

**Meeting of the British Technical Delegates Forum
RAF Henlow, Sunday 4th November 2001 at 9.30**

Present

Maud Instone	Outgoing Chairman	MI
Ian Jones	Incoming Chairman	IJ
Martin Leach	FIS TD	ML
Ian Roberts	ESC Representative	IR
Alan Hunt	British TD	AH
Susie Berry	FIS TD	SB
Tim Dumas	British TD	TD
Alan Stewart	FIS TD	AS
Larry Young	British TD	LY
Neil Griffiths	British TD	NG
Dick Taplin	National Seeder	DT
Peter Heath	Artificial Seeder	PH
Fiona McNeilly	BSSF Representative	FM
Duncan Lonie	Chief of Senior Championships	DL
Graham Hubbard	British TD	GH
Dave Parsons	SCOW Representative	DP

Apologies

Richard Ellis
Richard Berry
Roderick Hutchison
Sid James
Ingie Christophersen.
Maree Rudd.

Maud introduced the new chairman Ian Jones. It was agreed that IJ should chair this meeting as he to be responsible for all subsequent matters arising.

1.0 Minutes of meeting held on Saturday 12th May 2001

Minutes were approved and agreed as an accurate record of the meeting

2.0 Matters Arising

2.1 ISSC races 2002

IJ read the letter written by the BSSF to Malcolm Howard with respect to the Board's decision to overturn the decision met by the May 01 Forum.

The meeting alluded to in the letter had taken place and Malcolm Howard took part in yesterday's update.

SB suggests that there was a problem with our processes. The TD Forum decided to seek clarification from the Board on their level of jurisdiction. The Terms of Reference (TOR) will be dealt with as a separate agenda item. It is hoped that the TD Forum, the Board and the organisers of the ISSC races will all have learned from recent events.

MI feels very strongly that the Forum created problems for themselves by being persuaded to bend their rules too far to seed races outside the criteria.

FM asked that MG representatives, who had reported on the TD Forum's May decision to give the overturned decision equal coverage.

2.2 Safety Clinic

Hoffgartner of Alpina will be in resort for the Championships. He will be happy to look at safety requirements and how to construct the equipment to deal with these problems with the ROC. He will do this at no cost.

Because the previous event is a World Cup all safety equipment will be put in place by the Austrian army.

Action: ML to discuss Saalbach safety clinic with DL.

2.3 Equipment Regulations

Ingie Christophersen had sent a report to the Forum on the new regulations, which she considers to be valuable for the future health and safety of young skiers.

The forum agrees in principle, but is aware that many athletes and parents will already have purchased equipment for the season ahead. The TD Forum makes a very strong recommendation to children to follow these guidelines but feels that it cannot become a rule until 2002/2003. BARSC, ESC and SCOW have had similar discussions. This issue highlights a communication problem within the industry. Radius is difficult to measure quickly and accurately and many skis are not currently marked.

The FIS have not yet published definitive precisions, and we await the ratification of Congress.

Action 1: Copy of new precisions to be circulated with the minutes.

Action 2: DL to pursue avenues for testing at a local university.

PH prepared a paper on equipment regulations to provide athletes with absolute clarification of the rules. This must also wait for the precisions.

The boot heights were already fixed and compliance compulsory. TDs should carry a calliper to check – or at least to act as a deterrent.

Action1: Wait for precisions and react

Action 2: PH to publish the clarification on the website subsequent to the information from FIS. DT to publish on the BASS list.

2.4 Sanctions Log

An anonymous list of applied sanctions was proposed. The FIS are deliberately not using such a list, as potentially it may become a menu of sanction levels. The punishment must fit the individual's crime. If it is to exist, it should be for information only and not as guidance.

Action: Trends in sanctions to be reviewed verbally at TD Forums.

3. Reports from Delegates

3.1 BARSC

Sarah Robinson is the new chairman.

3.2 CSWSA

CSWSA Team had a successful trip to Australia. The Army sent a team to the Argentinean Army Championships. Combined Services Championships will take place in Megeve. Civilian skiers are invited.

3.3 ESC – written report.

Only one artificial event was cancelled due to foot and mouth. A safety issue regarding race personnel was raised with regard to the All England Championships. Alpine Championships will be held in Kaunertal. ESC led British Artificial Championship management at Sheffield. Two proposals arose out of this event

a) Currently the ESC rules insist that the diameter of the tip of ski poles is 15mm. Should the BCR adopt this for the British Artificial Championships?

Action: We should abide by the rules of the ski slopes and should wear protectors, without specifying diameter.

b) Eligibility with respect to Home Nation Competition. The organiser should refer to the entrant's BASS number to ascertain current nationality.

Action: PH to add this to British Artificial Championship – Parallel Slalom Rules in BCR

Generally eligibility is a wider problem, which should be discussed within the Home Nations. The Commonwealth Games Association may provide some guidance on this issue

SB enquired if it is still possible to register direct with BASS without going through the Home Nations. Although possible, FM does not recommend this as

they will not receive all the information otherwise circulated by the Home Nations.

3.4 SCOW (attached)

£2,500 to spend on snow coaching! European Championships went well. Swansea Ski Slope has now been closed – Swansea Nomads are losing members. SCOW is selling watches/altimeters – ideal for TD use – to raise money to help fund SCOW. Also ski pole tips!

3.5 SNSC

Laurie Robertson has retired as chair of the Scottish TD committee. Frank has taken over. Brian Hutchison is now chair of ARC. The coaches are asking for fewer races and one of the children's races has been combined for this season.

3.6 BSSF (attached)

FM highlighted the main points of her written report. She confirmed that the BSSF was now in receipt of WCPP (Lottery funding) on behalf of Alain Baxter.

FM clarified the situation with regard to the SLC. As far as we know, the Games will go ahead as planned and all rumours about a change of venue are pure speculation.

4. Seeding and registration

4.1 Report from BASS Seeder (attached)

Disappointing season as a result of the warm weather – very few speed events were run. DT did not receive the support from the CSWSA secretary that he might have expected. DT suggests that he will not load the army skiers' points as a result of the problems experienced.

Proposed: DT
Seconded MI Carried

PH and DT have investigated maximum penalties. Using the FIS maximum has not been successful. This does not solve the problem of enfranchising races where there are insufficient seeded competitors. Instead, they would suggest a pro rata adjustment to the penalty. There must be at least three seeded racers who finish. TD confirmed that this is a system the army has used with some success.

Proposed: DT
Seconded SB Carried

Action: TD Forum to discuss the impact of these decisions at next meeting

4.2 Seeding of the British Universities Artificial Championships

BUSC are now affiliate to BARSC and ESC. As a British event we should provide a British TD. BUSC are trying hard to make their races more competitive.

Action 1: TD Appointments - LY on Friday and NG on Saturday.

Action 2: FM to provide contact details.

Action 3: PH will hold off publishing the final artificial list

5. FIS Matters

5.1 Report by Martin Leach

Single pole competitions must not be allowed. This may not happen at FIS level and may only happen at national level with national agreement.

Junior 1 will only be seeded for their first 25 starts.

The “One pair of skis rule” for children has been rescinded.

Tear off flags must be used for all FIS GS competitions. Closed gates must not be rolled.

Snow conditions last year caused tremendous changes in the calendar. The decision to cancel must be made 10 days prior to a speed event and 5 days before a technical event or expenses will be due. If the competition is postponed to a later date the TD will be assigned by the nation originally assigned to provide a TD. All rescheduling must be organised through the National Association.

We await the precisions from Council with particular respect to the radius of skis.

FIS TDs are currently being surveyed on their concerns, fears, aspirations and the training available to them. The aim is to identify problem areas. 8 hours of training and one assignment in two years is the minimum training requirement. Litigation may move us to a situation where TDs are professionals. This is already the case at WC and EC level.

Organisers are complaining about the travel costs of TDs. The max an organising committee had to pay was 500CHF. There is hampering in the interface between the Northern and Southern Hemisphere race series. FM raised the issue of assigning two TDs to one championship event involving an overlap and twice the TD expenses.

Action: ML to raise all issues with the TD Commissioners

FIS TDs assigned to British Races for 2001/2002

Sestiere	CIT	Cruz-Dalmau, Oskar	SPA
Courmayeur	MAS	Cassutto, Gilles	FRA
Lenk	FIS	Bereiter, Wilfried	SUI
Saalbach	FIS	Ebner, Reinhard (speed)	AUT
		May, Peter (technical)	AUS
Lech	FIS	Merlin, Maurice	FRA
Nevis Rage	FIS	TBC	SWE
Pitztal	FIS	Tiefenthaler, Manfred	AUT
Nevis	FIS	TBC	NOR

There are some issues with these appointments and SB asked if it might be appropriate to send a deputy to meetings, which ML cannot attend.

6. British TD Matters

6.1 Address List

Action: MI will update and pass to IJ.

Important: We will communicate electronically as far as possible. Unless a member specifically asks for information by post, this will generally not be forthcoming. All items for discussion should be provided in hard and soft format.

6.2 Revalidation of TDs

Action: MI will update the TD register of assignments, attendance at meetings and seminar updates and pass to IJ.

We are unsure of Richard Berry's commitment.

Action: ML will write to Richard and ask for clarification.

6.3 Candidate TD

IR will do his candidature this season.

Ewen Maclean was supposed to sit a written exam today, but was unable to attend due to work commitments. The exams can only be done at this meeting – after the update and prior to the winter season. He will be asked to do this in November 2002.

Action: FM to contact Ewen with revised exam date

Crerar Adams is still interested and should be pursued.

6.4 TD equipment and badges

Storm jackets on offer through Beyond X. No further order will be processed this winter.

Action: IJ to look into the supply of cloth TD badges, with BSSF logo and the words Technical Delegate and the TD's own name.

6.5 TD Feedback Form

The Race organisers report on the TD. Feedback should be sought from all British Race organisers, whether working with a British or a FIS TD.

Action: ML to progress

6.6 Start order in Children's Races

Some coaches have suggested running children in category order, seeded within each category and drawn in 4 separate groups. This would give CH1 better conditions and prepare CH2 for the conditions they will experience in the junior category.

Action 1: No significant support for this initiative at the moment.

Action 2: FM to ask Graham Bell to consider the idea.

6.7 Terms of Reference

BSSF had proposed some changes to the TOR. The Forum returned some comments for board approval.

Action: FM to present comments to BSSF Board

6.8 BARC

Action: IJ will now represent the Forum on this committee.

6.9 TD Development

This document will be included as a new part of the BCR.

Action: IJ and PH

7. British Calendar and TD appointments.

Appointment list attached.

8. ICR 2000

We await the precisions to this document from FIS

9. BCR

9.1 Revision of BCR

A productive meeting of the BCR Working Group (SB, MI, IJ, IR & PH) followed the TD meeting in May. The working group is happy with the document in the main. IR has presented some comments to be considered.

Although a Super G for minis is not currently run, it will not be ruled out completely.

Prizes (not seed points) may be awarded on first run times, in an event where the second run has begun, but was subsequently cancelled.

18.2 Appeals procedure will be changed to reflect the TOR

1.2.5.1 Slalom number of gates – extend bracket down to Children.

3.1 Racers to compete from snow club as on the BASS list. – nominated snow club or first registered club

SNSC and SCOW should investigate the listing of clubs on the BASS list to ease the club nomination problems in club competitions.

Pro-am competition – part 4 gone.

5.1 Service personnel must be insured for non-service races.

Seeding re-worded and altered to reflect current practice. Today's changes will be included.

Cannot insist on breakaway GS flags at British events this year, although it is a strong recommendation.

We must also wait for the FIS precisions and react.

Action: Defer any issues to the BCR Working Group, who will make contact in 2 weeks time (PH). BCR must be finalised by the 01 Dec.

9.2 Conversion of plastic points for British Artificial Championships

Only if they do not have plastic points, the BASS points will be converted.

British Land Alpine Championships

DL outlined his plans for the British Senior Championships.

British Land Junior & Children Championships

Jim Hewett now in charge and is therefore requested to attend TD Forum

We aim to create a more sociable atmosphere in the valley.

Action: FM to advise and send Jim H copy of the minutes.

British Artificial

Organisation passes to SCOW and will take place in Llandudno.

Any other Business

BCR - Record of amendments to be included (PH). Part 1 to be revised every TD Forum meeting and re-issued annually. Copies of results should be sent to IJ, BSSF and Dick on coloured paper, A4 size. FIS TDs will require white copies.

Action: All

TD Report to be sent electronically. Please change to IJ's detail and BSSF copy should be sent to Jen.

Action: Jen - BSSF

Letter to all race organisers – name of TD, arrival date and all contact details. Establish communication. Organisations, please be aware that you will be asked to produce the previous year's TD report, the homologation document and the insurance document.

Action: All

The top 30-reversal rule should be followed in principle, although it loses its effect at lower level races.

FM confirmed that DT could dispose of the Victor PC machine.

Funicular will shortly be opened in Cairngorm.

AS suggested that funding for travel down to the TD meetings would be a great help if new blood into the sport were to be attracted.

Thanks to Maud for all her work as Chairman over the past 6 years.

Date of Next Meeting

Saturday 11th May 2002

Sat/Sun 9/10th November 2002