



**CHAIRMAN'S NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BRITISH ALPINE TECHNICAL
DELEGATES MEETING ON 4 NOVEMBER 2007 AT BOVINGTON CAMP**

(With the kind permission of Lt Col R James)

1. Present: 22 persons
2. **Apologies:** 12 persons.
3. **Minutes of last meeting held on 12 May 07**
These were accepted and agreed as a true record.
4. **Matters arising: Refer to the minutes of May 07 meeting**
 - 6.1.2. Chairman reported that he and PH had discussed the issue of BASS Registration fees with Mark Simmers who had agreed that the cost of an IT upgrade and other expenses would be made available to the BASS Seeder as and when required. In return, the BASS seeding fees would be subsumed into the SnowsportGB general fund.
 - 7.1 It was agreed that ensuring FIS “special” quotas were not acceptable was an action required annually in accordance with the FIS rules and will be dropped from the Minutes.
 - 7.2 SLO and CAN have submitted draft guidelines to the FIS Children’s Committee. These will be further discussed at the May 08 FIS Congress.
 - 8.5 Ongoing negotiations with indoor seeding.
 - 8.6 See 5.3
 - 8.7 See 5.8
 - 12.4 action completed
5. **Reports from Delegates**
 - 5.1 **BARSC – Susie Berry**
 - 5.2 **CSWSA – Richard Ellis**
Richard explained that he would be leaving the Royal Navy shortly and that a new CSWSA rep would be in place before the next meeting.
 - 5.3 **SnowSport England – Derek Metters**
The Forum noted that there is still no official seeding for races run on snow slopes by Xscape. They have their own system. SSE have made overtures but had no response.

It was also noted that the “homologation” of Milton Keynes and Castleford was now done and Ian Roberts is going to homologate Chill Factor shortly.

5.4 SnowSport Wales – David Parsons

The Forum noted with regret that Meryl Hunt has retired as a TD but was glad to hear that she intended to remain involved. A vote of thanks was recorded for all her work to date.

5.5 SnowSport Scotland – Frank Staddle

Frank reported that the Scottish Ski Club would be celebrating its centenary very shortly. A large ball is being held to mark the occasion. The Forum sent their congratulations. The new Chief Executive, Jane Harvey, is now in position and all the initial indications are very positive. The Forum noted that, owing to the expected snow conditions in Scotland during the coming season, TDs might need to be appointed at short notice.

5.6 SnowSport GB – Jenny Shute (from notes by Mark Simmers) Mark regretted that he had been unable to stay for the meeting but had enjoyed the update the previous day and the chance to meet everyone.

British Championships

The Seniors are to be combined with the Juniors – to run from 30th March to 6th April inclusive. The full programme is on www.snowsportGB.com
Channel 4 coverage is confirmed and will be broadcast on Sunday 6th April.

The Children’s Championships are to run from 8th -11th April, in Meribel / Mottaret, dovetailing with the Scottish races in Courchevel.

Snowsport GB are pleased that the calendar is running with Welsh -> English -> Scottish -> British in the appropriate order.

The BASS point cut-off, as last season, will be 400 points for Children and 350 points for Juniors.

Alpine Teams’ News

The teams have had incredibly good pre-season preparation.

The fitness work is now run and delivered by Snowsport GB. Extremely good conditions were enjoyed for training in Zermatt and Chile, and also in Austria following the return from the Southern Hemisphere.

But for a premature binding release on Saturday, we could have started with a podium finish – Chemmy is on extremely good form.

Noel is now fit and the team are all ready for next week’s WC events in Levi (subsequently cancelled and replaced by Reiteralm).

The Children’s team has also had good pre-season preparation and has been delighted with the support received from Lord Moynihan’s silent auction.

5.7 BCC – Chief of Champs – Jim Hewitt

5.7.1 Maximum numbers for entry to BCC races - Susie Berry for Jim Hewitt

The current rules are quite clear ICR 1280.3 states a maximum of 140 competitors and BCR Book IV 4.2.1 states that Acceptance will be decided on the basis of BASS seed points. (Maximum 400 as set by the TD Forum)

Last year the number of Children boys was 131. At the Acceptance meeting in March 2008 if there is an entry of more than 140 qualified racers we would accept entries based upon the 400 BASS point criteria up to 140 and declare the race full. However if the figure is less than 140 we could accept in resort before the first Team Captains meeting, competitors who achieve the qualifying standard after the Acceptance meeting

up to a final total of 140 again based upon BASS points. If the final total is a few over the top we would probably accept them if snow conditions were suitable and the Jury agreeable.

The Forum discussed and approved this proposal.

5.7.2 The Super-G is obviously a one run race but both Girls and Boys ski the same course with separate results being calculated. Last year there were 51 Girls and 104 Boys a total of 154 competitors. However, if all participants had entered the Super-G we should have had a total of 203. If 140 is deemed the maximum for any one race, presumably for safety reasons, should we not adhere to the same figure for this race? Snow conditions would have a major impact.

The Forum discussed this problem and agreed that it was common practice at FIS races to hold men's and women's races on the same course. It is for the Jury to make a decision, based on snow and weather conditions, as to whether the field must be limited or the event split onto two courses / days. If the event continues to grow it may become necessary to programme the boys and girls races on separate days.

5.8 BS & J Champs – Maree Rudd

No report had been received. Maree has indicated that the following Chief's of Race have been appointed: Paul Trayner - Downhill, Davie Austin - Super-G and Super Combined

Ali Jubb - Senior Technical, Maud Instone and Ian Roberts - Junior Technical. These appointments are all to be confirmed.

The Forum noted with some concern that the Chiefs of Race, for the speed disciplines, had not attended the Update and neither had Maree nor Fiona (race secretary).

Sid James asked the Forum to consider whether Chiefs of Race for major events should not be appointed or at least approved by the Forum. It was agreed that no action would be taken for the time being but the proposal should be considered and discussed at a future date.

Tabled

6. Seeding and Registration

6.1 Report by the BASS Seeder

Peter Heath

Peter is experimenting with a system which does not require him to recalculate the FIS races. If the FIS points are better they will be used instead of BASS.

6.2 Report by the BArtSS Seeder

David Manns

7. FIS Matters

7.1 Report by GBR FIS Commissioner

Martin Leach

ML stated that most of the topics had been discussed during the previous day's Update. He stressed again the importance of respecting quotas and reporting 'did not starts' so the FIS

could check for double entries. FIS TDs will be asking about entries and probably asking to see entry forms.

7.2 Report from Ingie on Children's issues.

Ingie Christophersen

Ingie reported that the FIS children's committee had now been reformed under the chairmanship of Ken Read. There was a problem with first year Junior boys being very different growth rates and the committee had therefore agreed to allow a -10cm tolerance on ski length for Slalom. There are too many races on the Children's calendar. There is a proposal to issue ID cards for children. The World Junior Champs will be held in SPA in 08, GER in 09 and CHI 10. There is to be a Youth Olympics in 2012. The proposed two year age band means that not all athletes will be eligible. The ones born in the intervening years will miss out.

7.3 FIS equipment rule changes

a. Jnr 1 male tolerance on SL skis now -10Cm (min 155cm)

b. Male/female tolerance on GS Skis still at -5 cm except for WC/OWG

8. British TD Matters

8.1 Contacts List update

This was circulated at the meeting and updated as necessary. All members are requested to inform the Chairman if any of their contact details change.

8.2 Candidate and aspirant TDs and mentors.

SSW proposed Martin Watson as a TD Aspirant (artificial) and stated that Alun Evans was prepared to be his mentor. This was agreed. It was noted that Martin may also go for a snow qualification in which case he would require another mentor.

Davie Austin is unable to take the time to do his candidature and he has requested to be taken off the list for the moment.

Eddie Guest's position is uncertain. Frank will contact him.

8.3 Sanctions update – No SGB sanctions. See 8.6

8.4 Child Protection and disclosures –

Jenny Shute

Jenny wished to thank Trish Chalk for all the work she had put in to CP work during her time at SSE. Tim Fawke has now replaced Trish. The standards have been set. Congratulations to SSW, an NSPCC green spot. A unified policy based on the Welsh version is in place. We are trying to get a formal written agreement to cross-check within snowsports. ISA checks are to be introduced. Individuals will register and employers can check. The ISA website will list banned people but the bar is not high enough. Enhanced CRB checks are needed. From September 2008, employers who do not check against this list will be in breach of the law. Jenny had made a presentation on the subject of child protection to the FIS which was very well received.

The Chairman believes that awareness is now good but it still needs monitoring.

8.5 British Indoor events – integrating with TD Forum.

Dick Dawe

Dick not present – item deferred. (see note in SSE report)

8.6 Start regulations in BACR/Racer sanctions

Ian Roberts

Ian reported that warnings over the contravention of start regulations had been issued at the Welsh, European, British and English Championships. Two sanctions had been imposed. The situation is now much improved.

8.7 Terms of Reference for TD Forum

Chair

These were agreed and are now passed to the Alpine Executive for approval. The Forum agreed that this was a 'live' document which should be automatically reviewed on an annual basis in November.

Action Alpine Exec – post meeting note –TORS now approved by Alpine Executive

9. British Calendar and TD appointments – season 2007/2008 –

9.1 Dry Slope/indoor/early season events.

9/10 Nov -BUDS – Maree Rudd/Susie Berry (TBC)

Maree Rudd is now unable to attend this event. She will be replaced by Susie Berry

9.2 Season 2007/08 Attached

Some changes and additional appointments were made at the meeting with some confirmations required at a later date.

9.2 Policy for allocating TDs to events

Aggi Hunt

A lively discussion took place on the eligibility of TDs to be assigned to races with which they had had close recent contact. It was agreed that this was not desirable but not always avoidable owing to availability. While TDs may be completely impartial, it is important that the system is not only fair but seen to be fair.

Action Chairman to draft proposals

9.4 TD Licence Status

The Forum noted that a number of TDs had not attended the update for the second year running. According to the rules, this meant that they should lose their TD licences and have to re-qualify. After discussion it was agreed that, although the Chairman had contacted them all individually and warned them that there may be consequences, it was possible that the rule was ambiguous in the ICR. It was agreed that the ICR rule actually meant that TDs are required to attend an update at least every 2 years (the ICR rule could be read to mean that an update OR an assignment must be done every 2 years – this is, of course, is not what is intended and would allow TDs to never do an update as long as they did an assignment!). In future any TD missing one update should be warned immediately that he must attend the following one. It was further agreed that, for this time only, the seven TDs in question would have their licences suspended for the 2007/8 season and licenses would be re-activated if they completed the November 2008 update.

10. ICR update

Precisions and effects (if not covered in 7.1)

Martin Leach

Sid drew the Forum's attention to the fact that the rules are getting more ambiguous and badly worded. They are often written in very bad English. Everyone agreed that this was so and that one of the problems was the "legalese" that is now required by the Rules Sub-committee. It was agreed that Ingie would re-write some sections of the ICR as a trial and send them to FIS for consideration.

Sid also proposed that the ICR online should be updated whenever the Precisions have been approved. We accept that the book cannot be published annually but at least one complete version would be available and this might help to highlight mistakes and discrepancies.

It was agreed that a proposal should be made to the FIS.

Action Susie

11. BCR update

11.1 Method of updating the BCR.

A BCR update was due but awaiting publication of the new ICR (due Late 2008), which may be considerably changed.

11.2 Rule Changes pending

David Manns

To be discussed at the May meeting.

12. Dates of Next Meetings

Saturday 10th May 2008 – location to be decided (South).

The Chairman proposed a hotel near to either Luton or Stansted Airport. Of these Luton is generally preferred. Birmingham was also suggested and met with general approval.

Post Meeting Note – Birmingham Airport was selected

Sunday 16 or 23 November 2008 – location to be decided (North)

The Update will, therefore, be held on Saturday 15 November or Sat 22 November with the FIS TD meeting on 14 or 21 November (Dates to be confirmed at May 08 meeting).

The Chairman is looking for a suitable update/meeting location in Central Scotland. Any proposals will be welcome.