



**MINUTES OF MEETING 21<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2012**  
**BEST WESTERN HOTEL, STOKE**

**1. Present**

Andrea Grant  
Dermot Flahive  
Paddy Mortimer  
Alan Bullock  
Paddy Mortimer  
Neil Thornton  
Russell Bennett  
Ryan Grewcock  
Sue McGregor-Ogden  
Alan Jones  
Fiona Eaves  
Peter Heath  
Jemima Barnes  
Andrew Du Plessis  
Rachel Bill  
Guy Hornsby  
Daz Fellows  
Karen Conde

**2. Apologies**

Jane Gould, Charlotte Gould, Tim Fawke, Robin Kellen

**3. Matters Arising**

**3.1** AG gave an introduction to the meeting.

**3.2 Communication**

The general consensus was that communication in general was poor examples are:

Confusion about day entries being able to do more than one race –  
**It was suggested that a register of Race Secretaries, COR etc is provided**

It was also suggested that Face book is used for community communication. This could be set up through a private group so that all posts can be vetted.

Must involve a wider range of skiers, some do not know about SSE. It was suggested that winter magazines should be used i.e. Ski Club of GB for communication and publicity.

### **3.3 Club, School, Excel, Regional Races**

#### **What should we be doing at this level?**

**Excel Races** – these are evening/late afternoon seeded races run by SSW in the winter to enable new racers to gain seed points ready for the summer season.

The race format is new but similar to a Club National. A significant number of the entries for the races held this year were from middle and top ranked seeded racers.

ERSA region have expressed interest in running Excel races. These races should be aimed at unregistered racers and racers with higher seed points. We should consider using a seed point cut off to exclude the better seeded racers.

**What is the point of Excel Races?** - Is it to encourage racers to enter seeded races or is it to get the racers seed points ready for the summer season?

To get seed points down for club nationals you need to race at more than one venue so this needs to be part of the rules for these races otherwise racers can enter 3 or 4 races on their local slope and obtain low points.

The general feeling is that it is not fair to run races where racers can obtain seed points for skiing down the same slope 4 times.

Action: Consult with SSW on the format for these races for 2012/13. These races should be held in period between November and March. The overall number of these events should be restricted.

#### **General Consensus**

Excel/Winter League Races subject to the following:

Slope and TD Availability

Minimum penalty for seed points e.g. 80 females, 120 males

It was felt that if SSW and ERSA want to run excel races SSE need to talk to them and offer both of them a winter CN.

It was also felt that we currently have a club national and GBR (Elite) level so why do we need another level.

Club Nationals – is there anything stopping us from running a club national in the winter?

SSE would consider bids from clubs to run seeded races during the winter season; running these races as Club Nationals may be a better option than introducing a new category of seeded race.

Encourage communication between clubs regarding running races together for un-seeded racers.

**Parallel Slalom** - It was felt that individual plus team parallel slalom races should be run as these events are very enjoyable and exciting -and encourage team work. Could run novice and experienced racer levels which would make it more enjoyable -for all racers.

**Regional Races** – it was felt that there are too many races which could be the reason for low numbers on other races. **Is this good for choice or not?**

## **Schools Races**

Two types:

### **Team races run by Esskia**

- Question: What is the relationship between Esskia and SSE – Esskia similar to a Region in that they are wholly responsible for the races that they organise and the races are unseeded
- Consensus that Esskia races were highly enjoyable but the race organisation was not always the best; some events run very well whilst others were often poor
- Question: How could SSE engage with Esskia to address organisational issues

### **Regional Schools races**

- run by SSE Regions and Clubs (e.g. Kent, Surrey, ERSA, Gloucester, North West, Midland)
- these races cater for both teams and individuals and target schools to encourage participation
- these races are generally very well supported and are viewed by clubs as an opportunity to recruit new members

## **Consensus**

Encourage more schools races to cater for entry level.

Have one weekend in the calendar when we only run regional and local schools races.

Yorkshire currently runs mini mayhem races for U12's with obstacle courses once a month in the summer and these are well attended with approximately 80 racers at each event.

### **3.4 Structure and Funding**

Suggestions:

**Regional Club National Weekends** – i.e. CESA, ERSA etc fund to be split between clubs in the region.

Limit Club Nationals to possibly 10 or 12. Points raised:

Do we need to restrict the numbers; if so why?

Should we allow any/every club that bids to hold a Club National provided they meet the published criteria?

Some feel we have too many Club Nationals; others feel that the numbers are fine.

Should we leave it to the clubs to manage this on the understanding the clubs will not run a race at a loss and if we do have too many Club Nationals there will be insufficient entries to make all the races viable.

Availability of TDs would be an issue if the number of Club Nationals continued to increase.

#### **Seeded races –**

Consider moving away from categories based on age ranges and move to categories based on ranges of seed points. This could make for better competition particularly for age groups with few competitors.

General consensus that this would be worth considering although there would be much to resolve to get this agreed and implemented.

**GBR Races** Suggestion that we should move back to combined Club National / GBR weekends. SSE should consider adopting this format for some/all of the GBR events that we run leaving SSW to run with the Double Header format.

Too many races in Manchester as only one can be used for points. The main reason for holding two indoor events at Manchester this year were financial.

SSE and SSW will be aiming to hold GBR indoor events at two or more slopes in 2013.

We should also consider varying the format of the indoor events as we have done with the outdoor events this year.

SSE has already had a proposal to run a Moguls event at one of the GBR indoor events in 2013.

Keep GBR races as separate series for indoor/outdoor.

It was felt that holding a GS race after the main Slalom race was not worthwhile at most venues.

However holding parallel slalom events, both individual and team.

Should the individual parallel slalom events count for series points?

### **3.5 Plans for 2013**

Propose to have a free weekend after the British Alpine Championships.

First races to be a weekend of outdoor CNs followed by a weekend of indoor CN then the first GBR weekend.

Introduce a seed point cut off for GBR races of say 300; some felt the cut off should be even lower.

### **3.6 Education**

Try and educate Racers and Parents that they do not have to enter every race to get their points down they should pick and choose to manage costs.

Encourage Clubs and Coaches to educate new parents and competitors on the different types of races, the targeted audience and objectives for each type of race and the progression.

Discussion took place regarding limiting the starts for U10 and U12's. It was felt that this should be left to coaches and parents and that it was more important to manage the type and amount of training for the younger age groups.

Indoor Club Nationals should be seeded as the combination of the two runs; no seeding for the individual runs.

Consider adopting the same race and seeding format for indoor and outdoor Club Nationals.

Action: SSE to instigate a consultation process on the format of indoor and outdoor Club Nationals.

Encourage course setters to set appropriate and different challenges for courses at Regional, Club National, GBR and Championship events.

Consider revising the restriction on counting more than 1 result from a single venue as we did on a trial basis a few seasons previously; one option proposed was to allow the best result of each type to count (e.g. best Championship result, best GBR result, best Club National result)

#### **4. Presentation from Paddy Mortimer – See Attachment**

#### **5. Conclusion**

It was felt that the meeting had been worthwhile and that we should run similar sessions on a regular basis going forward provided the points raised are considered, actioned and communicated.