



London & South - East Regional Snowsports Association

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Wednesday 24th June 2009, 7.30
at Bromley Ski Centre

Present:

Sandy Telling – Chairman	John Curtis - Treasurer
Gwenderlyne Southall - Secretary	Alan Sandell
Kathryn Harris	Lynda Hickey
Suzanne Nightingale	Vince Chan
Keith Evans	Jules Golbey
Nigel Brain	Sally Woods
Andy Proudlove	

1) Apologies:

Royd Southall	Sally Bartlett
Marc Telling	Greg Bell
Ray Sieber	Steve Moss

2) Approval of Minutes – 3rd March 2009

The minutes were read and agreed to be a true record. Minutes approved by the committee and signed by ST.

2a) Matters Arising

Two items have been carried forward to be discussed under any other business. All other outstanding items will be covered by the agenda for this meeting.

3) Finance Update

John Curtis gave a brief report on our financial situation. We are in fact better off than the end of last year but have a number of pending expenses which will impact on the overall balance. There are a couple of outstanding debtors but nothing substantial. Financial summary and full details are available on request. JC also gave a list of affiliated clubs to the region, clubs not on the list need to be chased for membership.

Action: JC

4) Sponsorship LSERSA pack/London Radio/Newsletter

NB brought the new LSERSA sponsorship pack for members to view and also offered to email to any who wants to look at it in more detail. In addition he has now produced a summary pack which he has given to ST for approval. Once agreed this should then be published on our Website. NB has already had some positive feedback from two potential sponsors who have said we are the only 'club' who has provided a sponsor pack. This may well have helped us secure some future funding/sponsorship from Surefoot (www.surefoot.com) who are interested in offering free foot analysis which normally costs around £30.

Radio London – ST was interviewed recently about the Regional Events and the lack of facilities within the region. ST is currently liaising with them regarding a second interview with Ed Drake for his funding raising; at the same time, Ed will also be able to promote the region.

KH mentioned that Heart FM has an online events calendar which we could utilize to advertise LSERSA events/races; the No Snow? Who Cares 2 event to be held at Bromley on July 4th is already being advertised this way.

AP mentioned the possibility of using Podcast as a way of digitally recording audio or videoed interviews which could then be made available on our website.

ST reminded us that our first newsletter in conjunction with www.ultimate-ski.com is now available for interested parties to view. ST asked all members of the committee to promote to clubs encouraging them to submit their articles and send them James Gambriel; these can be ones especially written for our newsletter or relevant items from their own. The address for submitting articles is: lsersanews@googlemail.com. GS to send out address to clubs and ask them to submit their news articles. The next one is due mid July.

Action: GS

5) Adaptive Skiing

JB reported that the group – (Southern Ski Club for the Disabled – SSCD) currently meets once a month at Knockhatch where between 15 to 20 people regularly attend. They will be attending an event called 'Beyond Boundaries' at Aldershot – Farnborough on 4th and 5th July where they will have a stand, it was hoped that a portable slope would be available but sadly this will not be available for this year. ST suggested that JG sends info to AS for the LSERSA website and also for the newsletter.

Action: JG

ST recently attended a 'Farham Fun-Day' event which promoted various sports for paraplegic athletes and was approached to see if we can bring skiing to their event next year. ST to liaising with JG and pass on relevant contact details.

Action: ST

6a) SSE Funding

All those present had received and 'looked' at the document; the general opinion was that it was repetitive, highlighted issues and areas for development but did not actually specify how they hoped to achieve their targets. Other comments included the lack of communication with regions to see what they already offer. Additionally, there were questions over how they would prove/monitor level of achievements/attainment.

Could those who have read the document please forward comments/views; ideally in sufficient time for ST to digest before the Regional Chairs Meetings planned for 27th July where there will be an opportunity to discuss the funding in more detail.

Action: All

6b) LSERSA'S development plan (progress)

KH circulated a 10 year development plan for freestyle. The documents outlines a brief back ground to the sport and highlights where their club is current at. It goes on to highlight where they hope to be in the future although details of how they will achieve this are vague because the club is still in its infancy. KH acknowledged that this is something their committee will address over time.

A comparison on the Kent School Races - RAKS(s) - from 2002 to 2009 has been completed by GS/SW/Rod Woods. Data has been entered into an excel spread sheet showing an impressive and continuous increase in the number of schools accessing the event. This information can be used to produce a variety of graphs to depict the level of development – a sample of the graphs were circulated at the meeting. Additionally, comments/feedback from this year's event was attached as further evidence of the success of this event. Schools in surrey have approached the region asking if it would be possible to run a similar event for them. The London youth games used to include skiing – perhaps we could approach the organisers again about it being re-introduced.

Ideally we would like our development plan to include all the different disciplines therefore we need information on Alpine Racing / Nordic and Adaptive Skiing before we can compile our Regional Development Plan. It would be good to have these draft plans/information for the Chair's meeting, which is planned for 27th July.

Action: JG/GB/ST

7) Regional Race Update

Numbers are slightly down from last year's regional races but they are still being well attended and enjoyed by those racers who take part. GS gave feedback on the fitness competition as some

parents had raised concerns that a few participants were overly competitive. For example the seated wall squats extended for over 45 minutes before the parents themselves called a halt. ST has had a word with the organisers and suggested timed events for the future.

Dual Slalom is currently being run as a knockout which is easier and quicker. We have now successfully trialled the head to head – whilst there was a mixed reaction the general opinion seems to be that the racers themselves enjoyed the event. We do, however, need more printed copies of 'who was racing who' as there was unnecessary confusion which resulted in some children missing their runs. It was agreed that this year it is purely a fun event so there will be no end of season prizes. AS has asked for ideas on how we could award prizes if we repeat the event next season.

Action: All

Bowles slope is being considered as a venue for the next season's races, so it is possible that the region will benefit from another slope in 2010.

Action: KE/JC

The possibility of Bromley again organising the end of season food/BBQ was discussed and the success of last year's was commented on by a number of people.

Action: ST/SW

8) Equipment

RW confirmed that we currently need 20 bases and 10 blue poles – the types of poles were discussed and it was agreed that SW will approach Tim at Bromley for both these items or go directly to Data to reduce costs.

Action: SW

False start equipment

AS is handing this equipment over to Ray Sieber with a view to testing it on a slope prior to use at Welwyn on 12th July. We are expecting to be able to run this independently of the individual slalom timing equipment. In order for this to be possible KE will make up another start post. KE will take one back after the next race to use as a template. We have sufficient cabling but laying it could be a problem.

Action: KE

Hire costs

It was noted that we have previously under quoted / charged for our equipment in the past. The full rate for 6 items is £60 + expenses. This will be applied with immediate effect to future enquiries.

Action: RW/JC

9) Regional Squad Update Selection criteria/publication

Item to be carried forward to next meeting as MT not in attendance.

10) Bursaries – Freestyle Bursary and wording of guidance criteria

GS reported that the submitted coaching bursary for Martin Nankoo was approved unanimously. JC will arrange payment once the invoice has been submitted. Whilst there were queries raised over the wording of our bursary document it was agreed that there was no need to change the current 2009 version – which is available on our website www.lsera.org

Action: JC

11) Update on Freestyle Event – No Snow? Who Cares 2

Preparation for this event is well underway and it has been advertised through various mediums. The event will take place at Bromley on 4th July. KH thanked LSERSA for the use of the equipment – RS will not be able to set up as he will be at the Ipswich race but TH is happy to sort this. Out of last year's proceeds a new podium and a sponsors' board was purchased.

KH reported that Daniel Freeze has been selected to the England Freestyle B Team.

<http://www.freestylesnowsports.co.uk/british/fsteam.html>

12) A.O.B.

First Aid Equipment/supplies

The lack of first aid equipment available at some of the slopes has been raised as an issue by Jo Symons who, when available, volunteers as our first aider. Whilst he was unable to attend the meeting he has offered to produce a list of necessary items and obtain the relevant quotes. He did mention the possibility of having a neck brace but also point out that this should only be available for those first aiders who are trained to use them; more damage than good can be done by an untrained person using such equipment. AP has volunteered surplus first aid equipment which he will bring to the next race. The situation will be reviewed at that time. **Post meeting note: AP has secured two First Aid kits; one large (25 persons) and one smaller (10 persons) plus a small supply of plasters.**

ST did, however, raise concerns over liability and he will liaise with the various slopes within the region. Part of our risk assessment for each event should involve what is available in the terms of first aid equipment/person.

Action: ST

Update on Sports Development

SN is continuing to liaise with local schools; in particular she has 3 schools which have shown an interest and she is trying to capitalise on their school ski trips. SN and the schools are looking for parent volunteers to attend training sessions etc. She is also signposting to different disciplines including adaptive skiing to meet the needs of the group. It was felt that most, but not all, of any future sessions will take place at the Bromley Slope. LH mentioned that the schools could also access the Chatham Slope – SN to investigate. AP later said that this is something he could get involved in as he is soon to retire and will have more time on his hands.

The idea of designing a fitness programme specifically aimed at skiing is ongoing and SN is working directly with the PE teachers on this aspect. They are trying to identify gyms etc that are open to all age groups – several suggestions were put forward and SN will be investigating.

New Group at Bromley which consists of racers from various clubs

There is a new group training at Bromley on Wednesday evenings which comprises of several clubs. This is a new solution to a number of different problems (lack of facilities and coaching) experienced by clubs in our region – without this session a number of our racers would currently not have access to training and at some clubs were struggling with numbers. The session is very different to usual training and includes peer coaching as well as utilising the skills and knowledge of trained instructors/coaches. The various clubs are all contributing and resources range from slalom poles to Dartfish software which is used to record the children skiing through slalom courses. This footage can then be played back for instance feedback and then analysed to help produce personal development plans for the children. The feedback from the racers involved and their parents has been very positive. The biggest problem is the debt that the group has incurred to purchase sufficient poles to have a number of courses to cater for the large range in ability. GS put forward a proposal to LSERSA for financial support. All those associated with the venture abstained from voting but it was agreed by all others present to reimburse the total cost of the slalom poles. KE to forward the invoice to JC for payment.

Action: KE/ST/JC

Ed Drake – Holiday Raffle

In order to help raise the necessary funds for Ed Drake to attend the next Olympics ST suggested that LSERSA donates its half of the proceeds raised from the above raffle to Ed Drake – this was agreed by those present. ST has discussed with the members of the Wycombe Phoenix club and they have also agreed.

Concerns over whether or not we need to be licensed were raised but ST was able to confirm that this is not applicable as tickets are to be sold within the region to our membership and their friends/family and as such are not being promoted to the general public.

In addition to raffle there are other planned events to raise money. There is a Grand Prix type event at Snow Centre (Hemel) 4pm – 10pm planned for 22nd August. Invites will be sent out nearer the time and it will be heavily advertised.

LH mentioned that there is limited info on Ed Drake available in the public sector, Ed is aware of this and is being proactive in raising his profile; this also links back to the radio interview ST is trying to arrange on his behalf – see item 4.

Other items

Equipment Insurance

GS had contacted JC about insuring club equipment as this is likely to be an issue for the Folkestone Ski Club. JC has passed on the relevant information to GS but also asked if it was possible to add the item concerned on the LSERSA insurance, providing FSC paid any additional costs. It was agreed that GS would investigate and feedback, the fact that the item will be owned by Folkestone must be stressed although it should also be pointed out that Folkestone is a member of LSERSA and a member of SSE.

Action: GS

Regional Chairs' Meeting

A date has now been set for the Regional Chair's meeting – 27th July in Oxford – is anyone else keen to attend with ST. GS to send information to whole committee

Action: GS

Inter-Regional Race

JC mentioned that the Inter-Regional selection was very successful this year and that if we apply the relevant criteria to the Tri-Regional (17th October at Brentwood Park) it is hoped that this will be equally as effective. Details of this to be circulated by JC before being published; individuals will then be contacted prior to the event to check their availability. 'T' Shirts to be purchased by region for the teams and a reasonable number of reserves.

Historically we have had used items from each region; ERSAs provide the Dual slalom timing equipment, LSERSA provide poles and PA system and SRSA in the past have provided prizes donated by Salomon, it is hoped that this arrangement will continue in 2009. The cost of the event plus any breakages are to be split amongst the three regions.

Items carried forward from March's minutes

Video equipment for Regional Races

The possibility of using video equipment at the Regional Races similar to that used at the Freestyle event has been discussed. ST agreed at the last meeting to liaise directly with TH who did the video at the freestyle event. ST confirmed that he had spoken to TH and was waiting for a response. KH offered to chase.

Action: KH

Funding for the British Children's Team

The funding from Roger De Haan for the British Children's Team was discussed in March where it was noted that feedback from parents received by the committee indicated a lack of impact on the athletes themselves.

It was agreed that this needed further investigation – this item remains outstanding.

Action: GS/KE/ST

Many thanks to Bromley Ski Centre for providing the use of their facilities, and to Sally Woods for arranging the refreshments for the evening.

Meeting concluded at 22.15pm