

British Freestyle Discipline Committee Meeting – Approved Minutes Tuesday 24th November 2015 – On-line/Telephone Conference

Note that the word “event” in these minutes refers to the subdisciplines 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), Martin Carr (MC), Chris David (CD), Dave Edwards (DE), Ian Findlay (IF), Emily Sarsfield (ES), Pat Sharples (PS)

Apologies: Gar Trayner (GT), Paddy Mortimer (PM), Sean Curtis (SC), Becky Hammond (BH), Stevi Campbell (STC), Dan Brier (DB), Lesley McKenna (LM),

2. Minutes of Meeting 20th August 2015

These were approved.

3. Matters Arising (not on Agenda)

Squad Uniforms

A letter of agreement between BSS and Dare2Be had been drafted and agreed by both parties. Delivery was expected shortly. SC had updated IM that everything was in place. Uncertain of provision for SX team.

4. Chairs Report

Rory Tapner (until recently, Chief Executive of Coutts) had been appointed as Chair of BSS. He had asked for proposals for “quick wins” where some funding could be directed to enable recognisable success at a World Level. For Freestyle IM has proposed further support for Lloyd Wallace with a view to enabling a high ranking performance at the 2018 Olympics.

DE outlined the strategy that Rory would be developing - which was one of positive change coupled to fund raising to produce winning results at a World Cup level. There would be encouragement of the Home Nations to develop a broader athlete base and for there to be clear documented pathways from initial involvement and encouragement to podium places at a World Level.

5. Strategy Action Plan

Discussion was restricted because Version 3 of the document was not available to participants. The main actions are for the Performance Pathway for each Event to be documented and for Key Performance indicators developed for World Class Athletes. Each event leader should contact PM to action this.

Action 1 (November 2015)

PM, LM, GT, CD, SC to liaise in order to document the Performance Pathway as currently exists and to develop Key Performance Indicators.

Further discussion suggested that the work needed to be done on Pathways, Programmes and Plans will fulfil and/or complement the development of a Strategic Plan. The work will best need to be done outside the committee meetings.

Action 2 (November 2015)

IM to initiate email discussions with identified key people to start this process.

6. Event Reports

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

Highlighted points;-

Moguls

Ellie Koyander will be competing in a mix of Europa cup and world cup events as she did so successfully last season.

Will Feneley has spent most of the southern hemisphere winter based in Australia training with the team at Perisher resort.

His progress has been significant and he also did very well at the European Indoor Moguls Champs in Manchester. He is planning on training and competing extensively over the coming season throughout Europe. He is showing the best promise of all our younger Moguls athletes at present.

MC described recent activities at a Home Nation level.

Ski Cross

The report from DB outlined planned training and competitions at a Home Nation level some of which could be accessed by the current BSS Squad athletes. Nothing has yet been formalised but it could be a very positive step forward and form the basis of a performance pathway if implemented.

In terms of the BSS Squad, Emily Sarsfield is back in training – coming back from injury, Pamela Thorburn has had recent surgery, Liz Stevenson is training the U.S.A. and finishing off at University, whilst Ed Drake has had a minor injury, but is expected to back into training/competing in 2 weeks time.

Park & Pipe

PS gave an update on the proposed Chiba Kings facility. PS and James Woods (Woodsy) visited Japan and were very impressed with the system. Woodsy practised 3 new tricks and was immediately able to transfer them to snow. It has the potential to develop athletes earlier in a safe environment. Currently trying to get one site in Scotland and another in England, making everything happen as quickly as possible. James Woods has already won 2 events this season. Isabel Atkin also has had a seventh place. Several potential new athletes coming up from both Scotland & England. When possible these athletes are being given opportunities to train with the BSS team. Plans for the season have been well documented in the report from LM/PS. A plea made to include in future, a glossary for the acronyms/abbreviations used so that it is more fully understood by the rest of the committee.

7. Selection Report

Selection criteria seem to be working well so the office staff can automatically issue licences to anyone approved from the full selection committee meeting in June 2015 or on the Home Nation team/squad/academy lists. Others who apply or wish to upgrade, are discussed with the relevant coach on the committee to see if they meet the quoted selection criteria – mostly they do.

We have athletes approved for licences as follows;- however they have not yet all paid their money and had the licence issued.

Event	Men	Ladies
SX	12	5
MO	11	7
AE	1	1
Park & Pipe	16	7
Total	40	20

PS agreed that everything working well for all concerned.

8. Home Nations Report

Park & Pipe

Park & Pipe developing and clarifying the Home Nation programme underlying the National Academies to include more domestic camps and off snow (gymnastic and trampoline) training. Also hope to arrange extra training in Laax. Scotland has two coaches in place. England does not have the budget to have even part-time coaches, but have some resource for Championship Ski & Snowboarding. IF is in constant contact with the private coaches to try ensure a consistent approach between the Home Nations. Mark Ritchie (Performance Pathway Manager) is collecting performance indicators and statistics related to participation and improvement - also is very busy with organising and performing administrative duties related to camps and training sessions. IF also keeps statistics on participation. A real need to document/record what is happening. There is a gap between National Academy coaches and those at lower levels. A report had been generated by Mark Ritchie. Measures are being put in place to address this.

Action 3 (November 2015)

IF to forward Mark Ritchie's report to IM

9. FIS Matters

IM reported on proceedings in the Zurich meeting in October. Items of note:-

- changes to Technical Delegates Pathway
- dual moguls new format with course finishing at 2nd air. Seems to have gone down well.
- change to age limits for Junior Worlds (upper limit lowered) for all except SX
- work ongoing re safety in SX – manufacturers of netting are involved
- possible changes to judges panel composition for Park & Pipe being discussed
- Olympic qualification standards should be in place within 3-4 weeks

10. Dates of next meetings:-

Action 4 (November 2015)

PB & IM to circulate possible dates for next two meetings (IM to seek use of PM's calendar system)

11. Summary of Actions:-

Action 1 (November 2015)

PM, LM, GT, CD, SC to liaise in order to document the Performance Pathway as currently exists and to develop Key Performance Indicators.

Action 2 (November 2015)

IM to initiate email discussions with identified key people to start this process in Action 1 above

Action 3 (November 2015)

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Action 4 (November 2015)

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Peter Bates (Nov 2015)