

SKI COUNCIL OF WALES
PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING
24 SEPTEMBER 2009

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Gwyneth Watson, David Hatcher, Paul Stephens, Alun Evans and Rob Davies.

Apologies were also received from Ian Fawcett who was present for the video conference at Plas Menai.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING 2ND JULY 2009

The Minutes of the last meeting were received and approved by the Board as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

British Championships

The practice session on the Friday evening 8 – 9pm at Pontypool ski slope would be published on the website.

Squad Selection

Squad selections for 2009/10 were now published.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Snowsport GB

CEO post

PH reported that first round interviews were scheduled for the appointment of CEO for Snowsport GB with wide ranging candidates from outside agencies and organisations. The Board noted that RK would be joining the short list for the second round of interviews.

It was reported that Snowsport GB had secured its funding for the immediate future and it was reported that the situation had been particularly hard on the athletes in particular who had been asked to pay more.

Alun Evans

Peter reported that AE would be retiring from the Board of SSGB as Members' Representative with effect from November 2009. PH also reported that Alun was standing down as TD and his activities with SS Wales.

SSGB would inform their members of Alun's retirement and would be seeking a replacement representative on the SSGB Board as Members Representative. Peter requested the SSW Directors and officers to consider being put forward.

FINANCE REPORTS

Snowsport Cymru/Wales

Paul Stephens had circulated draft accounts for the period Oct 08 – August 09. These showed a loss for the period but did not account for accruals, prepayments etc., for the year.

With the Events costs reduced, Les suggested the preparation of a breakdown for each event which might prove helpful.

Corporate events income would not be affected this year. It was noted this would be the Muller event only.

RK and PS would be meeting in the near future to establish the final position for the year at the earliest possible point.

Ski Centre Cardiff

Ceri had prepared accounts for the Ski Centre. It was reported that schools income had noticeably dropped. The 5 x 60 Officers had been contacted in the county and it was hoped the extra revenue would soon be generated.

No major purchases were to be made apart from fourteen crash mats together with some additional matting.

Ceri would also contact Cardiff County Council regarding the inclusion of the Ski Centre in its literature circulated to schools and other organisations in order to promote the facility.

Welsh Squad Free use of Cardiff Slope

CD reminded the Board that the reason this matter was brought up was due to the loss of income on Tuesday evenings during Club sessions with the ever increasing numbers in the National and Development Squads.

2007 – income under £5,000

2008 – £3,877

2009 - £3,477

After full discussion the Board agreed during the Cardiff Ski Club session all Welsh National Squad will have free use and the Development Squad members will pay the normal Club rate.

All Squad and Development Squad members will be allowed to ski free (by arrangement with the management) at other times provided there is a paying member of the public on the slope.

Ceri would monitor the progress of the new policy and report back. SS Wales would provide a list of the Squad members and this would also be displayed on the notice board in the Ski Centre.

MEMORANDUM & ARTICLES

The Board received a document highlighting the amendments to be made in the original M & As.

AA requested that the "Not for Profit" status and the exemption clause for the company not to use the term "Limited" be included in the revised document since this offers benefits to the organisation.

New anti-doping regulations would also need to be included. Currently reference was made in the Objects of Association but this would need to be incorporated within the main M & As as well as sited on the website.

The Board agreed to accept the document as presented and WP would prepare the draft final version for the Sports Council.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The date of the next AGM was agreed at Saturday 5 December 2009 at the Pontypool Leisure Centre.

The Board noted that several directors would need to stand for re election : Dawn Bream, Gwyneth Watson and Paul Stephens.

As part of the three year rotation policy for the election of directors it was agreed that the following directors would stand for re-election this year:
Adrian Amsden, Robert Hales and Phill Maurice.

COACHING

Nick Roe had concerns on the future development of our coaching members. It had become evident that numbers were dropping and that a review of the structure and personal development of instructors was vital.

The Board agreed that a sub-committee with Robin, Ian Fawcett and Nick Roe should review the progress of instructors and to develop the concept of holding continual personal development (CPD) days. Uniforms could be organised and this would be put to the coaching members for feedback.

It was noted that there was funding available from the Sports Council to promote coaching.

VICE-CHAIR REPORT

Dawn reported that the CODE sessions for the North Wales region had proved successful earlier in the year at Llandudno and more training sessions needed to be planned.

CODE OF CONDUCT

A Code of Conduct for the organisation and its members was presented to the Board for consideration. The Board recommended that the document would require amendment and would also need to be circulated to the ski clubs for feedback. If there was to be a discipline procedure in place there would also need to be an appeals structure and this would need to be incorporated within the document.

The document would be amended and circulated to the ski clubs for their views.

MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS

Nick had contacted the clubs and members for contributions, but none had been received on this occasion.

PROGRAMME & EVENTS

Athlete Programmes

RK reported that the programme of artificial slope training (CODE/Squad) dates for the winter had been recently circulated.

The Welsh Squad Alpine Training programme had also been circulated to the athletes. The 2010 programme included a total of 51 days of training and competition and included additions to the programme such as training weekends at the Chill Factore in Manchester and additional preparation days prior to Welsh Alpine and English Alpine Championships.

Alpine Events

RK reported on meetings with Champéry with regard to the Alpine Championships 2010 and future sponsorship.

All was progressing well concerning the Championships. RK had met with the Chef des Piste, Ski Club and Director of Tourism and also had a meeting with an official of the Canton de Valais who were looking at providing funding for the FIS event 2010.

It was pleasing to note all parties were keen to establish a new three year contract as soon as possible (SSW existing contract runs to 2010).

Richard Ellis had been asked to act as Chief of Race at the FIS races. He would also assist in the BASS events if he was not TD.

Snowsport Scotland had again requested to come in with support for the FIS races - this would bring in an additional £1,500 to the event.

Schools Events

A North Wales Schools' event was held on 16th September where 55 children had taken part on the ski slope at Plas Y Brenin.

Funding

Sports Aid

Our athletes were now eligible to apply for a Welsh Sports Aid grant of £500 and application forms had been distributed. We had a total of 3 places allocated to snowsports (across disciplines) with one place allocated in advance to Zac Pierce (North Wales) due to his selection to the British Childrens' Team.

UK Coaching Framework

RK was in consultation with SCW with regard to some support that might be able to help develop coaching alongside Snowsport England as part of the UK Coaching Framework.

Performance

RK reported on a fantastic summer season of results for our Welsh athletes from around 19 major races. There were ten winners in the Boys, seven in the Girls and an overall Male winner of all three of the Grand Prix series, Welsh National & Celtic Cup series. Les had provided a summary of results for the Board. Congratulations were extended to all the athletes concerned as well as their coaches.

Race Officials' Training

There was a Level 2 training course organised by Snowsport England in Chepstow 7/8 November 2009. The Board noted three L1 members from Wales would be attending.

PH would be arranging a Level 1 officials training course in the near future. The date would be one of the CODE training sessions when it was hoped that new parents would be able to attend.

ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT

Andrew had circulated the Athletes Code of Conduct and Athletes Agreement to the Board.

The Board wished to include that in extreme circumstances sanctions could mean the withdrawal of privileges and/or uniform.

The Board agreed, subject to the changes, the documents should be circulated to the Squad members.

Squad Uniform

RK had confirmed he had a supplier to look at Squad hooded sweatshirts and polo shirts.

Video Marshall

David Hatcher had been approached regarding an official Video Marshall being present at events to take video footage of the performance of the competitors and its use with any judgements. After discussion, the Board agreed that video material could be ambiguous and that such a role was not feasible at events.

Perpetual Trophies

The subject of perpetual trophies to be awarded to athletes was raised. It was suggested that the ski clubs might wish to contribute a trophy or provide sponsorship. It was agreed that SSW circulate the ski clubs initially to see if they would be prepared to purchase a perpetual trophy to be used each year.

Snowsport Cymru/Wales Trophies

Some criticism had been received by the Athletes reps on the poor quality of the medals and trophies awarded at our events compared with SS England as an example. Robin would make enquiries to see how an improvement could be made with the quality of trophies.

Athlete criteria

Confirmation was sought on the ability of an injured racer to meet the criteria for selection to the 'A' Squad. It was confirmed that the individual had met the criteria for selection prior to injury.

Squad Funds

A breakdown of Squad monies raised over the last two years was requested. The Board noted that there were no official figures available on what had been spent, as some items had been purchased quite some time ago, e.g. catsuits. No purchases had been made over the last two years.

It was proposed that some of the funds could be used for future Squad training sessions at Pontypool. Peter Harris was now overseeing the Squad accounts and would report back to the Board.

CHILD PROTECTION

A document on the Vetting & Barring Scheme being implemented from October 2010 was circulated to the Board. It was noted that this would affect the coaching volunteers at Clubs and staff members of the organisation with regard to recruitment and the office would keep the Board informed as the new scheme unfolded.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

A meeting would need to be held before the AGM in December.

PERKINS SLADE INSURANCE

Subject to a request from an affiliated ski club to SSW, it was noted the new certificate had been received from Perkins Slade that incorporated all the affiliated membership categories within the organisation. Copy of this certificate had been sent to the member organisations and no further issues had been raised.

MANAGEMENT MEETING

Wendy requested a Management Meeting for SS Wales to be arranged in the near future.

Meeting closed 9.30pm

