

BRITISH TECHNICAL DELEGATE FORUM
10 MAY 2003
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Introduction

Welcome to the report on the recent Technical Delegate (TD) Forum held at Hillend, Edinburgh on the 10 May 03. This report highlights items that were discussed at the meeting, which the Chairman considers relevant to a wider audience. For further clarification on all matters debated at the Forum please consult your Member Group Representative (MGR).

National Seeder Replacement - Dick Taplin returned his final report as National Seeder, a role he has filled for 20 years.

Peter Heath has agreed to take over the role of National Seeder and a handover has been in progress all season. The TD forum wished to thank Dick for his long and dedicated service.

David Manns (ESC) will take on the seeding of artificial races and will be invited to subsequent TD Forums and Seminars. Snowsport GB wished to thank the ESC for expediting this change and it was felt important to retain two separate seeders and a spread of expertise.

The National Seeder's contact address has now changed on the TD Report Forms on Britski Website.

Athletes Declaration - The legal validity of the FIS athletes' declaration was discussed. Larry George is pursuing a number of issues within the FIS Legal Committee. In particular, references to "training" within the agreement relate only to official race training, i.e. official downhill training runs or designated warm up pistes. The warm up area is part of the competition area only if it is minuted at Team Captains' meeting. The FIS paperwork provides for this. A warm up area is not the same thing as a training area.

Children Homologated GS Slope - The relevant competitions should be run on the correct slopes. British organisers should follow these rules.

Ski Lengths for Artificial Races - This issue is still ongoing – A discussion paper will be distributed before the November meeting with a view to implementing any new rules for the 2004 summer season. In the meantime, the ICR should act as a guideline.

TD Forum Chairman's Race Feedback - The TD Forum Chairman has provided written feedback this season. TD Reports should be sent directly to the Constituent Group representatives, who should be identified on the TD Report. The report should also go to the organising individual named on the TD report. Current constituent group reps are: -

BARSC – Sarah Robinson

CSWSA – Richard Ellis

Snowsport Scotland – Frank Staddle

Snowsport Wales – Dave Parsons

ESC – Ian Roberts

Reports from Delegates

BARSC - The BARSC Championships were very challenging, due to difficult weather conditions. The technical events did take place, with significant effort from the organisers and coaches.

The other club races all took place, with the exception of the Schoolboys, which was the victim of high winds.

Comments were made with respect to the altitude of the BARSC races and the physiological effects of altitude on children. Organisers should be wary of altitudes approaching 3000m.

CSWSA - Megeve let the CSWSA down badly. 2004 plans were drawn forward and Saalbach-Hinterglemm stepped in as the race venue. There were some problems with the resort attempting to truncate the programme. The DH was very short and this will be addressed for next year. Fewer foreign and disabled athletes than expected took part. Roger Cruickshank (RAF), British Team Member, took part in both the Combined Services and RAF championships and won everything. The DH will be seeded, despite the reduced vertical drop.

ESC - A British Indoor Championships had been held at Milton Keynes. There are no formal rules or seeding worked of an amalgam of snow and artificial rules. As there will be four events at MK this summer season, and the likelihood of more indoor events as more facilities emerge, ESC will work on a set of rules/parameters for indoor racing. Until more than one slope is available, it is felt that a separate seed list is not yet appropriate.

The whole issue of the format of The British Indoor Championships will be brought before the Alpine Executive.

Snowsport Wales - No Report

Snowsport Scotland - A poor year for Scottish racing, but not the worst!

Snowsport GB - An administrative change would be introduced for ghost licences, although we will not insist on British Championship entrants having a limited licence for this year. This will be introduced for 2005. Criteria will be set for discipline entries to each of the British Championship events.

BARSC thanked Snowsport GB for including the minis races in the BJC. There was praise on how helpful and informative the Snowsport GB press releases were.

Seeding and Registration - No results had been received from the Army and as a result the races had not been seeded. Clearly, Scotland had had a very disappointing season with respect to race cancellations.

The GBR FIS Commissioner reported on a number of issues mentioned at the FIS spring meetings held recently in Strasbourg – There have been a number of issues relating to the timing report form. Many inaccuracies have been found. The OC will be asked to provide foils after an event. They must keep this information for at least three months. Times from system B or manual back up must be marked *. TDs will need more training on the management of timing. That said, we should not get this issue out of proportion as the statistics provided by the timing committee did not suggest vast errors in actual results, rather omissions in completing the supporting paperwork.

Proposed Rule Change:- Climbing back – only the competitors feet must pass the gate line

*****This is only a proposal*****

Sanctions for abuse of DH start order regulations are being considered.

Proper use of GS tearaway flags was discussed.

KO Slalom Format will be dropped at WC level. This may also follow at EC level.

Disabled athletes have new committee and wish for Alpine TDs to oversee their events.

TD exam period to be extended by 6 months – examiners will now be examined.

24 entry-level competitions took place

TD expenses – particularly where north/south hemisphere travel is involved are being discussed.

TDs may now not be assigned to Masters competitions. This is of imminent GBR interest. ML to report to SB ASAP on implications for this year's British Masters

[Post meeting note: the FIS TD Commission has agreed to continue supplying TDs for masters competition in 2004, however any deviation from the rules will be formally recorded in the TD report.]

WC venues – some venues are not being accepted, despite repeated offers and fulfilment of regulations with respect to organisation lower level competition.

Media rights are creating an issue at FIS. Rights are confused and vary internationally.

Concerns had been raised regarding the comparison of safety measures on the same course when media is present, or not.

OCs must ask to see the full homologation documentation.

Forerunners must have signed an athlete's declaration and be from the appropriate age category.

At Speed events a doctor must be present.

All equipment will be marked for next season. Increased testing of equipment this year resulted in a number of high profile cases.

If assistance is required to remove a racer from the hill, an accident report form is required. The racers' coach should be asked for an update on the athlete's condition, which should be minuted. This refers to all incidents within the competition area.

British TD Matters

Candidate TDs

Ewen Maclean – Ongoing current candidature assessment.

Mark Berry - BARSC has confirmed his candidacy and he will be assigned a candidature assessment next year.

Richard Ellis – CSWSA – Was accepted as an aspirant GBR TD and will sit exam this November.

TD Forum Chair Feedback Report – Main Issues

Children's GS One Run Races - Two runs must be on the programme. Team Captains' Meeting announcement in light of possible force majeure. Medals can be decided on one run if this announcement has been made the night before. Seeding to be considered.

Insufficient Number of Gates - The Jury is to inspect the course setter's course setting. Course setters and OC must try harder to set legal courses, as seeding rules will be rigorously applied. Coaches working with the racing athletes should set courses.

Jury Meeting Minutes for Sanctions - These must always be documented

British Calendar update - Add English Championships at FIS level.

TD appointments update – To be Confirmed

British Artificial - 13/14 Sep 03 – Ewen Maclean/Ingie Christophersen

DHO – 25/26 Dec 03 - Sid James (or Aggi Hunt)

BARSC – 31 Dec – 2 Jan 04 - Ian Jones

Schoolgirls – 25 –27 Jan 04 - Ian Roberts

Schoolboys – 25 –27 Jan 04 - Alan Stewart

Children's Start Order - Graham Bell provided a discussion document, which had been prepared in consultation with children's team representatives. A letter on the subject had also been received from Ingie Christophersen.

Neither of these documents had been circulated to the committee members prior to the meeting and it was felt that the issue was too important to proceed without wider consultation.

Both documents were circulated to the Forum for further discussion at constituent group level.

All comments from the meeting will be referred to the Alpine Executive with the suggestion that a working group is formed with a view to submitting a proposal to the November forum. Any proposal should be submitted in time for circulation with the agenda, if it is to be adopted for the 2004 season.

Ch/Jnr/Sen Seed Points - It was agreed and publicised to seed children separately with effect from 03/04 season. However, without defining how to treat the races where separate penalties cannot be calculated and in the light of a proposal from Graham Bell on the start order of children's races this discussion and decision is held over until the November 03 Forum.

Date of Next Meeting - 7, 8th & 9th November 2003, Downing College, Cambridge

7th FIS only, 8 TD/OC Update Seminar (all welcome), 9th GBR TD Forum only.

£ 35 per room in Sleeperz Hotel

Day's refreshments £ 10 per head

Dinner Saturday £ 25 + Wine – black tie

Please book early and inform the TD Forum Chairman of your intentions