



## **Annual General Meeting Tuesday 15 November 2016**

**Snowtrax**

### **1. Attendance**

Brian Davies ASR  
Mary Calvert ASR  
Peter Calvert ASR  
Tony Smith ALD

Darren Schmidt TSN  
Helen Schmidt TSN  
Dan Thompson TSN  
Nigel Vincent TSN

### **2. Apologies for absence**

Carrera Clarke SSE  
Nigel Greenfield SBR  
Wendy Hardy BRS  
Nigel Hilliard BOW  
Milan Hlousek BRS  
Jane James BRS  
John Kovacs TSN

Val Leslie BRS  
Chris Miller BRS  
Linda Miller BRS  
Darren Speed ASR  
Thirza Speed ASR  
Ben White SASA

### **3. Minutes from last meeting**

The minutes of last year's AGM were accepted.

### **4. Treasurer's report: Nigel Vincent**

The treasurer's full report is attached as an appendix.

The main additional costs this year have been the purchase of bibs/high viz jackets (£2.5K) and a gazebo. A Berkshire schools race was held at Bracknell which was supported by the region (trophies/medals and slope hire). A Ski Cross event at Bracknell has been rescheduled for next March (due to problems with the lift).

SSE funding is now allocated on the basis of activity rather than number of members. AGM minutes and a regional plan are submitted and £600 - ~£2K is awarded to the region dependent on the activities planned through the year. This funding is dependent on the specified activities taking place.

The region's funds are very healthy. Support has been offered to groups and individuals in the region to help fund courses/events/equipment. So far, grants have been awarded to 3 Snowtrax and 5 Aldershot racers to undertake level 1 coaching courses.

It was confirmed that clubs could claim for any equipment (eg poles) which was damaged when a regional event was held at their slope.

It was suggested that radios be purchased for use at races as the headphone sets can only be used with the TAG timing gear when the individual runs are taking place.

#### **5. Communications officer's report: Peter Calvert**

Peter Calvert reported that the timing gear had worked well throughout the season. He is trying to get a larger pool of people able to take on the role of chief of calcs so that each club can be responsible for their own race.

The website will need some updating over the winter. In the future, results will go directly to [www.skiresults.co.uk](http://www.skiresults.co.uk) – and the regional website will link to this. An explanation of the scoring system for the summer races will also be put onto the website in an “easy to find” location.

#### **6. Chairman's report: Brian Davies**

Brian Davies presented the following report:

*For this year's report I will start with the primary focus which is racing. At regional level the summer series was very well supported again this year and I think all the races ran pretty smoothly considering the numbers of racers we are dealing with. The online timing continues to be a big success allowing both those at the race and those who cannot make it to follow what is going on. I am very pleased that we re-introduced club team racing for the open teams and I hope this has been enjoyed by the majority of participants. As ever we cannot run these events without officials so a big thanks to all those who have helped this year both those on the committee and everyone from the clubs. I also want to thank all the organisations who have supported us through the year especially Snowtrax, Salomon, Ski Bitz and Ski Bartletts.*

*I have been particularly pleased to see an increase in the number of athletes from the region taking part in the national level races and championship races. The Southampton Club National was very well attended but the region was also very well represented at races across the country. We also saw this commitment rewarded in the Club National Championship with not only Aldershot winning it for the second time running but also Snowtrax taking third place which was a fantastic achievement. Individually we are lucky to have three of the best girls in the country racing in the region and they battled all year throughout England, Wales and Ireland swapping podium positions every week. Nicole Shering, Lauren Vale and Jenny Davies were also joined by Craig Speed in the Snowsport England Dryslope Ambassador Programme otherwise known as the national artificial slope squad.*

*I was very keen to get club team racing back on the schedule for Snowsport South events because as a coach I think it is really important for clubs to take every opportunity they can to race in team races to develop their athletes for that discipline. I am delighted to say that this year the region has dominated team racing nationally. A month ago today the Snowsport South A and B team battled it out in the final of the Tri Region after a day where all our teams put in some outstanding performances. A month before Aldershot won the All England Inter Club competition for the first time ever but the highlight of the year from a regional perspective was the Inter Region competition in Stoke. We have only been competing in this very prestigious event for a few years but Snowsport South A took on the best regional teams from across the country and won.*

*One disappointing thing was that we had to cancel the planned ski cross at Bracknell due to lift issues. We are still planning on running a race and have a date booked for March of next year. We will start advertising soon as we are keen to get a good number of competitors. We also were unable to sort out a date for officials training so have also had to defer this until next year. We have though been able to provide support for those wanting to attend courses and have 5 athletes taking part in a level 1 coaching course this weekend.*

*Looking forward to next year, we are just about to create the regional plan for next year. With the ski cross and the officials training course held over from this year a lot of the plan is already written but we will also be looking to support schools races and are keen to continue to support individuals pursuing coaching and instructing qualifications.*

*For races we are not looking at significant changes although we will discuss a potential format change shortly. We have 6 regional races in the calendar with 2 at Aldershot, 2 at Southampton, 1 at Bowles and the end of year at Snowtrax. We are keen for the clubs to take over the running of all the races hence the officials training but it is recognised that where clubs have multiple races they will need more help from the region.*

*All in all an excellent year for the region, particularly on the slope, and we now look forward to repeating the success next year but also diversifying our activities and increasing the number of officials we have available.*

It was confirmed that the postponed Ski Cross event at Bracknell would be held on Saturday 4 March 2017. The event would be led by Berkshire Race Club with support from the Snowsport South committee.

## **7. Discussion of Summer Race Series Format: Brian Davies**

The following had been circulated to clubs and posted on the website with the AGM agenda.

*One thing we would like to discuss at the AGM is whether there is a desire within the region to make a change to the race format. As an entry level race series we have always used a best run from three format for all levels of competitors. While this benefits the less experienced athletes there are several issues with this approach:-*

- Athletes that progress to national races are presented with a requirement to finish two runs including the third run. This is a step up from the current Snowsport South format.*
- It is possible that the best racer on the day could be beaten by a single freak run from another competitor.*
- Where there is no lubrication on the slope, the slope may slow as the day warms up making the second and third runs less relevant.*

*On the other hand, if the format is changed to best 2 runs out of 3, there will be some racers who will not achieve a result. This year 22 results would have been invalid. Over half of these racers were in the U8, U10 or U12 categories.*

*A few people have suggested the region should take on the format used by LSERSA for their regional races which is to calculate times based on the best two runs of three. The Snowsport South committee are considering this suggestion and invite comments from the clubs. Options we have are:-*

- Keep the race format the same*
- Bring in a best two runs from three format for all competitors*
- Keep the race format the same for U12 and below competitors and bring in a best two runs from three format for U14 and above competitors.*

*The head to head and fun team events are currently drawn using a racer's best single time. If racers only achieving one valid time are to be allowed in these events, the draw will need to continue to be made this way. It may produce a slightly different order from that expected from the overall results if they are based on a combined time. (This might cause some confusion.)*

*Please can you discuss with your members, collate feedback and provide it either at the AGM or by email.*

The feeling of the clubs represented at the meeting (ALD, ASR and TSN) and those which had responded prior to the meeting (BOW, BRS) was that there should be no changes to the format for the U12 age groups. There were mixed opinions on whether there should be a change for the older age groups. Darren Schmidt reported that Salomon & Snowtrax had indicated that they would reconsider their support of the summer race series if the format changed drastically. It was generally felt that there was no strong drive for a change. This would be further discussed at the first committee meeting after the AGM – when it is hoped more clubs would be able to attend.

## **8. Election of new committee**

The existing committee except David Ross had all expressed their willingness to stand for re-election. Darren Schmidt was proposed by Tony Smith ALD and seconded by Dan Thompson TSN for the post of Vice Chairman. The committee was then elected en bloc - proposed by Tony Smith ALD and seconded by Dan Thompson TSN.

<b>Executive Officers</b>	
Chairman	Brian Davies
Vice Chairman	Darren Schmidt
Treasurer	Nigel Vincent
Technical Officer	Peter Calvert
Secretary	Mary Calvert

## **9. Any other business**

- a) Darren Schmidt offered to hold an additional ski cross event at Snowtrax outside of the summer season. He had also had talks with James Webb (Bracknell) and Pete Gillespie (Hemel). He was considering 2 competition formats - a combined ski/snowboard event (with a skier doing both disciplines) and a skills/drills quest on indoor snow. He asked that the possibility of holding freestyle and snowboard courses be considered.
- b) Nigel Vincent reported that the 2017 Summer Race Calendar had been set and was published. The dates were not all ideal – but were the only ones available. Sponsorship for 2017 has been promised from Salomon, Snowtrax, SkiBitz (for the Club National) and Ski Bartlett. DHO (through Emily Evans) have also offered support – this may be at the January officials' training day which is scheduled for Sunday 15 January from 9 – 12. There will be free training offered to racers while their parents undertake officials' training.
- c) Tony Smith asked if there was any possibility of avoiding the Snowsport South CN being held on the same weekend as the GBR race in Scotland. This had been considered when the calendar was being set – but no other option could be found,

- d) Bowles had sent in a report with their apologies. They asked if medals could be presented for third place in the club team competition. This was agreed.
- e) Bowles raised the issue of the course setting at the Tri region event. They felt that the 2 courses were not quite the same and also that the degree of difficulty was too high for this level of event. BD felt that part of the problem was a lack of forerunners of a high enough standard – the reserve racers generally being used as forerunners. It was suggested for the future that consideration be given to the forerunners being the captains of the A and B teams for each region. This would give 6 forerunners of a good standard while not giving an advantage to any particular team/region. BD would discuss this with ERSa and LSERSa for next year's event.

**The meeting was closed.**

DRAFT

## Appendix

### Snowsport South Treasurers Report to AGM – 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016

2015/2016 has been a transitional year for Snowsport South. The Summer Series of races continues to be well supported and the Club National event has grown into a successful event. Along with the Berkshire Race Club we tested the water in Ski Cross, an event that unfortunately had to be cancelled due to slope issues but the trophies are re-usable and this was the only money expended. In addition, we were able to support the setup of the Berkshire Schools event which was a well run and well supported event. 2016 was our year to run the Tri Regions event and the region has won both the Inter Region and Tri Region titles...with Aldershot taking the Club Trophy and Snowtrax in third for the season.

At the end of last year, I reported that the cash holding of the region was high and the continuing high entry levels at Summer Series events meant that we should look into how we could reduce the holding by re-investing in the region. I am happy to say that this has been partially successful. The region has still made a profit through the year but we have certainly met our aim to use the funds to benefit the region. There have been a number of extra-ordinary purchases, principally the new race bibs (£2,652) which I hope you will agree, look fantastic (but less so for the 'larger' racers!!).

The region also purchased a Gazebo and we were able to re-use the same mouldings as last year for the Bespoke Medals which have attracted interest from L&SERSA and also Snowsport England and we have passed the details onto them.

In terms of investing in the region, one of the major developments this year was the introduction of a mechanism to allow people, groups, clubs, organisations and others to request support from the region. This does not have to be financial support but could be loan of equipment or resources. However, as anticipated, the initial take up of the facility has been financial and we have been able to offer help to a number of regional racers who are beginning their coaching journeys. Clearly, there is a limit to the amount of money we can award and we have introduced criteria to meet to ensure we are supporting athletes who have participated in the regional events.

Snowsport England have changed their funding model meaning we are no longer remunerated against membership numbers and clubs but against activities. The impacts of the change are yet to be fully understood.

Thank you for your support throughout the year and I look forward to another successful year in 2016/2017.

#### 1.1 Financial Summary

- ✍ Financial Accounts run from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015 through to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016
- ✍ Opening Balance was £15,217.84
  - Total Inflows: £9,873.36
  - Total Outflows: £9,489.55
  - Net Total: £383.81
- ✍ Closing Balance: £15,601.65

- ✎ **Race Fees:** Income from race fees this year was **£7,211.81** – the difference between takings and fees charged are the PayPal fees.
- ✎ **Snowsport England Grant:** **£2,376.08**
- ✎ **Miscellaneous Income:** **£278.68** – This is the cash paid in by Mary Calvert – primarily from race entries less sundry expenses.
- ✎ **Club National:** The Club National venture produced a net profit of **£245.62**. This event was extremely well supported this year and the committee have bid for a 2017 race which is due to take place in June.
- ✎ **Equipment:** Equipment purchased this year included bibs, High Viz Jackets and a Gazebo. Total outgoings were **£2,952.58**.
- ✎ **Merchandise:** T-Shirts for the Tri-Regions cost the region **£332.35**.
- ✎ **Miscellaneous Outgoings:** **£184.86** – this included a payment to Snowtrax following damage sustained to a vehicle at the Snowtrax race at the end of last season.
- ✎ **Inter Regions:** **£317.52** – this included entry for the team and t-shirts.
- ✎ **Prizes and Trophies:** **£2,066.31** - This covered medals for all competitions, This includes trophies for the Tri Regions and also the trophies for the Ski Cross which we hope to run in 2017.
- ✎ **Schools Race:** **£94.55** - This is the contribution that Snowsport South made to assist the setup of the Berkshire Schools event.
- ✎ **Slope Hire:** **£3,262** – This does not include costs for the Bowles race as we had not received the invoice in the current FY.

In summary, the region remains in a sound financial position and it is assessed that the current holding is surplus to meet the needs of the region. The committee should continue its efforts to re-invest the funds for the benefit of the members.

## 1.2 Snowsport South Account Summary

### Snowsport South Account Summary

01/10/2015 through 30/09/2016 (in U.K. Pounds Sterling)

**Starting Balance** **£15,217.84**

Miscellaneous Incoming	£278.68
Race Fees	£7,211.81
Ski Cross	£6.79
Snowsport England Grant	£2,376.08

**TOTAL INCOME** **£9,873.36**

Club National	-£245.62
Courses	£525.00
Equipment	£2,952.58
Inter Regions	£317.52
Merchandise	£332.35
Miscellaneous Outgoings	£184.86
Prizes	£2,066.31
Schools	£94.55
Slope Hire	£3,262.00

**TOTAL EXPENSES** **£9,489.55**

**OVERALL TOTAL** **£383.81**

**Closing Balance** **£15,601.65**