



London & South - East Regional Snowsports Association

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AGM Held on 5TH December 2006 at Bromley Ski Centre

PRESENT:

Sandy Telling (Chairman)	John Curtis (Treasurer)
Gwenderlyne Southall (Secretary)	Steve Moss
Alan Sandell	Shirley Telling
Steve Moss	Nigel Brain
Andy Proudlove	Brian Davies
Joan Papantoniou	Hilary Barber
Steve Luck	Joan Llewellyn
Gregg Bell	Kathryn Harris
Ann Bushnell	

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE received from:

Bridget Owen	Sally Woods
Keith Evans	Sally Bartlett
Jackie Wilkey	Colin Porter
Peter Stephens	Leslie Gash
Helen Moore	Darren Schmidt
Royd Southall	

2. WELCOMES AND INTRODUCTIONS

Everyone was asked to introduce themselves, as we were pleased to see some new as well as some very familiar faces around the table.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM Wednesday 23 November 2005

It was proposed by Sandy Telling, and seconded by Shirley Telling to accept these as a true record of the meeting.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (see appendix 1)

Sandy Telling reported on some of this year's highlights starting with the success of the Regional Races and the new 'Superstars' fitness competitions that were run at each race thanks to our sponsors Snow & Rock, Amajaro and BSA. He went on mention the numerous athletes that had won podium places in both the National

Artificial and Snow Races. The list of names was impressive and not easy to memorize so apologies were offered if anyone was accidentally omitted. Sandy acknowledge that L&SERSA is primarily a region associated with Alpine skiing but it is hoped that, with strong representation from both Nordic and Freestyle clubs on this year's committee, this can be positively addressed – this may also be made easier if the proposed merger goes ahead (discussed under 'any other business'). Sadly, despite past efforts, we have had little success at involving snowboarding within the region. However, we remain open to suggestions.

An overview was given on both Regionalisation (discussed under 'any other business') and Modernisation.

Sincere, apologies were made for failing to mention the success of the L&SERSA team at the Inter-Regional Race in his written report. The L&SERSA teams won a great victory and all the individuals in the teams should be congratulated on their efforts.

5. **FINANCIAL REPORT** (Treasurer's report, financial summary and full accounts are available on request)

The treasurer produced and circulated his annual report and the financial accounts, which were checked by an independent person (Clive Newell). This led to some suggestions to make future accounts more 'audit friendly' – these were discussed later under 'any other business'. Whilst the accounts are down by over £2,000 on last year's balance we have made a substantial investment in the dual slalom timing equipment. Additionally, there was a sizeable invoice for the preceding year, which was paid during this financial year. However, we still have over £8,000 in the various accounts and JC suggested looking at some capital projects, which would help develop the region.

Action: All

6. **SELECTION OF COMMITTEE OFFICERS**

Please see following page for a list of names, positions etc. There are still a few vacancies and if anyone is interested it is not too late to come forward. Please contact Gwenderlyne (Secretary) at gwenderlyne.southall@tesco.net or Sandy (Chairman) at sandy.telling@ntlworld.com

NAME	POSITION	NOMINATED	SECONDED
Sandy Telling	Chairman (E)	Wycombe	Folkestone
Sandy Telling	1 st Regional Rep at SSE Council	Wycombe	Folkestone
Steve Moss	Vice Chair (E)	BGR	Wycombe
Steve Moss	2 nd Regional Rep at SSE Council	BGR	Wycombe
Gwenderlyne Southall	Regional Secretary (E)	Folkestone	BGR
John Curtis	Regional Treasurer (E)	Brentwood	Folkestone
Alan Sandell	Race Manager (E); Chief of Calcs Chair of Race Committee, Webmaster	Wycombe	BGR
Bridget Owen	Child Protection Officer (E) ESSKIA Representative	Folkestone	Wycombe
Ann Bushnell Greg Bell	Publicity Officer (E) (Press Liaison)	Wycombe LRNSC	Folkestone Folkestone
Keith Evans	Chief of Race	Chatham	Wycombe
Sally Woods	Race Secretary	Wycombe	Folkestone
Shirley Telling	Assistant Race Secretary and Regional Squad Administrator	Wycombe	BGR
Nigel Brain	Marketing/Sponsorship	Bromley	Wycombe
Sally Bartlett	Regional Coach	Wycombe	BGR
Andy Proudlove	Assist. Regional Coach	Bromley	Folkestone
Greg Bell Ann Bushnell	Newsletter	LRNSC Wycombe	Folkestone Folkestone
Position Vacant	Sponsor Liaison		
Jonathan Walters	Assistant Chief of Calcs	Bromley	Wycombe
Position Vacant	Snowboarding Rep		
Iain Ballantine	Nordic Representative	LRNSC	Wycombe
Position Vacant	BSCD/Adaptive Skiing Representative		
Position Vacant	Athlete's Representative		
Dave Askew	Equipment Officer	Chatham	Folkestone
Kathryn Harris	Freestyle Representative	Bromley Freestyle	Wycombe
Position Vacant	Sports Development Officer		
Royd Southall	Assistant Equipment Officer	Folkestone	Wycombe

POSITIONS WHICH MAKE UP THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN BLUE

Various discussions and suggestions took place about appointing both a male and female Athlete's Representative. Proposals included asking each club within the region to nominate a representative – however concern was raised that this may exclude some of the alternative disciplines in the area such as Nordic Freestyle and Snowboarding. It was decided to carry this forward to the next committee meeting.

Action: GS

Post meeting note: Lloyd Papantoniou has put forward his name to act as Athlete's Representative

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Regionalisation

Unfortunately, none of the SRSA Committee were present at the meeting which was disappointing as we had hoped to have an open and honest discussion where we could consider both the positive and negative impacts of a merger on all parties. However, whilst there were no committee members present there were a number of club representatives in attendance who were joint members of L&SERSA & SRSA.

There was a mixture of initial feelings from people around the table and the primary concern related to the impact on the separate Regional Summer Race Series, as both regions were keen to maintain their own race format. It was agreed that it would benefit the racers if the New Region maintained the two race series and their unique style - this would ensure that members continued to have a choice.

Bromley representatives raised concerns over the potential of having 250 competitors at the end of series race day and the capacity of the slopes to deal with this number. However, it was felt generally that racers tend to have preferences for racing formats and are unlikely to do all Regional Races. Also with such a busy race calendar to attend all the Regional Races would probably prove impractical for the majority of our competitors, however, if necessary numbers could be capped. It was also suggested to deliberately clash 2 of the race dates so that the different styles of racing would take place on the same day but in different parts of the New Region.

However, ST reminded all present that the scope of Regionalisation went far beyond the existing Regional Race Series and Alpine skiing. He explained how the merger was an opportunity to embrace and develop the other disciplines within the region. The representatives from both Nordic and Freestyle, who have smaller and widely distributed clubs, could see significant benefits in a larger region and supported this view. Discussions took a slight detour as we explored the possibility of putting on a freestyle demonstration during one of the Regional Races – this should be carried forward to the next committee meeting.

Action: KH/GS

The Aldershot Ski Club representative (BD) informed us that the club were generally against the merger at present but that they had learnt a lot from the discussions at the AGM and felt more positive towards such a merger; he promised to cascade this new information to other members of the club. It was felt that this was something that everyone at the meeting should do in order to ensure members are kept fully informed. After the initial discussions it was the general consensus of opinion by those present that a merger between the two regions was indeed a favourable course of action.

Action: All

Unfortunately, with sparse representation from SRSA we were unable to progress further at this meeting and suggested the two following actions to move things on.

- 1) Ask the Chairs of both Regions to come together and produce an 'open letter' to all members highlighting and addressing some of the main concerns that had been raised this evening.

And, depending on the response to that letter:

- 2) Set a date for an EGM to dissolve the existing two regions and form a single region with a choice of electing a new committee or of combining the two existing committees to ensure representation of each area.

A provisional date was set at the meeting but on consultation with SRSA's Chair was changed to 17th January, 2007 at Bracknell Ski Centre starting at 8pm. It was suggested that in order to ensure that the meeting reflected the views of the clubs voting by proxy would be arranged.

Action: KE/ST

John Curtis requested that L&SERSA's financial year-end is moved to the end of September – whilst this means a change to our constitution it was agreed by all present.

Action: JC/ST/GS

A further proposal relating to the layout of the accounts was put forward by JC. He circulated sample accounts in alternative formats and invited feedback. It was agreed that the new format should make them more user friendly by clearly displaying Income and Expenditure in two columns. It was suggested and agreed that ideally it should also show the comparison between the current and previous year's accounts. JC to action over the coming year.

Action: JC

Having nearly completed an itinerary of assets JC suggested that L&SERSA's insurance needs to be increased. JC to liaise with Alan Sandell in order for him to complete the list and then advise ST of appropriate amounts.

Action: JC/AS/ST

Finally, ST advised us that John O'Neil from the British Alpine Race Academy (BARA) had enquired about the academy becoming an associated member of the L&SERSA Region. This would provide further income to the region and direct contact with a useful resource in the Austrian Alps. In return the academy could access some the benefits the clubs receive as members of the region.

Action: ST

Meeting closed at 10.20PM

Many thanks to Bromley Ski Centre for allowing us to use their facilities and to Sally Woods for arranging the provision of refreshments

London & South-East Regional Snowsports Association

Chairman's Report 2006

REGIONAL RACES:

This year we held a very successful series of regional races during the summer months, despite some technical difficulties with the dual slalom equipment. The final, held at Bromley, was memorable with both key sponsors SkiBartlett and Skiworld being present. There were many medals and trophies given out at the end of season race, including a special award in honour of Eve Alcott who died earlier in the year. With Chemmy's full agreement we now have a Memorial Award for families who support the sport within the region. This deservedly went to the Southall family this year. Overall awards were made for the new "Superstars" fitness competition, which we ran at each event. Many thanks to Snow & Rock, Amajaro and BSA who also supported the competition. Thank you to everyone for your hard work and support.

The 2nd Tri Regional took place at Brentwood with SRSA, ERSA and our own region putting together nearly 20 teams, competing all day with lots of FUN. LSERSA skiers did very well but were "pipped at the post" by an ERSA team. Anyway it's good to share, so someone else has the trophy for this year!

NATIONAL RACES:

LSERSA athletes have been winning lots of podium places again this year. The All England Championships, held at Hemel was particularly memorable. The athletes are too numerous to list here but do check our website for details if you don't already know.

BURSARIES:

Several awards were given during 2006 to assist members with obtaining coaching and officials' qualifications. Congratulations to Oli Robinson (APC1); Joel Wyatt (APC1); Jim Gibb (APC1); Marc Telling (APC2); Colin Porter (Level 2 Official). If anyone else in the region has obtained qualifications during the year please let us know so Alan can put the details on our website.

ALPINE:

2006 saw many athletes from the South East do very well on snow. Unfortunately Ed Drake was injured and missed a lot of the season and others have left the team but Chemmy Alcott, Peter Whelan, Jo Grieg and Dan Berry continued to do well. Unfortunately none of the racers who represented us at the Olympics came back with a medal.

Other young athletes from the region have been selected to the England Alpine Team and the British Children's Team. In the England Team those selected include Franki Simonds, Charlotte Evans, Louise Thomas, Peter Bruton, Nick Robinson, Jo Ogden, Sam Wrench, and Aaron Tipping (who unfortunately was injured last week). In the British Children's Team those selected include Emily Evans, Alessia Thomas-Jackson, Tom Kirton and Zak Jesse. Some of the above were also selected to the England Dryslope Team, as well as Lloyd Papantoniou, Marc Telling and Paul Telling.

FREESTYLE:

Since Wycombe burnt down I am not sure what happened to their Freestyle club but I am assured Bromley is still thriving. The proposed regionalisation may enable us to bring Freestyle to the attention of many more through running a regional Freestyle event. I have heard that Emily Evans is trying out this discipline along with a few others and doing quite well. Watch this space!!!!!!

(Emily, please send details of your successes (including photos) to Alan so we can include them on the website.)

NORDIC:

I am hopeful this year that we may get some Nordic representation on the committee. I think both the region and Nordic skiing will gain from their input as it will enable us to communicate more effectively the variety of snowsports available within the region. This highly active group gets involved in many different events e.g. Roller-skiing down the Mall (Yes outside Buck Palace!!!), trips to the Snowdome Track, endurance challenges and organising social events. Good luck to all for the new season.

SNOWBOARDING:

We have had little or no success with this. The original interest appears to have faded. We have not attempted to run an event to include snowboarding as a category this year. If anyone, knows a way that the regional body can support snowboarding then please do talk to us.

FINANCES:

John Curtis has managed the finances for another year and I will leave him to provide the details. The accounts have been checked this year by an auditor who is willing to assist us to improve our accounting methods and enable us and you, the members, to obtain more information from the figures. Many thanks to John for the hard work he has done.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Although the Newsletter was available during the summer months the plans to widen its scope never came to fruition. We do not have the resources.

The website has become a key source of information particularly to do with regionalisation and Child protection issues and keeping us up to date with matters of interest. Well done Alan for keeping it all up to date.

Good communication with the governing body and with those controlling sport through the media and local authorities is becoming more important. Unfortunately, in 2006 we were not able to develop this further. Both the press liaison and marketing positions on the committee are very time-consuming, requiring a great deal of commitment.

We do not at present have a Sports Development Officer, meaning that the development of contacts with the county sports development units, which play a major role in setting sports policy, has not been taken forward.

REGIONALISATION:

A lot of discussion has taken place at both regional and council/board level concerning this subject. The overall opinion from board and council is that it would be a good thing for the future of the sport if the regions were better aligned with Sport England. Accessing resources should be easier and Sport England would view it as part of our Modernisation strategy. Council have said it must be up to the member clubs to decide in any particular regions how they want to proceed. At present 4 regions are involved East and West Midlands and our own region with SRSA. Personally I view it as step forward if we can pool our resources to work as one region and access more help and funding in the future. For more information do visit our website www.lrsrsa.org

CHILD PROTECTION:

There continues to be a large amount of work done in this area. The development of the new Child Protection Policy is going well. I think all clubs have appointed a Child Welfare Officer and we are the only region that I am aware of, that provides additional support to our clubs by having our own Regional Child Welfare Officer. I know SSE would like this practice to be mirrored by other regions.

MODERNISATION:

Dec 10th, not long now, will see the next meeting of all members of the British Ski and Snowboard Federation to discuss the proposals laid out in the Modernisation paper of September 29th. The decisions of the Scottish, English and Welsh members at their respective EGMs is well known, Scotland 100% against, England 97% against and Wales 82% in favour but with certain conditions including a comprehensive business plan. Some of the smaller groups within the Federation were also not totally happy with the most recent proposals. All groups have made it clear that they think that modernisation should continue but not as laid out in the current proposals.

England have indicated by their recent documents that they would like to work closely with the other governing bodies to continue developing the areas of common interest, such as one database of members and one coaching scheme, so that we can be part of a larger organisation but still maintain an individual identity.

To everyone who supports our clubs and the region, in whatever capacity, many thanks for all your hard work. I know that Snowsport England view our region as one of the best-organised and more forward thinking. We now have to consider the implications of "Regionalisation" and decide if this is the way forward. Even if we do not join forces with SRSA there is still a lot to do and I hope that anyone with any ideas or free time will let the committee know. They all work so very hard on your behalf.

Many thanks to everyone, Athletes, Parents and Committee for making the job of chairman so worthwhile.

Sandy Telling