel slalom relay events have been held at Wycombe Summit in the past without significant incident, DGP/IR agreed to allow the Inter-Regional race to go ahead taking full account of the concerns reported, but to report their concerns to ARC and the Board. The event went ahead with no significant safety issues.

FIS Rules require a minimum of 6m between courses on snow. Current British & ESC Rules require 4.5m on plastic with adequate clearance from both sides of the slope, but most slopes in the UK are not wide enough to allow this. It is strongly recommended that ESC Board is made aware of these issues.

DGP

Following discussion, it was agreed to allow the All England Inter Club event to go ahead on the main slope, subject to Jury decision on the day. The intermediate slope is not long enough to allow safe relay events to be run. IR will arrange for the TD to brief the course setter.

IR

TDs are already checking all homologated slopes this year for suitability to hold parallel slalom events. IR to draft potential homologation criteria taking into account existing slopes, for discussion at a future ARC meeting.

IR

PH^ raised a potential safety issue in the use of double height gate bases at some slopes. Agreed that pole bases must not protrude significantly above the running surface. IR to brief TDs on the issue.

IR

93.11.0 ALPINE CHAMPS 2003 – UPDATE

No update received since May. Understand that GHC has applied to BSSF for the Junior/Senior Championships to be FIS races, but the event is not listed on the draft FIS Calendar. A draft contract has been sent to PSV, but the outcome is unknown. ESC Board approval is required before the contract is signed. The draft budget projects a break-even or small surplus. AW to contact GHC next week and provide a report to go out with these minutes.

AW

Confirmed that the Championships cannot be classified as National Championships by FIS (with option to limit foreign entries to 25 per race). Each National Association in membership of FIS (e.g. BSSF) is allowed only one National Championship race per discipline during a season.

Details of the Championships to be published next week in the ESC magazine. AW to provide PH with details for publication on Britski.org

AW/PH

Agreed that the Organising Committee for the Alpine Championships should report direct to ARC with immediate effect, and that the OC Chairman should attend relevant meetings of ARC and keep the ARC Chairman fully and frequently informed of progress between meetings.

93.12.0 DEFINITION OF PROCESS FOR RULE CHANGES

It was agreed that future rule changes should be processed through ARC prior to publication

93.13.0 NOMINATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF AWARD WINNERS

PH noted that ESC presents three trophies annually at the All England Championships.

Ann Bates Memorial Cup – awarded to the most improved Junior Girl
Tim Reader Memorial Trophy – awarded to most improved Junior Boy
Atomic Trophy – awarded to most improved Children 1/2 skier.

Selection of the winners is the Squad Selection Panel's responsibility. DGP to discuss with Paul Barrett.

DGP

There are also two Rossignol trophies awarded to the most improved male and female squad members as voted by the squad members. These have not been presented for the last two years and their location is unknown

DGP to ask the All England organisers to chase the return of the first three trophies and to make enquires regarding the Rossignol trophies.

DGP

DGP will liaise with Thomson Holidays and Malcolm Erskine on all aspects of the Thomson prize - two weeks accommodation and training at the BSA next January for each boy and girl Grand Prix Series winner in each year of birth in the CH1 and CH2 categories - i.e. 8 prizes.

DGP

It was agreed that free entry to next year's Grand Prix races should continue to be awarded to the winners of each age group. PH to recalculate the Grand Prix Points for CH1 and CH2, the winners to be announced at the All England Prize-giving.

PH

POST MEETING NOTE: ARC is also responsible for presenting plaques, or equivalent, at the All England prize-giving to all those who have represented England in officially selected teams for the Home International Team events - currently at the Welsh, Irish, British & European Championships.

93.14.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

DGP asked for all committee members to ensure they had completed and returned their Declaration of Interest forms. DGP to clarify if members of sub-committees are required to complete these. **ALL
DGP**

It was noted from the ESC Schools & Youth Committee Minutes that a number of Children's days are planned to run in conjunction with various committees, including ARC. ARC has no knowledge of this and would like more details.

DGP has received a communication regarding muscular improvement – he will arrange an appropriate response. **DGP**

92.15.0 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

20th October 2002

1st February 2003

The meeting closed @ 16:35