

British Freestyle Discipline Committee Meeting – Approved Minutes Monday 16th May 2016 – On-line/Telephone Conference

Note that the word “event” in these minutes refers to the sub-disciplines of Freestyle skiing (i.e. Ski Cross (SX), Aerials (AE), Moguls (MO))

1. Participants, Apologies

Participating:

Iain Mackay (IM) Peter Bates (PB), Kay Bates (KB), Dan Brier (DB). Martin Carr (MC), Chris David (CD), Dave Edwards (DE), Lesley McKenna (LM), Paddy Mortimer (PM), Emily Sarsfield (ES), Pat Sharples (PS), Mike Whealley (MW)

Apologies: Gar Trayner (GT), Sean Curtis (SC), Becky Hammond (BH), Stevi Campbell (STC),,

2. Minutes of Meeting 24th November 2015

These were approved.

3. Matters Arising (not on Agenda)

Squad Uniforms

After some discussion it was agreed that arrangements were not being initiated early enough and should be in place by January for delivery in the following September. The current sponsor is keen to continue. MW suggested that branding should be on the collars of suits. A package for branding has been developed for BSS by Su Moore.

Action 1 (May 2016)

Event lead persons to liaise with Su Moore via Iain Mackay and establish contact with Dare2B

Other Matters

Action 3 from November (*IF to forward Mark Ritchie's report to IM*) was still outstanding and the setting of meeting dates had not been successful.

Action 2 (May 2016)

IM to investigate forwarding of Mark Ritchie's report

Dates for the next two meetings were agreed as Monday July 4th and Wednesday Sept 14th.

Action 3 (May 2016)

PB to circulate dates of next meetings

4. Chairs Report

No immediate issues other than those already on the agenda were reported

5. Strategy Action Plan

Not much progress made. While indicating some ways forward, the document was felt to be too unwieldy with approximately 24 actions. There needs to be a sharp focus on the 2 or 3 actions felt to be the most crucial.

Action 4 (May 2016)

PM & IM to take forward strategy action plan

6. Event Reports

Reports had been received from CD, LM, and DB.

Highlighted points:-

Aerials

Lloyd Wallace has had a brilliant season (World Cup 7th place). He will be training with the Swiss team for 3 summer months (jumping 5 days out of 7 each week) In October will train on snow and will also attend 3 Water Ramp competitions. He is applying for Olympic Solidarity funding. Sadly Elodie Wallace maybe retiring.

Moguls

Ellie Koyander did not compete this season and has concentrated on training. Will Feneley continues to improve and will be training in Australia this summer. The Gerken Schofield family are likely to be active this coming season.

Ski Cross

The report from DB outlined planned training and competitions at a Home Nation level. Emily Sarsfield has had some good results. Athletes at BSS level are self funded and with resignation of Gar Traynor, there is concern over a lack of a SX coach/expert. ES expected to apply for Olympic Solidarity Funding.

Action 5 (May 2016)

PM & KB to discuss/review proposals for Olympic selection criteria for SX

Park & Pipe

The park and pipe team have exceeded all expectations in terms of converting performance into results. Over 30 podiums at world class level and many more top tens across the whole team. The possible inclusion of Big Air in future Olympics was discussed. Concerns expressed over whether this would lead to the exclusion of aerials. There was unanimity that Big Air points should not be taken into account for quota spots for Slope Style at least until Big Air was definitely included in OWG

7. Performance Director Report

PM reported that the air bag facility was progressing and hopefully would be in place within 12 months.

8. Selection Report

IM, PM and KB had met with members of BOA (British Olympic Association) for discussion of Olympic Selection Criteria. Some details are still to be clarified, but the proposals seemed to be acceptable. The critical factor in many cases will be the number of quota spots gained which will require performance well above the IOC criteria. Athletes need to be aware that quota spots are not allocated to an individual but to the nation.

A draft of the GBR Selection Policy for 2016/17 had been circulated. Changes had been made to clarify wording and remove anomalies. The meeting endorsed the document.

It had been noted that in the past season many GB athletes had maintained their FIS points level, but their world ranking had deteriorated as more athletes from other nations had improved their performance levels – this is a trend that athletes should be aware of as the Olympic qualifying period opens.

After meeting note – policy was published and all selections made in early June

9. Home Nations Report

England

MC outlined the competitions, talent ID Camps, and coaching events being planned. The possible FIS moguls competition in Manchester would only go ahead if there was sufficient entries from abroad. No report from Scotland.

Action 6 (June 2016)

IM to contact STC to ensure she is receiving communications

ES commented that she received little input from athletes and it was suggested that an email be sent out to all Freestyle Athletes ahead of meetings reminding them that she is their representative.

Action 7 (June 2016)

PB to ask BSS office to send out an email ahead of each meeting to remind Athletes

10. FIS Matters

IM asked for comments on proposals on the FIS agendas which had been circulated. In particular it was noted that there were proposals regarding Big Air, Colour of Clothing, DNF and Ski Cross

11. Home Nation Technical Delegates

It was reported via Colin Holden (Snowboard Director) that it was proposed to set up a Snowboard TD forum to qualify Home Nation level TDs and to progress to merging the TD function with freestyle for the common events (Park & Pipe and Skicross). IM will guide them to ensure consistency with FIS. The chair of the Alpine TD forum would be interested in linking once some progress has ensued. MC reminded the meeting that Snowsport England will licence freestyle TDs for no charge.

12. British Championships at Laax

IM reported that he had been TD and had a discussion with CH (Colin Holden). There was some concern over the legality of their position as there is no formal arrangement between BSS and Soulsport. DE is to follow up. IM and CH want to add benefits – not take over.

13. Dates of next meetings:-

As noted earlier the next meetings would be on Monday 4th July and Wednesday September 14th

14. Summary of Actions:-

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Peter Bates (June 2016)