

**CHAIRMAN'S NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TD FORUM
HELD AT 09.00 ON SUNDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER 2006
AT ALLENBY BARRACKS, BOVINGTON, DORSET**



4. Matters Arising:

The Forum noted the following actions completed:

4.1 Rotation of the British Indoor Championships

4.2 TD Forum Minutes – production of Chairman's notes

4.3 (4.3) Entries – British entries to British-run races.

Future procedure: FIS - Race Secretaries are to compile a GBR Entry in order to comply with FIS requirements. A copy is to be submitted in good time to the SnowsportGB office for checking in case of sanctions and signing off as official.

4.4 (4.4) CH SG Skis mismatch between ski regulations.

4.5 (5.6.1) Report on children's start order season 05/06

4.6 (5.6.2) Standards for Entry to S-G Races. It was proposed a maximum of 350 BASS points for Juniors and 400 points for children in any discipline to be the acceptance criteria for the BJCC. This had been a rule for some time but must now be enforced as numbers are growing. Appeals to the Jury by foreign members of British clubs able to show race results and by BASS registered competitors achieving the necessary points after the closing date will be considered in the resort.

Post meeting note: The proposal was accepted by the Alpine Executive at a meeting on 20 Nov 06

4.7 (5.6.3) Mixed gender events. TD Forum to consider for May.

4.8 (6.1) Realign children's seed points.

4.9 (7.1) New FIS TDs needed.

ML reported that Mark Berry and Ewen MacLean had applied to become FIS TDs and he was taking the necessary steps to process this with the FIS.

4.9.1 Costing for British to FIS TD - Provision of information.

4.10 (7.2) ML to provide FIS TD appointments to British FIS events.

4.11 (8.2) New TD Development Structure for BCR.

4.12 (8.2.1) Separate TD exams for snow/artificial. Also assessments and TD reports.

A separate exam for those who wanted to qualify for Artificial only was being devised.

4.14 (8.5) Race Officials database proposal. Investigate.

The action group had agreed that this proposal should be implemented and Snowsport England had agreed to run it on behalf of SnowsportGB along similar lines to their existing one. It had been further agreed that there should be a clear differentiation between snow and artificial records (possibly colour). Thanks go to Stewart Smith for the work he has done on this project.

The database will be built up during the coming season by every race secretary being asked to compile a complete list of British functionaries for every race. Forms will be provided. There is an ongoing query about the inclusion of CRB check dates. JS stated that she was aware of this and it was also a subject for the Child Welfare Group who would be meeting shortly.

The Forum agreed to the proposals and would review progress at the May meeting. They thanked the action group for their work.

4.14.1 Check CRBs are in date (renewal required every 3 years)

4.15 (8.6) Accounts for TD subsidies. Approved daily allowance.

4.16 (11.1) BCR Update – Finalise and approve.

4.17 (11.3) Ban on minis wearing competition suits from 1 Dec 06 ✓.

4.18 (11.4) Simplify numbering in BCR eligibility section ✓.

4.19 (11.5) Remove reference to MGs in BCR where possible ✓.

4.20 (11.6) Helmets to be worn in all disciplines from 1 Dec 06 ✓.

4.21 (8.3) Find a mentor for Eddie Guest

Eddie had still not sent in a CV.

5. Reports from Delegates

The Chairman requested the authors of reports to the Forum to circulate to all members, before each meeting and not just send to him.

5.1 BARSC

SB reported that the BARSC clubs had run numerous training camps for juniors, children and minis during the summer and autumn but had nothing of special interest to the Forum to report.

5.2 CSWSA

RE tabled a report – attached with minutes only.

5.3 Snowsport England

DM tabled a report – attached with minutes only.

IR reported that he had had to step in as TD at Sunderland in place of RD who was prevented from attending at the last minute. This was not an ideal arrangement but as it turned out there were no problems. The arrangements for next year's event are in the pipeline.

5.4 Snowsport Wales

Peter Harris on behalf of David Parsons made a report – attached with minutes only.

5.5 Snowsport Scotland

FS reported that Snowsport Scotland was in a state of flux as their AGM was the following weekend when the Chairman was retiring and a number of other changes of personnel were expected. There had also been some uncertainty about the coaching staff. Paul Trayner had become the chairman of ARC. FS also reported that the European Artificial Championships was being held at Hillend today and that Ian Jones was the TD. There will be no children's races in Oppdal. The Junior Championships will be in Courchevel and are estimated to cost £1,700.

5.6 SnowsportGB

JS made a report on behalf of the Alpine Executive.

The major issue under discussion has been the 50% reduction in central funding to the Federation that was announced in June – a further reduction in two years time of a further £80,000 is likely unless results are obtained in world class performance.

This has affected British Team athletes at all levels, from the elite to the children, with an increase in costs to all athletes, and staffing cuts.

The most notable change has been the loss of funding to support a Performance Director, this role is being taken on by the Alpine Executive, working with the Chief Executive.

The Home Nations Teams are to be monitored by the Alpine Executive with a view to ensuring that all athletes have broadly equal levels of opportunity in terms of race starts, and in regard to general welfare issues.

The Children's selection policy has been updated to provide a more logical and inclusive progression. Jim Hewitt has retired as Chairman of Selectors – the Alpine Executive recorded thanks to him. The post is currently open to application/nomination.

The Alpine Executive is aware that its past record has been criticised but it will now work more effectively with more frequent conference call meetings and increased efficiency of distribution of paperwork. JS is now officially the secretary to the AE.

MI asked if the Chairman of the TD Forum was now accepted as a permanent member of the AE. This was confirmed. (If unable to attend himself, the Chairman may send a representative.)

6. Seeding and Registration

6.1 Report by the BASS Seeder

PH had circulated his report in advance. It was noted that the rule requiring all competitors to be registered in order to compete in a Calendar event was often overlooked at Club events. In order to encourage more participants into the sport it may be necessary to review this rule for 'entry level' competitions.

6.1.1 LSC Schoolgirls' races - format and seeding. (see item 5 of report)

After discussion, the Forum agreed that this event should be left on the Calendar as it was a good recruiting ground for new talent. They agreed that under ICR art 201.1.1 it was allowable and that the Forum could give permission on an annual basis for it to count for BASS points. This was an item which should be on the Agenda for May meetings.

6.1.2 Registration fees

PH felt that clarification was needed on the method of passing on a portion of competitors' registration fees to the BASS. He believed that the HNGBs had not been billed for at least the last two years and there was, therefore, a considerable sum outstanding. He has raised the question with Jason Cockburn but had received no reply to date. It was agreed that the Seeder should inform the SnowsportGB office annually of the numbers involved so that invoices could be sent. The money should then be ring fenced in order to be available for updating the BASS Seeder's hard and software as and when necessary.

6.2 Report by the BArtSS Seeder

DM tabled a report - see attached (with minutes only)

6.2.1 Number of races per dry slope.

The Forum agreed to retain the *status quo*. (see item 5 of report)

6.2.2 Registration fees

The Forum noted that there was no system in place concerning the registration fees for BArtSS (see 6.1.2) Circumstances had changed now that this was recognised as a British System rather than an English one and DM agreed that he would consider the matter and make some proposals.

7. FIS Matters

7.1 Report by GBR FIS Commissioner

It was noted that at all GBR races on the FIS Calendar FRA had been given a "special quota" of 30. None of the ROCs had been consulted about this and it was unacceptable. It must be corrected officially through the proper channels.

7.2 Report on "Combi" rules

IC reported that, at present, there were no FIS rules available. The race had been run at several international events including Andorra, Topolino and Whistler but usually only for Children I, sometimes instead of the slalom and sometimes as an extra event.

The children use GS skis and the vertical drop of the course is also equivalent to a GS with a time of around 60 seconds. However, the setting includes all types of gates and radius of turn. Above all the race is fun and the children really enjoy it.

The Forum agreed that this sort of racing should be encouraged and that IC and JS should draft some national guidelines.

7.2.1 Number of Children's Internationals

JS reported that the number of Children's international races was increasing unchecked. There should be a maximum of ten and there were already 17 on this season's calendar. The FIS Committee for Youth and Children's Questions had been disbanded and the proposal was to form two sub-committees - one under the Nordic Committee and the other under the Alpine Committee. Until these were in place very little would happen and that might not be until the next Congress. The overwhelming opinion internationally was that the vast majority of children's competition should take place nationally under national rules.

7.3 British ROCs applying for FIS event status

SB asked the Forum to consider the appropriate procedure for applying to run a FIS event. FIS races are allocated to the National Association who may then nominate an organiser to run it on their behalf. However, at present there are no rules within the SnowsportGB membership as to who may apply. The Forum agreed that a proper procedure should be in place and this should be the responsibility of the Alpine Executive who may choose to delegate it back to the Forum.

Post meeting note: This proposal has been drafted and accepted by the Alpine Executive at a meeting on 20 Nov 06. It will appear in the BCR idc.

8. British TD Matters

8.1 Contacts List update

A list was circulated during the meeting - attached - and the chairman asked members to remember to inform him if any of their details changed.

8.2 Use of SG homologated pistes for DH

RJ asked the Forum to agree that, under the BCR, a Downhill could be run on a homologated Super-G course. After lengthy discussion, the Forum agreed that the TD could allow this in case of *force majeure* but it should not be planned. The minimum vertical drop for downhill must be observed and extra care taken over security measures. The ability of competitors and the conditions must be taken into account when setting.

It was agreed that, at least for the time being this would remain an instruction to TDs but not be included in the BCR as the Forum did not wish to encourage the practice except in very special circumstances.

8.3 Candidate and aspirant TDs

ML reported that Logan Tannock had sat an exam that morning which he had passed with good marks. LT was congratulated and welcomed to the Forum as a Candidate TD.

Davie Austen was still listed as an Aspirant but had been unable to attend this weekend. He would therefore sit his exam in November 2007.

There were no further nominations for Aspirants. (*Eddie Guest see point 4.21*)

8.4 Sanctions update

There were no sanctions to report

8.5 Seeding for indoor events

Paul Trayner had proposed that competitions on indoor snow should be officially seeded as soon as possible. The Forum agreed with DM's proposal that these competitions were more akin to artificial than snow races, primarily because of length. DM was asked to make some proposals on seeding.

IR raised the question of homologation for these slopes, namely Milton Keynes, Castleford and Braehead. The Forum agreed that IR and PT should liaise and agree some guidelines, which should be implemented immediately but ratified by the TD Forum in due course.

8.6 Child Protection and disclosures

JS, wishing to acknowledge Snowsport England for taking the lead in much of this, and to the CPSU for outlining the necessary steps to be taken, presented a new draft events pack to the Forum. This includes:

- an outline of the duties and obligations of the child welfare officer at events, including a brief guide to recruitment, selection and CP training requirements for the various staff at the event.
- a simple Child Welfare Declaration for those 'employed' on a casual basis for the day as e.g. gate judges
- guidelines for photography, and an opt-out form for those not wishing their images to be used
- a Child Welfare incident form

- a brief outline of how to handle the situation when a child has been alleged to have been the subject of abuse
- useful contact numbers

This is currently a *draft* document, but the provision of a CPO at events is to become a requirement from 1st January 2007. JS to circulate the document, when finalised, by the Joint Child Welfare Working Group later this month. It is to be sent to race organisers, and will not be added to the remit of the TD.

It was pointed out that some of the duties, outlined by the document as part of the CPO's responsibilities, are the remit of the TD – security and closure of the piste, etc. JS to pass these comments to the CWWG.

A web-based CP awareness test (based on the published CP Policy) is to be on-line very shortly.

8.7 Attendance at the Update for ROC key officials

SB brought to the attention of the Forum that, for several years, we had sent out the notice of the Update saying it was compulsory for chiefs of FIS races and their race secretaries to attend. In fact very few of them came. As this was a FIS recommendation, what action should we take? After discussion it was agreed that a formal record of attendance at the Update should be kept. The MG reps should notify the Forum in advance of the Update who was designated as Chiefs and Secretaries for their FIS events. The organisers of the National Championships senior and junior should do the same.

It was also suggested that race officials might be more prepared to attend if a further activity was planned for them on the Sunday as well. Opinion was divided on this and some research needs to be done.

8.8 Nomination of a Deputy TD Forum Chairman

The Chairman proposed that there should be a Deputy nominated who would be the liaison if the Chairman was away or otherwise unavailable. He proposed Ian Roberts on the basis that IR was a volunteer. This was accepted unanimously.

9. British Calendar and TD appointments 2006/2007

9.1 The appointments for 2006/7

The appointments were finalised - see attached

9.2 TD Roster for Scottish events that are postponed.

Derek Metters, Ian Roberts and Susie Berry all indicated their willingness to go to Scotland at short notice and minimum cost.

10. ICR update

ML referred to the documentation that had been distributed at the Update the previous day.

Helmets. He highlighted the requirements for helmets to be worn at all competitions. In response to a query, it was agreed that the rule did not include inspections of the courses. The Forum agreed that the rule should apply to all surfaces and that it should be widely publicised together with the explanation that slalom helmets are not acceptable for the other disciplines.

ML continued by informing the Forum that, at present, the wearing of helmets by officials was not seen as a safety issue and therefore not yet a rule. However, many officials already wore them and he did not rule out the possibility that they might become compulsory in the future.

Entries. All FIS race organisers are now required to keep the original race entry forms for a minimum of 3 months, during which time they may be requested by the FIS. It is therefore essential to ensure that these are in the correct format - if necessary emailing the appropriate National Association for a correctly completed form. TDs have been instructed to enforce the 24 hour rule (ICR 215.1).

Quotas. TDs have also been instructed to enforce the quotas. The FIS office will now check these and non-compliance could affect the validation of results.

11. BCR update

11.1 State of BCR update.

The BCR would require minor amendments as a result of this meeting. However, DM expected to be able to finalise these in time for publication on or about 20th November.

Post meeting note: The BCR 2006 has now gone public as of 20 Nov 06

The Forum thanked DM for all the work he had undertaken on this re-write.

The BCR and BACR and other official documentation may be found on www.gbski.com and www.britski.org

11.2 BCR Title.

The Chairman reminded the Forum that he had proposed a change of name for the BCR because they contained much more than just Alpine Rules. However, on reflection he had decided that the name was familiar to all and a change might only cause confusion.

11.3 Proposed minor amendments to BCR

DM had circulated a few amendments for the BCR, which were mostly "housekeeping". After a brief discussion they were agreed.

11.4 Children's slalom - vertical drop

PH drew the Forum's attention to art 801.1 pointing out that the FIS ICR vertical drop and the BCR vertical drop for Children 1 Slalom were different. The ICR allows a max VD of 120m and the BCR 160m. The problem is Children 1 & 2 usually compete on the same course in British events and following the ICR would not only mean lowering starts for Children 1 (in which case they could not be seeded with Children 2), or having an overall lower start for all. The item was discussed but the Forum decided to defer a decision until the May meeting in order to allow monitoring through the season.

12. Any Other Business

12.1 Coaches accreditation

SB reported that she understood Snowsport Wales had agreed to take on the annual accreditation of qualified and licensed coaches, as requested at the Coaches Forum in April. This would save organisers quite a lot of time and paperwork at TCMs. There was likely to be a nominal charge (£5?) for the service. Details should be circulated shortly.

12.2 Log books

The Chairman proposed that everyone kept a log of all the duties they carried out as race officials as well as TDs. It was hoped that the new database would cover this but in the meantime there were still some "old style" TD log books available from him for those who wanted them - especially important for those looking to become TDs in the future.

12.3 Penalty Calculation

The Forum noted that there was a discrepancy between the methods of calculation of the FIS and BASS penalty calculation forms. This would be corrected on the BASS Form.

12.4 Athletes' Declaration

PH reported that the FIS had altered the Athletes' Declaration this year and that all FIS licence holders were now signing the new one. The Forum agreed that the British equivalent should be altered accordingly and become compulsory for use in 2007/8. Registration for this season had already begun so it was too late to enforce it for this year. PH was asked to draft the GBR version.

12.5 Postage of Results

The Chairman stated that he was no longer prepared to go to the Sorting Office to collect and pay for race results without enough stamps on them. He asked TDs to please remember that new postal charges are in effect and ensure the correct amount is paid.

12.6 Minutes

The Chairman thanked SB for doing the Minutes but knew she would not be prepared to do so forever, so any other volunteers would be welcome.

12.7 Hospitality

The Chairman thanked Sid for his hospitality at Allenby Barracks Officers' Mess which everyone agreed had been an excellent venue with all the necessary facilities under one roof.

13. Dates of Next Meetings

The Chairman stated that he proposed to hold the Update weekends two years running in the south followed by one north of the border. Therefore the 2007 Update will probably return to Bovington. An alternative proposal was HMS Sultan in Gosport.

1. Saturday 12 May 2007 Edinburgh - the exact location to be confirmed.
2. November 2-4 2007 – location to be agreed at the May meeting.

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