

BSS CIT SQUAD PROPOSAL AND DRAFT CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

BSS - July 2013

INTRODUCTION

Embedded within the CIT race structure there is also a championship. Around 15 of the total of perhaps 50-60 races on the calendar are designated as part of the Sir Arnold Lunn World Cup. This works like a tour, it has a tour finals and each year it also has a separate set piece event. In 2012/13 GBR was 8th overall as a nation with 366 points and both Darcie Mead and Natalia Harte finished within the top 20 ladies as individuals.

BSS is keen to put together a BSS-CIT squad that targets the Sir Arnold Lunn World Cup.

- It is hoped that this will complement our emerging vision of a pathway of GBR representative racing.
- If this project comes to fruition BSS will provide formal recognition to athletes who race in this competition as eligible squad members as defined below.

In the first year of operation we think it would be appropriate to have a target of 1000 points and a position of 6th. We do not know whether this project will take off or how it will go, but on a five year view our aspiration is to win this trophy.

We would like interested parties to comment on the general principles behind this idea as well as the specific provisions we cover below under the headings of:

- Qualifications for the BSS-CIT squad
- Race allocation processes
- Logistics
- The position and potential responsibilities of a proposed tour captain
- How we are thinking about the potential BSS-CIT team in the context of a pathway of representative British racing.

Any other comments will also be welcome.

If at all possible BSS is keen to put this project in place for the 2013/14 season. This aim means that the timetable for consultation and decisions is not especially long. There is expected to be a meeting of the Alpine, Speed and Telemark discipline committee of BSS on July 22nd where progress will be reviewed. There is also expected to be a further meeting in early September where a final decision may well be made. Feedback available up to three days before these meetings will be taken into account.

In a world of extremely limited resources BSS thinks this may be a way forward for co-ordinating and celebrating the performances of many of our emerging athletes without compromising the funding of the limited number of initiatives that BSS is able to sponsor elsewhere within alpine racing.

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POSSIBLE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE BSS-CIT SQUAD

There are a number of factors that are in our mind that are relevant to qualifications for any potential BSS-CIT squad. We would like this to be targeted at Junior skiers. We would also like to use it to encourage racers in full time and part time further education. We certainly also think that we should have a threshold that rises with age and that has a clear relationship with the athlete tracker threshold we use in the selection of our elite GBR squads. We would like the BSS-CIT threshold to be of the order of 20-25 points behind the relevant cut off for the elite squads. With this in mind we are suggesting the following position for the start of any season. We may well need to review these details.

In the 2013/14 season we might be looking at qualifications along the following lines:

- Membership of any of our elite GBR performance squads will be sufficient. These are: the British Under 18 Alpine Ski Squad; the British FIS-EC Alpine Ski Squad; the British Alpine Senior Ski Squad.
- For JNR 1 or U18, any FIS list from the base list for the season onwards with a FIS point score of 95.00 or less for a single discipline will be sufficient.
- For JNR 2 year 1 or first year U21, any FIS list from the base list for the season onwards with a FIS point score of 80.00 or less for a single discipline will be sufficient.
- For JNR 2 years 2 and 3 or final two years of U21, any FIS list from the base list for the season onwards with a FIS point score of 70.00 or less for a single discipline will be sufficient.
- We are looking at potentially including skiers who have left the junior ranks. In particular we hope this will encourage racers who are in full time and part time further education to continue racing and training at a high level. We have some ideas on how to define their qualification criteria but would love to hear the view of others.

Athletes will also need to meet the general qualifications for scoring in these SALWC races. These may or may not include provisions about where you live and its proximity to a recognized ski resort. In addition we believe that if an athlete skis in Europa or North American cups or above they are then suspended from scoring until the following season. It should be noted that there are a number of specific aspects of CIT rules and SALWC rules that we are in the process of clarifying.

Athletes will earn their formal recognition for racing. No start no recognition.

But we are also expecting to encounter situations where British racers who are not squad members will be racing in the SALWC series. These racers will also be eligible to score points for the British common cause. For these racers we think there should be something like the following provisions:

- If they produce a single run with a FIS point score at or less than the FIS point qualification criteria above they will gain squad status for the balance of the year. They will also get formal recognition for that performance.
- If they score 5 SALWC points or more in an event they will get formal recognition for that performance but they will not gain squad status for the balance of the year.

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RACE ALLOCATION PROCESSES

We think we will need to be careful how the race allocation processes are operated and would really appreciate feedback in this area. For the CIT races that form the SALWC we would hope for increased entries from squad members. This may require some allocation that is not strictly on the normal straight FIS point hierarchy. Certainly we are keen to ensure that all BSS-CIT squad members get a reasonable number of starts should they choose to join in with the project.

We think that a process of two windows may work.

We may look at splitting the 15 or so SALWC races into two groups. For each group we could ask squad members to request the starts they wanted by a specific date, possibly with an order of preference and mitigating reasons behind this. We would then have a short period during which allocations were made. And then we would open any remaining slots up for bidding in the normal way.

In order to make this work we might need something like a selection panel. But we believe the remit of such a panel will need to be flexible and involve judgment on a basis that is not appropriate for some of our other panels. If possible this may need to involve significant modification to any rights of appeal and we may look to compensate for this with a form of annual review of the panel's performance.

For the SALWC finals and the annual separate set piece event we are not currently sure if there are different processes for race qualification. We anticipate that we would ask squad athletes for their interest and then allocate slots with a more obviously rigorous eye to either FIS points, SALWC performances or a combination of both.

LOGISTICS

It is worth making a separate point on logistics. Our expectation is that for the general run of races BSS will provide no logistical support or co-ordination. This is consistent with our desire that this initiative should not divert resources from existing BSS initiatives. But it is possible that for younger athletes who are 18 or under we will need to take child protection advice and put in place some consequent requirements. It may be that for the SALWC finals or separate set piece event we can make this a more obviously BSS sponsored event and suggestions around this will be welcome.

It strikes us that most or possibly all of the athletes likely to qualify for the BSS-CIT squad will already be in serious training programmes that will involve a series of races through the season. This initiative may influence those athletes and their coaches in the choice of which races to pursue and then add a significant bit of edge and excitement when the athletes do race. Effectively we hope that the logistical support required for these races will effectively be built already into the private programmes that our athletes pursue.

POSITION AND POTENTIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF A TOUR CAPTAIN

We are wondering whether there will be some merit in appointing a tour captain and perhaps vice captain with the following responsibilities:

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- Keep in touch with all squad athletes and their aspirations/concerns
- Regular feedback to the BSS coordinated group that will be needed to manage this project
- Management of communication responsibilities as outlined below

In terms of communication we are looking at two things.

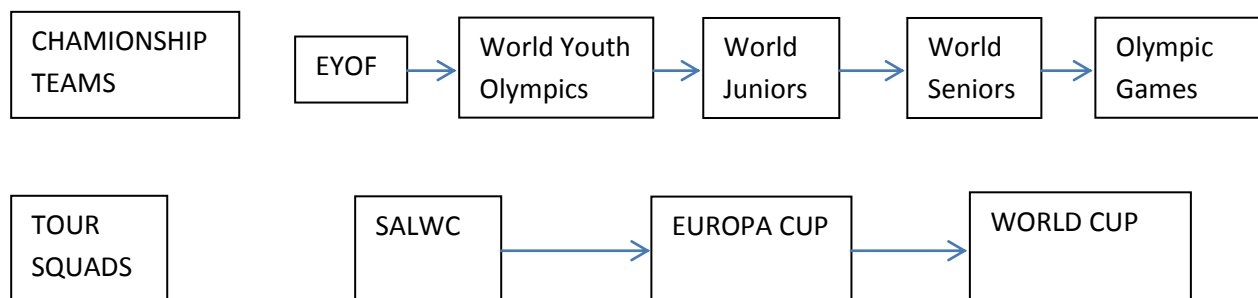
First we would like to be able to launch a magazine style product on the back of this project. To the regular flow of racing and selection news we would also envisage adding communication on a range of other issues and are happy to take advice on this.

Second we would like to receive video footage from all of the SALWC meetings that the BSS-CIT squad attended. The hope would be that we got enough footage to put together a 3-4 part documentary if we chose to.

We would anticipate that the tour captains would be responsible for providing or ensuring the provision of enough articles to form the backbone of the magazine. In addition we would expect the tour captains to co-ordinate and ensure the provision of sufficient video footage.

BSS-CIT TEAM AND A PATHWAY FOR GBR REPRESENTATIVE RACING

The following schematic shows how BSS is beginning to think about British representative alpine racing. This involves squads that target tours as well as teams that go to championships. We are not there yet but it may be that we end up with a system that looks like the following.



BSS expects this emerging vision of representative racing to sit alongside the system of elite squads that we have put in place. These will continue to be selected and monitored according to our athlete tracker programme and will recognize those of our athletes who are on a performance pathway that is consistent with having a reasonable shot of winning medals at World Senior Championships and ultimately the Winter Olympic Games. Where BSS can focus resources on alpine skiing it is likely to be on these athletes or a selection of these athletes. These elite squads and the demanding targets that they involve will be at the forefront of our discussions with UK Sport about bringing in significant amounts of state funding to our sport. And these elite squads will also be at the forefront of our discussions with the BOA about any modifications to Olympic selection procedures that may be appropriate in the future.