



London & South - East Regional Snowsports Association

MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting held on 31st July 2007 at Bromley Ski Centre

PRESENT:

Sandy Telling (Chairman)	John Curtis (Treasurer)
Gwenderlyne Southall (Secretary)	Keith Evans
Alan Sandell	Jonathan Walters
Kathryn Harris	Bridget Owen
Andy Proudlove	Paul Morley
Sally Bartlett	Jules Golbey

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE received from:

Sally Woods, Steve Moss, Dave Askew, Ian Edwards,
Robin Eede, Royd Southall, Ann Bushnell

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES 19TH APRIL 2007

Minutes were agreed as being a true record of the meeting, and were approved by those present.

2a. Matters Arising

Brought forward from AGM – Athlete's Representative, GS to liaise with Lloyd Papantoniou to ascertain if he wishes to take on the role. Sally Bartlett may have an alternative if Lloyd is no-longer interested. **Action: GS**

Since the meeting a change to the format of the Southern Races has taken place and they will now use 4 out of the 6 races to calculate their series winners.

Jonathan Walters has been successfully shadowing Alan Sandell to familiarise himself with the role of Chief of Calcs.

Laptop has been replaced and is working well.

SB – confirmed that Bartlett's will be providing the end of series prizes.

Freestyle: It was agreed that the end of series race will also host another freestyle demonstration. GS to ask SW to forward the poster used to advertise the last event so that this can be amended accordingly. **Action: GS**

3. ADAPTIVE SKIING

From 1st September BSCD (British Skiing Club for the Disabled) will join forces with Uphill to form Disability Snowsport UK. However, Jules Golbey and Paul Morley attended this meeting on behalf of Ian Edwards to inform us that they have started a new club call SSCD (Southern Ski club for the Disabled). This is a new club/charity and is independent of Disability Snowsport UK. It is based at Knockhatch but several other slopes within our region who offer disabled skiing have showed an interest in joining.

Discussions around the best way to involve disabled skiers in our Regional Races took place and it was agreed that the Race Committee would take this forward together with the support and guidance of Ian Edward and representatives.

Action: Race Committee

An offer was made to advertise SSCD on our website and generally publicise. However, a sudden and vast interest could cause a problem for SSCD as it is a new club with limited resources etc. Ian Edwards to advise if/when he would like us to advertise.

Action: IE

Later discussions around the benefits of clubs being affiliated to SSE and the percentage of membership fees paid back to the region was of interest to SSCD as was the level of insurance cover.

4. FREESTYLE

Kathryn Harris advised that Paul Webb has started a Southern Region Freestyle Club which Kathryn is considering joining. Whilst it would be nice to have a L&SERSA Club in reality it is likely that the limited numbers of local freestyle clubs would not make this viable. It is important to have a regional freestyle club as members of a regional squad are able to train at BOA Camp.

ST was contacted by Katie Hyam (Welwyn) who wished to make contact with Kathryn Harris to discussion freestyle. Katie is interested in becoming a freestyle judge. Whilst Katie was invited to attend the committee meeting she was unable to be present. Kathryn has been asked to contact her and make appropriate links.

Action: KH

The earlier freestyle demonstration which took place at the Bromley L&SERSA race was considered to be a success in raising the profile of freestyle in the region. As a direct result of the demonstration Kathryn has recruited 4 new members. It was agreed that there would be another freestyle demonstration at the end of series L&SERSA race in September (Bromley).

Action: KH/GS/SW

Later discussions around the benefits of clubs being affiliated to SSE and the percentage of membership fees paid back to the region was of interest to Kathryn as our freestyle representative as was the level of insurance cover.

5. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control a detailed financial report was not available. However, JC briefly outlined the state of our accounts, which showed healthy balances. There are two cheques outstanding, one for GS and one for AS.

Action: JC

We now have additional worldwide insurance cover for our timing equipment so that it can be safely used abroad. Marc Telling has been invoiced for this additional fee as he shall be using the equipment for his race camps.

L&SERSA is currently awaiting money from SSE in respect of affiliation fees paid to them by clubs within the region. ST confirmed that copies of our accounts and constitution have been forwarded to SSE in order to release this money.

6. PRESS LIAISON REPORT

AB's report was circulated prior to the meeting and is attached as appendix 1a-1b. ST circulated a CD with samples of report templates to all those present. Info will be placed on our website for reference. BO voiced on behalf of all present our united thanks for all the work AB has put into this year's press activity and the preparation of the report etc.

AS also requested that details of any press coverage should also be sent to him so that he could put the relevant information on our website.

Action: AS

7. REGIONAL EQUIPMENT

Currently we don't have a full inventory of our equipment which needs to be addressed; in order to do this can everyone who currently has any equipment please send details to Royd Southall via gwenderlyne.southall@tesco.net this is to be done as a matter of urgency. Should more poles be needed RS to send information via email to the executive committee for approval/ordering.

Action: RS

Once a full inventory has been made it was suggested that RS keep a record of equipment used at various races and any breakages etc. It may also be of an advantage to record loaning of equipment etc.

Action: RS

Prior to the meeting ST has listed some of the basic equipment and put suggested hirer charges against each item for discussion at the meeting. This needs to be looked into in more detail after the end of year accounts to decide whether these costs are both reasonable and representative. Further investigation as to whether or not our insurance covers items that are hired out is also needed.

Action: JC

Currently L&SERSA equipment is available to all 'members' of the region and our slalom poles are hired out on a regular basis to Marc Telling for his various coaching commitments across the region. The term 'members' was clarified as any organisation or club which affiliates to the region or is an associate member.

8. TRAFFIC LIGHTS

A report from Rob Eede was circulated prior to the meeting and is attached as appendix 2. Since then a further update was received via Trish Chalk who had sought legal advice with the limited information she had at hand:

1. If we were sold a product which was never capable of doing the job for which it was bought it may be a case for trading standards.
2. If the product is faulty and as a result does not do the job it was bought for, then it may be a case for the small claims courts.

This confirmed what RE suspected and he believes the way forward is to send them a solicitor's letter saying that we would be pursuing this through Trading Standards.

ST would like RE to try one other channel before continuing down this legal path and contact details were provided. However, it was agreed by all present that if this route proved unsuccessful we should instruct a solicitor accordingly. Costs would need to be submitted to the committee before instigating.

Action: RE

9. TRI REGIONAL RACE

The Tri Regional Race will be on 6th October 2007 at Bromley Ski Slope. Each region will need to sort their teams. There will be 8 teams of 5 racers and at least 1 of the racers must be of the opposite gender from the others. The teams will comprise of 1 CH2 or below and not more than 2 SENs.

The L&SERSA's entry criteria is that priority will be given to Regional Squad members and then open to all other regional racers where L&SERSA race points will be used to prioritise entries. The deadline for L&SERSA entries will be at the end of series L&SERSA race where the race entry form will be amended to include the tri-regional application. Details of the full entry criteria will also be displayed and advertised during the race.

Action: SW

Sally Woods is liaising with John Curtis regarding the purchase of the "plate" for winners.

Action: SW

10. CHILD WELFARE ISSUES

BO circulated a Child Welfare Report (including Self-Disclosure Form) prior to the meeting which is attached as Appendix 3a-3b. This is a comprehensive report and answers many of the questions previously raised. If however, anyone has any queries or concerns relating to the report or any other child welfare issues they should contact Bridget Owen (Regional Child Welfare Officer) on owenbridget444@hotmail.com

BO again raised the need of having a Child Welfare Officer at Regional Events/Races to whom the list of those who have already completed a self-disclosure form or whom have a CRB check will be sent via SSE. This needs to be implemented before the start of the next race series.

Action: BO

11. NEW BURSARY CRITERIA

The amended versions of the bursary criteria were circulated prior to the meeting. Several minor suggestions were made not so much with the criteria but with the layout and wording of the documents. It was agreed that committee members should send any comments to ST by the end of the following week. ST will then update the document and re-circulate before the finalized document is placed on the website.

Action: ST/AS

Post-meeting note: The date for suggestions to ST was put back to 19th August 2007.

12. DATA PROTECTION

Details of L&SERSA's Data protection guidance etc were circulated prior to the meeting and are enclosed as Appendix 4a–4c. Whilst it is not compulsory to have such a policy it is good practice and as such it was agreed by those present to implement these documents with immediate effect.

13. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES – VOLUNTEER COSTS

ST circulated hard copies of the “Equal Opportunities – Volunteer Expenses” for committee members to consider. Due to the timing of the meeting it was agreed that electronic copies would be circulated to all members and that any feedback including proposals, concerns, and/or questions would be forwarded to ST by the end of the L&SERSA race series. The document was mainly aimed at Clubs but it was felt pertinent that as regional representatives we also consider adopting a similar policy.

A discussion took place regarding having an expense policy for LSERSA volunteers. Ideally, and to ensure equal opportunities for all, all volunteers for LSERSA should be able to claim reimbursement for out of pocket expenses. This would include committee members, race day volunteers etc. However, it was pointed out that the meeting tonight would have incurred over £200 in mileage reimbursement claims and LSERSA clearly does not have the resources to pay this. Bridget volunteered to draft an expenses policy to ensure that volunteers were not prevented from helping due to the costs involved.

Action: BO

14. A.O.B.

The “Important notice to racers” received by Gwenderlyne via an email has been circulated to all clubs regarding unacceptable behaviour at races. It was again circulated to all present to disseminate as far as possible.

ST circulated a report from SSE sponsors Crystal Holidays showing that the trend for skiing holidays is still rising despite challenging snow conditions. For a full copy of the report please contact Gwenderlyne on gwenderlyne.southall@tesco.net

A query had been received regarding the age categories in L&SERSA's races and was brought up for discussion. This was looked at by all present but consultation with this series race records showed that if we further divided the under 9 category there would be insufficient racers in the youngest category to provide competition. KE to respond directly to the person submitting the query explaining our decision.

Action: KE

ST circulated a report written by ESSKIA which outlined the problems they experienced in securing an appropriate time slot to run their qualifying race in our area. The report was very biased and reflected poorly on L&SERSA and it was felt that we should take the opportunity to submit our own report to give a more balanced view. This report needs to be with ASC by Friday.

Action: KE/BO/ST

A bursary application was received by L&SERSA committee; whilst the committee are keen to help our up and coming coaches this request fell outside of our current guidance and we were unable to offer financial assistance on this occasion. A letter is to be sent informing the applicant of our decision.

Action: GS

Meeting Closed at 11.05pm

Many thanks to Bromley Ski Centre for allowing us to use their facilities