

ERSA Committee Meeting 19/07/2015 10-12.30

At Hardwick Arms, Arrington

Attending: Bernard Wright (BW), Janet Jenkins (JJ), Jenny Payne (JP), John Louth (JL), Steve Lambert (SL), Ian Mawson (IM), Tim Bingham (TB), Stephen Metherington (SM), Richard Oliver (RO), Mike Danbury (MD), Andrew Upton (AU), Ryan Grewcock (RG)

Apologies: Chris Shelley (CS), Tania Barton (TB)

-
1. Previous minutes
 2. 2015 Review / Feedback so far
 3. ERSA Champs and clarification of race and summer league
 4. 2016 improvements, recommendations, ideas, types of races
 5. 2016 calendar
 6. 2016 sponsorship
 7. Online booking system
 8. Snowsport England update
 9. AOB
 - a. Welwyn update
 - b. Trophies
 - c. Treasurer
 - d. Numbers

Previous Minutes

Previous minutes are on the ERSA website http://www.ersa.co.uk/ersa_committee, November 2014.
No comments and accepted.

2015 Review / Feedback so far

Online feedback form has generated 30 responses, only one has been deleted as it was inappropriate. Overall I was hoping for a few more responses as it was an ideal opportunity for people to help shape the future. However the feedback has been helpful and informative and some misconceptions for which we can improve our messages to people.

Spent quite a while talking through the feedback and the pros and cons of the comments. Still more work to do over the coming months and clubs need to discuss with their members and feedback so that decisions can be made at the Race Managers meeting in January 2016.

Some common threads were;

| Question | Feedback |
|-------------|---|
| Slalom | In general most people happy with the current three run format. Several people think the third run being mandatory for U14+ puts too much pressure on racers. A couple of comments about having the U14+ third run last and not the U12. There was a view that people eased off on the third run. However a spot check on the Norfolk race this year did not support that. Clubs need to gain more feedback from members and ERSA will review the stats from this year. Mixed views as to whether the third run should be counted or not hence more thought needed before the RM meeting. |
| Team Events | U12 team would be preferred to give them more of a chance. Some do not understand why we tried the 2 teams in each category while others liked it. Preference for more mixed teams if a club is short of a racer. One comment about not working well and change it to get more engaged (no suggestions though). U12 popular choice, build this into 2016 season. Should we consider four members for a team that way allow the likes of WGC, ESX, HEM to always support the event, this was a popular idea and clubs consider. The team events would be U12, Children, Open A and Open B. Also all the draws should be random as this was a preferred option. |
| Stampede | Most people like (and this marries the feedback we get on the day and the fact that people do not like to be dropped) but would like to see the matching done better. Have a |

| | |
|------------------|--|
| | <p>more formal way of opting out. One comment about it not meaning anything to most people. Race Mgrs to get more involved in the organisation.</p> <p>All liked this and good feedback. General for the teams need more copies of the running order to help organise people. We need a minimum of eight helpers at the top for the team events. Need new names for 2016.</p> |
| Top32 | <p>More female participants or possible a Top16 Female and Top16 Male. Lots of people do not enjoy the ProSlalom with the double gates a small number do, several parents said was not as exciting. Too dominated by the males.</p> <p>Need to discuss and agree with Team Evolution. Preference would be to split the Top 32 so that it was split male and female, maybe Top 16 on each. Agreed need to do something different to ensure we keep the event fresh. The ProSlalom courses were not popular with more racers which was unfortunate. This needs more discussion with TE.</p> |
| Top16 | <p>Most people enjoy it again same comments about the double gates.</p> |
| Later Start Time | <p>Most people don't mind the later Hemel start time and understood why it was necessary. However almost everyone did not like having a race the following day. One comment about it being late to notify people of the late start (interesting considering it was published at the start of the season suggest comms not working as well as could be). One downside to starting later is people felt it was not as good value for money and didn't get as many runs.</p> <p>Most like Hemel later start time and 2016 it will be the same due to the cost of going earlier in the day or Sunday. We will not have any race on the Sunday. Also look at what additional runs can be done to improve the value for money.</p> |
| Back to Back | <p>If two dry slope normal times fine but if Hemel is a late start then no. Several comments about not liking them due to the cost of the hotels.</p> <p>Not popular with Hemel but liked for the Ipswich / Norfolk CNs.</p> |
| Something Else | <p>No more on the day entries have Thursday cutoff (no reason given as to why). Would like U12 to be able to inspect on Stubbies. Would like a shorter lunch break as it makes the day longer!! A suggestion about allowing parents to ski during the lunch break to get experience of poles. (we really have to get the message over that there is NO lunch it is about setting up the afternoon races). Races too condensed this year and would like more training time in between. Course inspection needs improving and designated adults should be assigned to kids to help them. Season too short now we have lost two venues can we not visit some slopes twice. Ski Cross would be good at indoor. More medals for younger races not in the top 3. Give out more prizes for first timers. Issue the calendar earlier.</p> <p>Setting up the dual timing hooks for lifting the matting would be useful. Reminder to clubs that this is NOT a lunchbreak it is the time it takes to get the dual timing and course setup. The more people we have helping the quicker it will be. People do not need experience and it is simple to get the equipment setup.</p> |
| Chill Factore | <p>Most people would like to do something there but does depend on the cost and what is on offer.</p> <p>Popular and people interested in what can be offered and the pricing. Also consider Landgraff but most people currently prefer the Manchester option. BW will continue to discuss with Team Evolution and workout a cost and programme..</p> |
| Helpers | <p>Get more people to help so that others do not have to do long stints. Instead of asking people on the day ask in advance. 'As I am a racer it would be hard to help out at the same time' (must remind people there is more going on that just at racing time, Ollie Turner good example). Free tea and more frequently covering everyone not just those at the top. It is a closed shop and we should consider skills sets of parents!</p> <p>This year has been much better and we have had several new parents come forward and help which has been very useful to free up others and also cover some more of the established helpers who have not been available this season. We still need more helpers especially during the dual setup and clearing up.</p> |
| Anything Else | <p>Camp prizes should be aimed at the younger up and coming racers. Improve the start area too many parents prepping skis. Put music on during the lunch break. Avoid race clashes. Spread out the races more. Need more to encourage U12 and keep those U16 and above. Races too spread out, races too condensed. Times need to be adhered to on the day. Need more races and a GBR.</p> <p>Discussion about doing medals for 4th and 5th to continue the encouragement of other</p> |

racers, it is done in the Alp races so why not here. Agreed that we will give the 4th place an initial try subject to feedback from people.
GS currently present 1st only in each age category. Was asked to present 1st, 2nd, 3rd. We have done this at the request of racers / parents but then received complaints. It extended prize giving and reverted to just 1st place. However we will give it a try again.

ERSA Champs and clarification of race and summer league

Remind people that the champs ARE included as part of the points for 2015. This will be reviewed for 2016. The intention this year was to make the Champs more important. Some people like it some do not hence the review.

2016 improvements, recommendations, ideas, types of races

Need suggestions from clubs as to what they would like to see. Do people want to do more team slalom event and leagues?

2016 calendar

ERSA will start putting together the calendar during August and September. We always wait for the national dates to be published before finalising the date to try and avoid major clashes, but not always that easy. At this time the national calendar was supposed to be well under way but there is no news what is happening we hope to get more information in the near future.

MD and RG gave an update and changes have been made in the last couple of weeks and it is expected that the slope will be open in the next 2-3 weeks. We will therefore leave the ERSA Champs at Welwyn this year.

2016 sponsorship

Team Evolution have written to the committee to confirm that they are happy with the association over the past few years and would like to commit to the next two years. BW explained that he has received an approach from Ambition to be co-sponsor of the region and work alongside Team Evolution. BW has spoken to Team Evolution about this but they would like sole access to the region.

Everyone agreed that it has worked well and would like to remain with Team Evolution for the next two years. While some people would like to work with Ambition as well as Team Evolution it was recognised that the two academies should first discuss potential options.

BW to write to Team Evolution to confirm the arrangement to continue and work out the details during the winter.

Online booking system

The ERSA online booking system has worked well for the national races and will continue to be used for the Winter races this season and decision about the future will be taken at a later date.

Snowsport England update - RG

Ryan is now the coaching and workforce management lead. Susie Moore has left SSE as well as the office staff.

Starting to look to the future funding and how this will be achieved in 2017 when the current funding expires. It is thought SSE will get some funding but not to the same level and SSE is looking at how it fills the gap and actually increases the amount of funding available to all. This has part to do with the current commercial discussions taking place about reaching the wider Snowsport market.

Club affiliations will be online shortly as well as Instructor courses online.

AOB**Mike Danbury**

Welwyn want to arrange a north Herts schools race. Two mini races before and after Christmas. Can get Sport England funding for it. Need help and support from ERSA. Each county sports partnership have a list of helpers. RO get Lisa to provide details to Mike.

Janet

We are still looking for a new treasurer to take over in 2016. Janet can provide more details.

Other Disciplines

Discussion about involving other disciplines in the region. It is something we have looked at before but struggled to get in place. RG and SM keen to assist as many of the disciplines are becoming more pro-active.