

SKI COUNCIL OF WALES
MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 15 MAY 2009



1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Adrian Amsden and Andrew Crawford.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 8 February 2009 were received and approved as a correct record.

No matters arising.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Peter Harris referred to the recent dismissal of the Chief Executive Officer of Snowsport GB. As a result, the organisation had been placed in financial crisis and was looking for the continued and valued support from its member organisations during the challenging period ahead. The Chairman, Oliver Jones, had approached Peter with a proposition of employing Robin Kellen as Chief Executive of SSGB on a part time basis while he continued a limited role with SS Wales. The financial viability of the organisation was a very important element and SSGB would require Robin to commence his role from September 2009.

With the SSGB Spring Congress to be held on 17 May - SSGB hoped to put out a statement that they had entered negotiations with SSW to implement this proposal. The main purpose of this Board meeting was to decide if SS Wales was prepared to proceed with these negotiations or not.

The Board recommended that Robin should be asked to draw up a proposal to demonstrate how a shared post would work.

After full discussion, the Board agreed that SS Wales would enter into negotiations with SSGB. The following action would be taken and the outcome returned to the Board for its next meeting:

1. Based on the negotiations with SSGB, the final decision made between the two organisations.
2. The setting up of a sub-committee to look at the break up of role and duties.
3. RK to draw up a contract on specific roles to be carried out for SS Wales.

The sub-committee would include the following directors:
Les Crawford, Rob Davies, Ian Fawcett, Dawn Bream and Rob Hales.

4. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Snowsport Cymru/Wales

RK had prepared a financial statement showing the corrected figures for pension contributions and staffing costs adjusted as per the agreed policy.

(Copy of the budget 2010 - 2014 is attached to the Minutes in the Minute Book).

Snowsport Cymru Wales is the governing body for snowsports in Wales

Snowsport Cymru Wales is a trading name of Ski Council of Wales, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales No. 2918336.
Registered Office. Ski & Snowboard Centre Cardiff, 198 Fairwater Rd, Fairwater, Cardiff. CF5 3JR.

Website : www.snowsportwales.net Email : admin.snowsportwales@virgin.net

- RK confirmed that SCW advised that Snowsport Wales would receive £25,500 pa in development support for the next four years. This might improve on the basis of a successful submission of a high performance plan as part of a GB pathway.
- The alpine programme budget was based on providing an expanded 70 day programme and was supported by £9k of funding.

All other programme costs were based on a 3% increase in income and cost.

Ski Centre, Cardiff

Ceri Downie had prepared income and expenditure figures from April 2008 to April 2009 and also annual targets for 2008/09 and 2009/10.

(Copies of the documents are attached to the Minutes in the Minute Book).

Ceri explained the changes in the accounting practice due to the extension of the financial year. Notable increases were in schools groups and tubing.

Ceri reported that the car park had been recently resurfaced by the Council and with the completion of the new roof and signage at the entrance, the Ski Centre was looking very well maintained.

Ceri wished the Board to note her appreciation to her staff for their hard work in reaching targets last year and also covering recent staff sickness and bereavement.

"Not For Profit" Status

Reference was made to Adrian's request to ensure the current "Not For Profit" status of SCOW was retained in the forthcoming review of the Memorandum & Articles so that the Ski Centre Cardiff would not lose out financially.

Paul Stephens felt that this would not be an issue, but would seek legal advice on this matter and would speak to Adrian to clarify.

5. COACHING

(i) RK reported to the Board that Snowsport Scotland was working in agreement with BASI with regard to delivering Level 1 BASI courses. The Board noted that Snowsports England, Wales and Scotland would be meeting with BASI to discuss the future organisation of coach education in snow sports across the UK.

RK would report back to the Board on the outcome of the meeting.

(ii) Ian Fawcett reported that he had represented SS Wales at a conference on All Wales Guidance for Educational Visits. Whilst mainly directed at schools, the conference covered all organisational aspects involved when offering guidance on education visits.

6. MEMORANDUM & ARTICLES

It was agreed that Alun Evans would continue with the preparation of the Memorandum and Articles. RK would request the Sports Council to confirm in writing exactly what they could provide.

7. VICE-CHAIR NORTH **North Wales Forum**

Snowsport Cymru Wales is the governing body for snowsports in Wales

Snowsport Cymru Wales is a trading name of Ski Council of Wales, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales No. 2918336.

Registered Office. Ski & Snowboard Centre Cardiff, 198 Fairwater Rd, Fairwater, Cardiff. CF5 3JR.

Website : www.snowsportwales.net Email : admin.snowsportwales@virgin.net

Telephone : 0300 2055100 Fax : 0300 2055100

Dawn Bream reported on a joint meeting held on 29 April at Llandudno Ski Centre. The meeting was very successful with 20± representatives from clubs, the local Council and the Outdoor Partnership. The main purpose was to get more schools involved and develop race training. As a result, a North Wales CODE programme had been set up with four sessions at Llandudno and four to be held at Plas y Brenin. To date 26 children were attending under the coaching of Alan Hughes and had proved to be a very successful project.

Outdoor Partnership had been involved in offering and promoting courses. Local clubs should seek additional funding from Community Chest monies and Dawn would be looking at getting more information on this.

The Board also noted that the John Nike Llandudno Ski & Snowboard Centre management were now recognising home nation qualifications as well as its own Nike accreditation scheme.

8. MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTION

Nick Roe had not received any items from the affiliated Clubs to report. Chris Hatcher had enquired about the AGM and the questions raised on last year's accounts. Paul confirmed that these had been addressed and the individual satisfied.

Chris also raised the Voting process at the last AGM and had requested that this matter be reviewed for the future, as SSW was in breach of protocol.

Wendy would be discussing this with Alun, as Company Secretary, in readiness for the AGM at the end of the year.

9. PROGRAMME & EVENTS

Gwyneth Watson reported on the need for more officials for the forthcoming Celtic Cup 1 & 2 at Rossendale. Numbers of participants were also down this year but this was also evident at other recent races. This could be an indicator of exam season or people not travelling across the country due to credit crunch costs.

Gwyneth reported that Karen Lawson would not be Race Secretary for the Welsh Championships this year as originally planned.

West Wales Schools

The West Wales Schools event at Pembrey was a fantastic success with 138 participants from all over the region. Thanks were expressed to Les and Elaine Crawford for their sterling work in communication with the schools and help on the night.

Robin and Les would discuss improving numbers for the other regional schools events.

Welsh Alpine Championships 2010

RK reported that the FIS races would be held 19 & 20 January and the BASS races would be held 21 & 22 January 2010 in Champéry Les Crosets.

10. ATHLETES' DIRECTOR

In Andrew's absence, David Hatcher reported that AC had been working on the contract document for Squad members which covered behaviour, kit etc.

Snowsport Cymru Wales is the governing body for snowsports in Wales

Snowsport Cymru Wales is a trading name of Ski Council of Wales, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales No. 2918336.

Registered Office. Ski & Snowboard Centre Cardiff, 198 Fairwater Rd, Fairwater, Cardiff. CF5 3JR.

Website : www.snowsportwales.net Email : admin.snowsportwales@virgin.net

Telephone : 0300 8551221 Fax : 0300 8551221

11. ATHLETES REPRESENTATIVE

David reported on a general email circular he sent out to all athletes/parents asking for any views or issues they might have and would like David to raise at meetings.

He had received an email from a parent, commending the Board for their efforts in improving training and development but raising questions on Squad fitness criteria and the reason for additional coaching costs.

In reply, Robin confirmed that SSW does not have a salaried coach and that coaching was not part of the contract of the Chief Executive. With regard to fitness – the organisation does not run a scheme for Squad status but it is ongoing. "Self improvement is an acceptance that you (the athlete) will need to change."

It was agreed that Robin would respond fully and send this on to David who would circulate the athletes.

It was suggested that relevant information was not getting through to all member athletes and he requested the Board to ensure that communications and information should be addressed to all athletes and the outcome or decisions communicated back to all the athletes.

The Board agreed that future emails requesting items for discussion or views should initially be sent from the office to all athletes registered with SS Wales. The office would request responses from the athletes to be addressed back to David directly and he would report the outcome to the Board at its next meeting.

12. PR & MARKETING

Phill Maurice requested continued assistance from Board members and officers for press releases and photographs taken at alpine events or other national events where he was unable to attend, to be emailed directly to him for inclusion in the local and regional press.

13. CHILD PROTECTION

No child protection matters to report.

Ian Fawcett held a Safeguarding Workshop at Ski Pembrey at the end of April that was well attended by members. He would be running a North Wales workshop on the 18 June at Plas y Brenin.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Due to the importance of business to be discussed at the next meeting it was agreed that this should be a face to face meeting in mid Wales around early July. Dates would be circulated.

(document published 7/7/09)

Snowsport Cymru Wales is the governing body for snowsports in Wales