



The English Ski Council

**Alpine Racing Committee
Minutes of the 94th ARC meeting held on Sunday, 20th October 2002
At Swadlincote Ski Centre**

PRESENT:

Paul Hothersall	PH^	Peter Heath	PH
Ian Roberts	IR	Gillian Gilyead	GG
Sandra Palmer	SP	Alan West	AW

APOLOGIES

Graham Beck	Alan Ashfield	Mark Telling	Willie TB
-------------	---------------	--------------	-----------

10.00h ARRIVAL

Action

94.1.0 MINUTES

Minutes of the 93rd meeting were approved. PH^ thanked PH and IR for their contribution with these minutes.

Before the meeting got underway PH voiced his concerns that once again there was not a member of the Board present, as this made making decisions very hard if they were then overturned at Board level. ARC members endorsed the sentiment.

94.2.0 MATTERS ARISING

Hemel alongside Wycombe have enforced the rule that helmets must be used when on the slopes whether race training or recreational skiing. It was thought that all slopes will eventually have to enforce this, for insurance purposes.

The Race Calendar for next year will need to ensure that it is clearly marked that these slopes have this rule in place, and that it is included in the Race Bulletin when the secretaries send them out.

AW

GG stated that the Code of Conduct for the England Team she was asked to produce has been ready for several months, WTB is at present doing a draft and will look at GG's paper, this will have to go to the Board but will need to in place asap as the Team are already attending camps. To be circulated to ARC members within the next two weeks of publication.

PH^/
WTB

MT had asked in February for clarification on male FIS starts, this still has not been resolved PH^ to ask WTB to talk to Fiona at BSSF before the racing starts in earnest so as not to have any mix ups at the races this coming season.

Tim Fawkes will be taking the England Team training for two weeks at Hintertux, in October half term. The team will again be going to Norway for 3 weeks over the Christmas and New Year period.

Dave Durgan will also be attending this camp

The Board still has to come to a decision on what percentage they are willing to pay for Tim's course in Canada.

The committee felt that there was a need for a Coach Representative on the committee, SP to approach Hedley Beavis to see if he would like to join the committee as he had mentioned at the Coaches Forum that he would like to be involved.

SP

PH^ to find out who is the current Medical Advisor to the ESC.

PH^

GG mentioned that ESSKIA are working alongside Alison Connell with reference to drug testing in sport.

94.3.0 **Finances**

PH^ presented the latest figures available from the office monthly accounts. He also explained the financial expenditure, and the steps being taken to manage the accounts. There was great concern that balance sheets at the moment do not show a true picture, as there were a number of invoices still outstanding. The Alpine Championships submitted in May were still not shown on the current balance sheet. It was felt that it was impossible to try and balance accounts if not all invoices have been shown.

PH^

PH^ to set a further meeting up with Graham Pickles and Graham Beck with reference to this as the committee felt that it was impossible to expect the ARC Chairman to be accountable for accounts that he/she would have no control over.

All Team invoices need to go to PH^ so that he can ensure that budgets are being met, preferably via email to reduce admin. PH^ to distribute claim form in electronic form.

WTB |

94.4.0 **Introduction to ESC/ARC WebGroup**

There was a discussion on whether it would be viable to set up a web site for ARC/ESC, to hold a central filing systems (reports etc). It was felt that this was not needed at the present time. PH^ is looking into setting up a web site for the England Team, as this is essential to attract sponsors and to keep the Team updated with news etc. The web address has been registered and athletes in the team will have their own email address in this domain.

PH^

ARC will need to create a image library for internal and sponsor publications. Photos will be taken at the upcoming Xscape Race.

94.5.0 **Sport England Funding Plan**

PH^ to draw up a plan for extra funding to be put forward to the Chief Executive, this will be alongside other disciplines in the sport. To be put forward by the 9 November 2002.

PH^

94.6.0 **Equipment Regulations**

IR was asked at the July meeting to produce a paper for proposed equipment regulations. (length and radius of skis).

IR

The paper has been on Peter Heath's website and comments from interested parties have been requested. It has also been distributed for comment to the BSSF, other HNGBs the Chairman of ESC and a number of coaches. There had been a number of useful responses mostly from parents. All inputs are needed by the 1 November 2002.

It was felt by the committee that if ski lengths/radius were not be the same as FIS then it would need a clear reason as to why not. The TD Forum (8 November) will make a recommendation which will then go to ARC a clear statement will be produced by 2003.

94.7.0 **England Team**

No written report had been received from WTB, but had left a voicemail report for PH^ which was not picked up until after the meeting. PH^ attended the last Milton Keynes camp and spoke to parents about the sponsorship deals in place from 5 seasons and Energia Pura. PH^ also stated there was the possibility of a couple more sponsors coming on board, WTB working on this.

Support for Des Pirkhoffer to continue as Chairman of Alpine Team Selection Panel, also for the current members of the Selection Panel to be invited to continue. PH to contact Des and the current Selectors. PH to liaise.

PH

94.8.0 **Approval of New Officials**

Gordon Cole successfully undertook his TD candidacy assessment, and the Committee ratified his appointment as an ESC TD (Artificial). The committee would like to offer their congratulations.

94.9.0 **Alpine Championships**

Other officials will be ratified before the end of the year by STP/TD Forum

The contract has been returned from PSV signed. This will be forwarded to ESC office for countersigning. Currently we have had no feedback from BSSF regarding the FIS status of the race series. Gordon Cole was pursuing but is away at the moment so the exact status cannot be confirmed. The race bulletin will be ready early November.

94.10.0 **ESSKIA**

GG stated there had been five dry slope training days and three SnoZone training days. The Autumn series went very well, very encouraging to see past ESSKIA members at the races helping and coaching. The British Race is being held at Hillend on 16 November.

94.11.0 **England Team Representative**

SP will approach the Team to see if they wish to have representative on the Committee. SP

94.12.0 **ROTP**

Alpine Championships 2003 - Following ARC's request for a report at each ARC meeting ROTP have agreed that AW who is a member of the organising committee will report to ARC. At least 4 of the 5 members of the Organisation Committee will be attending the BSSF conference

Race Calendar 2003 – Letters have been sent to the clubs/slopes and the points requested by ARC were incorporated into the letters with the exception of finding if any Clubs were interested in running a race using stubbies. After discussion ROTP recommended that the coaches ask their regions to run a trial at a regional race before it is considered at Club National level.

PH^ reported that Gordon Polley, Muckhart ski club had expressed interest in bidding to run an ESC Grand Prix event as part of his clubs Twin Peaks weekend. PH^ advised that only ESC regions can run the Grand Prix series, and suggested several options for support of their races.

Post Meeting Note: ROTP and PH^ agreed to support any bid for Scotland to bid for the European championships for the 2004 Season

Budgets – AW has produced ROTP budget for ARC/Board.

Race Entry Fee – ROTP propose that no increase to the fee is made this year. However ROTP would recommend that the fee to the clubs to be increased to £300 this year. This was accepted by ARC to be put into place as from 2003. In addition, it was the intention to raise the entry fee for races to £15 for the 2004 season.

Race Officials Course – Currently have run 3 successful level 1 course with 12 people attending 2 courses and 6 at the third. 3 further courses are scheduled for later this year/early next year. These are at Sunderland, Swadlincote and Gloucester. The level 2 course has been booked for Stoke Rochford on 23/24th November. Response so far has been satisfactory with 15 confirmed bookings. Currently bookings for Stoke Rochford have been confirmed as 10. Costs £80.00 which covers the cost of hiring the facilities

Race Officials Database – ROTP have developed a database of race officials initially for use in developing officials. However after seeing the initial version of the system it showed that it could be very useful to Chief of Races/Secretaries when putting together a team for their race. ROTP would like to send a letter to all registered officials early in the new year to seek their approval for their telephone numbers being released for this.

Accreditation System – ROTP would like to change the criteria for level 1 accreditation from a formal assessment to an informal visual assessment carried out by the authorised personnel during a race. Providing ARC approve this, it will be taken to the English TD's conference in December to seek their approval. ARC gave their approval.

Course Setters Course – Members of ROTP have received several requests to run another course setters course. This course ideally needs to come under the coaching scheme and we would like ARC to request the coaches to provide a course. From ROTP's point of view we would like the course to cover the course legalities for both club national and grand prix races as well as discussions on setting courses on snow but appreciate that the course content must be driven by the coaching committee.

94.13.0 **STP**

Slope Homologation – Dual Slalom – IR was asked in July to draw up a proposal for homologation of artificial slopes, unfortunately he was unable to progress this as he was not in possession of most of the homologation reports for each slope. It was proposed that (no

mores than two separate) TD's visit each slope (around 12) to carry this out, making sure to use the same criteria. This was given ARC's approval and the cost of around £850 will taken out of 2003's budget. All efforts would be made to reduce the costs if possible, such as by not re-inspecting recently homologated slopes.

British TD Seminar – 9 November 2002 – The Seminar will be held in Sussex, and most English TDs and the majority of the English Alpine Championships ROC have indicated they will attend.

Derek Metters will be the formal ESC Representative, so that following IR British TD appointment there is a visible separation of roles.

ESC TD Forum – will take place on the 8 December, at RAF Innsworth, attendance is open to all ESC TDs, Candidate and Aspirant TDs and the National Seeder. [After note: The Forum will now be held at Swadlincote Ski Centre]

94.14.0 Seeding

PH stated that there was potential for seeding races at the Snozone, but only those registered ESC/BSSF races.

94.15.0 Racing Developments & Proposals

Racer Ready had approached PH[^] with a view to sponsoring the Grand Prix Races by purchasing new bibs, this was agreed providing they follow FIS rules. Any such bibs would include the TUI Thomson logo as Thomson are the Title sponsor of the series. The committee also approved the proposal of a colored "leader bib".

PH[^] put it to the Committee about the need to pay for long sleeve tee shirts for when the Artificial Dry teams are entered into competitions, this was agreed to come out of the budget and not to have to ask for money from parents/racers.

PH[^] proposed several suggestions for block entry for races, in line with other HNGBs, and potentially over the internet. PH[^] to investigate further

PH[^]

It was also noted the need for a captain/selector for these events to be appointed in due time. This was to be given some thought before the beginning of the next dry slope season.

We also discussed the viability/credibility of the Artificial Slope Squad and concluded that there seemed no current need for such a Squad

94.16.0 Sponsorship

A company called MPA Consultants had also approached PH[^] with regards to maybe sponsoring one of the main events like the All England. PH[^] to have talks with the Managing Director in the next couple of weeks.

PH[^]

Thomson are prepared to sponsor the Grand Prix series for the next few years.

94.17.0 Milton Keynes Xscape Race

This will take place on the 3 November 2002.

GG was concerned that the race had been turned into a team event, which wasn't the original idea, as ESSKIA has entered a team from a cross section of racers.

Xscape are taking the race very seriously and preparing the slope well in advance so as to get the best possible conditions. If successful, further events maybe run next year.

94.18.0 ESC News

AW was concerned that he had sent two articles to the ESC News and neither had been published, they were both sent in by the end of May so allowing plenty of time. PH[^] to look into why they were not published.

PH[^]

94.19.0 World Champs

Wycombe Summit have applied for a world championship named race to be included on the seeded calendar for next year. ARC recognized the increased international participation for this years non seeded event.

Post Meeting Note:

The ESC board have determined that we will can run such a race, and the event should be considered for inclusion on the calendar at the next ROTP meeting. ROTP later expressed concerns as to the naming of this event following earlier discussions with BSSF regarding this event.

94.20.0 AOB

PH wanted to have clear criteria to eligibility for Home Nations, and listed the current **PH** differences and explained the criteria adopted by the Commonwealth Games Federation.
Meeting closed 3.50 pm
Next meetings 1 February 2003 and 27 April 2003