



**MINUTES OF SKI RACING NEW ZEALAND INC BOARD MEETING
HELD AT: THE RUSSELY HOTEL, CHRISTCHURCH
ON TUESDAY 03 APRIL 2007 10.00 AM**

1. PRESENT

Roger Miller (Chairman)
Marty Johanson
Tony Oxnevad
Nick Tapper

Sue Bridgwater CEO
Scott Zahn Alpine Director

2. APOLOGIES

For lateness - Nick Tapper
Nick left the meeting at 1pm

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Board Meeting: 14.11.06
Conference call: 24.01.07

Moved: Johanson

Seconded: Miller

That the minutes of the Board meeting of 14 November 2006 and the Conference Call of 24 January 2007 are true and accurate.

Amendment made to Conference call minutes in respect to 'fundraising **and sponsorship** activities'.

Carried

4. MATTERS ARISING

The status of the athlete agreements was raised, it was agreed this would be dealt with under correspondence.

5. FINANCE

SB reported that the administration deficit for the year to the end of March will be around \$7,000 and the team deficit around \$35-\$40,000. The team deficit is directly proportional to the loss of income from 2 athletes leaving the programme part way through their contracts.

Tony asked how we propose to stop this situation arising in future.

It was agreed that in order to discourage athletes from participating only in the heavily subsidised Southern Hemisphere programme a change will be made to the payment schedule so all team athlete payments must be received by SRNZ before the start of the Northern Hemisphere programme. A finance clause will also be added to the Athlete Agreement.

The Alpine Director advised that it is also common practice overseas for an athlete not to be accepted by another programme until all outstanding fees are paid.

Nick raised the concern in regard to athlete injury part way through the term of the Agreement. SB advised this is covered once the athlete is overseas but it is not clear how it would be covered prior to this time. It was agreed SB approach Wilkinson's for clarification and also pursue other insurance options, e.g. group annual insurance that all can pay in to.

Tony advised that he would like to see the National Team Athlete Agreements sent out as soon as possible in order for the athletes to be familiar with the requirements of the agreements prior to selections

taking place. It was agreed that the CEO and Alpine Director would make any necessary amendments to the agreements, gain approval from Tony and send them out prior to selections being made.

Sponsorship

Nick advised that negotiations are still ongoing with [name]. A possible drawback may be the seasonality of ski racing – summer is the problem time whilst the team athletes are overseas.

The contract with Impact Consulting is now in place and it is possible that Impact may assist with the negotiations with [name].

Nick advised that Joshua Bruce of Impact has suggested that a PR pack on the National Teams is put together for the media agencies, this will require a budget. The CEO advised that Dean has always offered the services of DDB for this type of work, funding generated can then be put back in to the athlete subsidies.

Nick is currently discussing with Snowvision the possibility of SRNZ having an advertising slot for [name] within the Snowvision TV programme. This may not be possible from Snowvision's perspective as SRNZ has no official relationship with SRNZ itself.

Nick and Impact will work closely together initially, as Nick has sent out a number of proposals recently.

Roger has had a meeting with Lindsay Dey of Impact; Roger made it clear to Lindsey that it is fundraising and sponsorship that SRNZ needs the assistance with.

Nick advised that Impact believes that SRNZ needs to create a brand to add value and create a concept. (This is really no different to what Snowvision is doing.)

All parties see the contract as a long term project, but in the shorter term Impact should be approaching 'good fit' prospects. Impact needs to gain an understanding of the current competition structure etc – the CEO to discuss this with Joshua Bruce of Impact.

Nick sees that there are 2 types of sponsor (a) those that are keen on the sport and (b) those that see value in the association only.

Nick will also speak with Joshua to discuss brand building and a strategy for the way forward.

The James T Mutch Foundation is now registered, despite currently not being able to attract charitable status.

The CEO to follow up with Jim Mutch regarding the initial Foundation donation.

SRNZ and Snowvision are currently negotiating a contract for the National Development Team.

Moved: Miller

Seconded: Tapper

That SRNZ proceeds with the Snowvision contract for the National Development Team; with a net benefit of no less than \$5,000 to SRNZ.

Carried

Budget

The budget for the 2007/08 year was reviewed.

Following the 2006/07 year the Talent ID Group finances are currently still included in the administration budget; these will be removed for the 2007/08 year. The Alpine Director anticipates offsetting the coaching and equipment costs for the NDT. The outcome of the funding applications should be known by the end of April.

The ACC costs were queried. The CEO advised that all ACC levies are currently included in the administration budget, it was agreed that this will be amended and all coach related ACC levies will be applied to the team budgets.

Ongoing work will be required to keep the administration budget on target.

2007 Handbook

Details of the print timeline and distribution for the 2007 Handbook were discussed. Nick wants to explore the possibility of wider distribution of the handbook through the team that promotes the Today/Tonight free airport handout. Nick will pursue this with his contact.

Moved: Oxnevad

Seconded: Johanson

That the 2007/08 Administration budget is approved with the agreed amendments made.

Carried

It was agreed that the team budgets must be sent out with the athlete agreements.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Central Lakes Ski Racing: the Alpine Director has spent some time discussing the matters raised by CLSR with Grant Winsloe and Peter Duff. The AD believes he has an understanding of the stance of CLSR; they want to be recognised for providing a better structured training programme than other provider. The AD advised them that the CLSR programme can and will only ever be viewed as a regional programme and that the AD and SRNZ must always have a national focus. The AD believes there is a place for both the SRNZ and CLSR programmes.

The AD explained his vision for the progression of the National Development Team programme, this will take a couple of years to evolve, and will provide a pathway for those athletes that want to commit to ski racing as their primary sport. This year it has not proved possible to provide educational support for the NDT, this is planned for future years.

The AD believes that the NDT will be a catalyst for the regional programmes to grow over the next 3-5 years, leaving them to concentrate on the grass roots level of the sport.

Nick advised that he fully endorses the NDT programme structure and it must be a SRNZ focus to get the programme up and running.

The AD believes that the time spent with the CLSR representatives has clarified the position.

The AD has received a request from Grant Winsloe to put the CLSR scholarship information on the SRNZ website.

It was agreed that this will be put on the links page where all the other regional programme information is held.

The AD clarified that only athletes that are selected to the SRNZ NST and NDT are eligible for the WPP. It is hoped that the NDT concept will extend to the other snow codes in future years. The AD and WPP staff are working together on this.

The correspondence received from Kay Ross was discussed.

Roger advised that he believes that Mickey's situation is very similar to the likes of Nick Willis, the middle distance runner, who has chosen to train over in the USA. The AD advised that he has now communicated with Mickey and advised him that the level of support available will be dependant on Mickey's personal goals, i.e. is he looking to compete at the 2010 Winter Games. The AD has advised Mickey that he must participate in the National Team training programme during at least the 2007 New Zealand season, and following that remain under the management of SRNZ in order to receive support. Mickey is committed to university in the USA next year, after this much is dependent on funding.

An application for membership of SRNZ has been received from the PHAST Academy Inc, a copy of the Constitution has been provided.

The application was discussed and it was agreed that a couple of clauses in the Constitution need to be tidied up; otherwise all agreed that PHAST Academy should be accepted as members.

Moved: Miller

Seconded: Tapper

That the PHAST Academy is approved as a Full Member subject to the appropriate Constitutional amendments to clauses 2.3 and 17, and a clause being added in regard to PHAST being bound by the rules of SRNZ within 12 months.

Carried

The correspondence received from the Cafe family in regard to Tim's National Development Team status was discussed. The letter suggested that Tim had been treated differently to other athletes that had not trained with the NST for the duration of their contract.

The AD explained the differences between the athletes' situations. With the exception of Tim Cafe athletes that were not able to train with the National Team programme all worked with the Alpine Director to come to an agreement as to the best programme to use/follow and all remained under the management of SRNZ throughout their contracts. The programme offered by SRNZ fitted in with Tim's athletic needs but Tim did not want to train with the team; it was for this reason that Tim Cafe was stripped of his National Development Team status. The AD met with Wayne and Carrie Cafe prior to the start of the NH season to discuss the matter, and it was agreed at the time that the AD had met Tim half way but Tim was not prepared to do the same.

Tim will be eligible for selection for the National Team for the 2007/08 season.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Cafe family advising them of this and congratulating Tim on his results.

The concern was again raised that a small number of athletes and their families want to take advantage of the heavily subsidised SH season but not participate in the NH programme. This sort of situation put the whole budget in jeopardy as borne out by the 2006/07 season team finances.

The correspondence received from Whakapapa Snowsports was discussed. WSS had commented on a number of points in the Strategic Direction document; WSS was concerned that the young up coming athletes would be financially disadvantaged by the sliding scale of subsidies to be introduced, dependent on National Team status level. The AD advised the meeting that these athletes will not lose out, but receive a similar level of subsidy to previous years; however those athletes that have attained a higher level of status will receive a greater subsidy should it be available.

A letter will be sent to WSS by the Chairman.

There followed a general discussion in regard to athletic development and succession planning. The SRNZ Board has concentrated on putting a structure in place for the very top of the pyramid as agreed to at the Strategic Planning meeting of 2003. It was agreed that it is now time to filter down the pyramid and provide better support to the lower levels, one of the major tools to be the Athlete Development Model.

The AD advised that this will be available in draft form prior to the SH season.

The AD explained that the dual pyramid model is intended to cater for those athletes that aspire to high performance and also those that see the sport as more recreational.

He advised that a number of athletes/families had already expressed an interest in the National Development Team programme, but many will be ultimately put off by the level of commitment required; however, this level is necessary in order to reach high performance goals.

SRNZ will, in future years, co-ordinate schooling support for the NDT athletes, it has not proved to be possible this year. SRNZ will supply continued support in regard to Correspondence School applications.

It was suggested that the CEO and AD should travel to the regions to further explain the Strategic Direction to both the member organisations and parents.

The CEO and AD will organise this in conjunction with the officials/volunteer training.

It was also agreed that Dave Mazey of RAL will be contacted in regard to the North Island losing the ANC Finals. The CEO advised the meeting that the ANC events are under the control of the ANC Committee, an agreement had been reached in 2003 to hold the ANC Finals at Ruapehu for 3 years, this term ended in 2006. The quality of the events has been put under scrutiny by the FIS TDs, and the ANC Committee felt that time is required to up-skill the staff and officials before further events at this level can be held on Ruapehu. The AD advised that he has calendared the K Cup Finals, the most important event of the calendar for pre-FIS athletes, on Ruapehu this year.

It was agreed that the parents on the North Island also need to understand the reasons why the ANC Finals have been moved.

7. CEO REPORT

Following the conclusion of a successful winter season the summer months have been spent planning for the upcoming season and beyond. The Alpine Director's Strategic Athletic Plan was released to the membership on February 1st following consultation with member organisations in November and December. The plan includes the introduction of a National Development Team; the creation of a new team by necessity requires a great deal of planning, and much time has been spent on this project.

The Alpine Director spent 9 weeks over January and February in Canada with a group of development athletes. This will be reported on by the Alpine Director.

Below is a bullet point list of the work undertaken over the summer:

- **Finance**

Figures have been provided for the administration budget year to date. This budget, with the recent funding injection from Maude & Miller and Southern Trust is reasonably stable; however the burden on the National Teams programme budget, due to 2 athletes leaving the programme part way through the year, is now having a detrimental effect. The net loss of over \$40,000 on an already tight budget will see this budget be in deficit at the end of the NH season.

The 2007/08 Administration Budget is also attached for your consideration.

- **Constitution**

The Alpine Director and CEO have spent a great deal of time discussing changing the structure of the membership within the SRNZ Constitution. The intent is to be inclusive of all involved, coaches, volunteers, athletes etc. The current structure gives the same rights to all full member organisations irrespective of their purpose or size.

I have spent many hours researching other NSO Constitutions, and speaking with other CEOs to gain their perspective. It is interesting to note that Yachting seems to provide the closest comparison to our situation.

Due to the complexity of the relationships between the training providers and the SRNZ member organisations I have concluded that the best way forward is to opt for a structure that gives all 'member clubs' registering athletes a basic voting right plus extra votes based on the number of registered active athletes (proportional representation); associate membership open to all those involved in ski racing, to include all commercial entities, this category will have no voting rights. The intent is to gain a broader based membership and allow us to interact with the commercial entities providing training programmes.

A straightforward amendment is required to change the end of the financial year to bring it in line with the end of the Northern Hemisphere season.

Whilst taking a closer look at the Constitution it became evident that there are also other clauses that require amending.

A finalised proposed Constitution will be made available to the membership well in advance of the SGM.

I would like to propose that an SGM be held in Christchurch over the weekend of the TD & ROC Update June 15 – 17.

- **Impact Consulting**

Over the past 3 months Roger and I have been negotiating with Lindsey Dey director of Impact Consulting from Dunedin: I am pleased to be able to advise that SRNZ now has a contract with Impact Consulting to assist SRNZ with sponsorship and fundraising. A commission rate of 15% has been agreed to.

The staff at Impact ask that the SRNZ Board assists with introductions and advises Impact through the SRNZ CEO of any approaches for sponsorship that are being considered.

- **Volkswagen**

The Alpine Director and CEO travelled up to Auckland in early March to meet with Dean Seed and Jarrod Ho of Volkswagen. We had a very positive productive meeting, looking at ways to enhance our relationship, and create more of an event around the Nationals. Dean is keen to see a change in direction in the media coverage of the Nationals, perhaps inviting a TV 1 or TV3 crew to Coronet Peak for the event.

VW is running a promotional deal in conjunction with its partner ski areas this year and SRNZ has offered any support that can be given to assist.

Dean, in particular, is very happy with the NH media releases this year.

VW branded casual wear for team athletes has been offered, the AD and CEO will progress this.

Promotional customer days were piloted in 2006, these will continue in 2007, selected team athletes will be utilised.

VW is co-sponsor of a new sports TV programme with Murray Deaker, SRNZ will have the opportunity to be involved with this.

- **Snowvision**

Whilst in Auckland the AD and CEO also met with Fiona Stevens of Snowvision. Fiona is keen for Snowvision to be involved with the NDT programme; this may be a way forward for the 2 organisations to work together in future. A contract is to be drawn up.

There is some financial support on the table, with a promise of further funding as it becomes available.

- **SSNZ/SPARC**

The SRNZ Chairman, as convener of SnowSports NZ, has been heading the SSNZ steering committee charged with making SSNZ an effective organisation for all its members; to date the greatest success is the securing of the SPARC contract with SSNZ, thus taking over from Snowsports Council as the entity recognised by SPARC.

Participation funding for the next 3 years has been secured at the same level.

The High Performance funding that was secured in December 2006 is completely separate to the Participation funding.

The next step over the next 6 months is for SSNZ to put in place a new Constitution, a new Board followed by a CEO. The timeframe for this is October 2007.

Once the CEO is appointed it is envisaged that SSNZ will gradually become stronger and stronger over the next few years and ultimately take a far greater role in all aspects in the running of the member organisations.

- **Uniforms**

The National Teams' uniforms have been a constant source of frustration over the past 2 years. The product itself is of acceptable quality but the unreliability of the delivery is very frustrating to handle. The CEO is looking at alternative suppliers for the future.

- **SAANZ**

The CEO and AD attended the Ski Areas Association meeting in mid March. Primarily the purpose of the CEO attending is to informally meet with SAANZ delegates; the AD made a short presentation along with Mark Elliott of WPP on the SRNZ plans for 2007 and beyond.

Sue Bridgwater
Chief Executive

Discussion on the CEO Report

The proposed Constitutional changes were discussed. It was agreed that both versions would be distributed to the membership. The date for the SGM was agreed - May 26th in Christchurch.

Moved: Miller

Seconded: Johanson

That the CEO Report is adopted.

Carried

8. ALPINE DIRECTOR REPORT

Events/Significant Meetings Attended:

- December 30, 2006 – February 21, 2007 - Northern Hemisphere Talent ID Camp
 - A complete report on this project is available
 - The groundwork has been done in regards to establishing a North American base in the Alberta, Eastern B.C. area. This would provide the National Team programs with a location for early season training as well as a location for National Development Team NH camps. This will be very beneficial looking towards the 2010 Olympics in Canada. Two locations are being considered – Panorama and Nakiska. The local program in Panorama has expressed an interest in supporting such a base. Nakiska has recently been awarded a large multi-million dollar grant to improve their services most of it directly related to ski race training. In addition Calgary is already being used by several of the other winter codes as a NH base. WPP is considering the possibility of supporting a Calgary base for all the snow codes.
- March 2nd - Auckland trip with SRNZ CEO
 - Meeting with to discuss Volkswagen sponsorship and how we can improve relationship going forward.
 - Meeting with Fiona Stevens regarding NH Talent ID Camp and possibilities of Snowvision Sponsorship support in the future.
 - A very productive meeting, Fiona expressed an interest for Snowvision to financially support the Development Team project. Contract negotiations to commence.
 - Meeting with Jarvis family regarding Sarah's outstanding account with the team as well as her future options with the team.
 - Jarvis family expressed their concerns over the high cost of the Colorado camp. How the allocation of expense was done was explained. They assumed that there was funding left over from the SH season to offset the cost of the camp.
 - Jarvis family expressed that they would like Sarah to continue with her current coach/training program. They would like her to be able to retain her National Team status. It was explained that this would not be supported and that there were extenuating circumstances this season which led to SRNZ supporting her decision to train/compete with another program. Given the fact that the National Team would have a new coaching staff this year and therefore a new program

they would be expected to take part if she wished to keep her National Team status. They were dissatisfied with this response.

- March 6th – SAANZ Conference, Christchurch
 - Attended the meeting with the SRNZ CEO. A short presentation was given to the Ski Areas regarding the current status of SRNZ and our goals moving forward. The presentation was coordinated with WPP representative Mark Elliot. This was done to show that the two organizations were working towards the same goals.
- March 9th – Meeting with QAST and Central Lakes, Queenstown
 - A meeting was held with several QAST representatives as well as Peter Duff from Central Lakes. Several issues were discussed including:
 - Interfield race series - The organizations expressed their concern regarding the importance of the Interfield series to the regional programs. I explained that SRNZ was supportive of the series but we had hopes of expanding it nationally with a view to attracting a national sponsor.
 - Strategic Plan and National Development Team - They also expressed their concern over the Strategic Plan and how the Development Team would affect their programs. QAST was in agreement that their program lacked certain aspects in order to develop athletes to the international level. Peter felt that Central Lakes has this ability. It was agreed that Central Lakes may be the only program in the country that offered a year around training program. It was explained that while this was good for those athletes in the Central Lake program it did not benefit the rest of the country or the overall development of the sport. It was also explained that SRNZ shared the regional programs concerns that their FIS programs may suffer in the short term due to the creation of a National Development team. In the long run it would also allow them to focus more attention and resources at building the base. It may also force the regional programs to consolidate at the top and share resources in order to continue to provide FIS programs in the short term. It was also explained that by not supporting the National Development Team for fear that they would not have enough critical mass to run a FIS program was putting the needs of the program ahead of the needs of the athletes.
 - WPP - It was apparent that the regional programs are for the most part unaware of the initiatives being undertaken by the WPP. They are also unaware of the close relationship SRNZ has with the WPP and how the initiatives put forth in the Strategic Plan fit into the long term goals of the WPP and how everything will eventually be integrated between all the winter codes. Once this was explained the bigger picture appeared to be more apparent.
- March 13th – Meeting with Grant Winsloe, Peter Duff, Bridget Legnavsky – Wanaka
 - This meeting was held pursuant to the Queenstown meeting to discuss the Development Team project and its impact on the Central Lakes programs. The event calendar was also discussed. Much of the same information that had been gone over in Queenstown was again discussed. It was explained that SRNZ supports the Central Lakes program and believes it is delivering a good product in terms of what is available in New Zealand. It is however a regional based program with strong commercial ties. As such it does not fit the needs of all the athletes in the country. It was further explained that SRNZ hoped that the two programs would be able to assist and support each other. Although no substantial conclusions came out of this meeting an open line of communication was established.
- Various
 - Several other meetings were held during this time period with WPP staff. The topics of discussion at these meetings included: WPP selections, current athlete status reports, planning for 2008, long term planning, Base Camp facility, cooperation between snow codes etc. I am currently not using the Base Camp facility as it is still in the process of being furnished therefore I do not have day to day dealings with WPP staff at the current time.
 - I have met with several of the families who had athlete participate in the NH Talent ID camp. These debrief meeting were set up to allow the families to ask questions or express their concerns over the camp. It is anticipated that all of the participating families will have the opportunity for this personal debrief.

National Teams:

- Athlete Status – There are currently 2 men and 3 women training and competing in Europe. 1 additional athlete is still training/competing in the USA. Andrew Greig and Ben Griffin are finishing up the season with Nils Coberger and are scheduled to return the first week of April. Michelle Greig and Janelle Miller are with Eric Rolland and are also scheduled to finish their season the first week of April. Sarah Jarvis is working independently and I am unaware of her plans. Mark Bridgwater has returned from Europe due to the shoulder injury he sustained at the World Championships. Scott Gange returned from Europe after the World Championships as well due to a recurring back injury. Alice Ralston returned in early March from her NH season based in the USA where she was working with Ski Club Vail. Mickey Ross is currently competing in the USA for the Sierra Nevada College team.
- Injury Status
 - Mark Bridgwater is expected to have a full recovery prior to the SH season. He has not required any surgery on his shoulder and is currently focused on rehabilitation exercises.
 - Scott Gange is scheduled to undergo surgery on his back April 16th in Australia. He will require an extended recovery period therefore he will not be on snow this SH season. He plans on taking University classes in Dunedin which will allow him to maintain some aspects of his physical training under WPP supervision.
- Significant Events
 - Men's World Cup – Wengen, Switzerland
 - Mark Bridgwater competed in the famous Lauberhorn DH. This was significant in that it has been over 20 years since a NZ athlete has competed in a WC DH event. The purpose behind entering Mark into this event was to provide him with the experience of competing at this level of an event prior to the World Championships. There were no expectations in regards to results as it generally takes 2-3 years for an athlete to gain enough experience competing on a DH track before they see a result. Mark made considerable improvement over the course of the event (training runs, competitions).
 - World Alpine Championships – Are, Sweden
 - All the current Men's Team athletes were selected to participate in this event despite the fact that several of them did not meet the performance criteria. Head Men's team coach Nils Coberger felt that the athletes had made considerable improvements in Canada prior to the Christmas break and did not have the opportunity to attend events in Europe which would have qualified them. He was also concerned that we did not have the resources to provide an alternate program for those athletes who did not attend. Several of the athletes had significant results at the event:
 - Mark Bridgwater
 - SG - 41st place – Personal Best 35 point result
 - Ben Griffin
 - SG – 57th place
 - GS – Qualified 22nd
 - SL – Qualified 23rd
 - Andrew Greig
 - SG – 58th place – Personal Best 60 point result
 - The fact that two of the athletes achieved personal best results and Ben was able to qualify for both technical events are significant accomplishments. Ben is the first New Zealand athlete to compete in both the technical and speed events at the world championships.
 - World Junior Championships – Flachau, Austria
 - 1 member of the SRNZ National Team (Michelle Greig) and 1 member of the National Development Team (Leighton Winsloe) were joined by 3 other New Zealand athletes (Tim Cafe, Andrew Wylie, Lucie Tait-Jamieson) in competing at this prestigious event. Although only two athletes met selection criteria the other athletes' coaches petitioned for them to compete with the justification that they would well represent NZ and it would provide them with experience they could use in the future. Notable result from the event:

- Tim Cafe
 - DH – 43rd place – Personal Best 66 point result
 - There were few notable results at the event, course conditions could have played a part. Nevertheless all of the athletes benefited for competing at this level.
- 2007 National Team Selections
 - There are currently 6 women and 8 men who have submitted applications to the 2007 WPP. The WPP applications that were due March 25th are being utilized as the official National Team nominations. All athletes who appear to be close to making criteria have been encouraged to submit a WPP application.
 - The National Development Team nomination forms are available on the SRNZ web site and they have been emailed to potential athletes who appear to have met the criteria. The deadline for the return of the nominations has been extended until April 10th. I expect to receive 8-12 nominations for this team.
 - Although the total number of nominated athletes looks to be relatively high it is doubtful that all will agree to the terms of the Athlete Agreement contract. Therefore the total number named to the team could be considerably less than those who make the initial selection.
- 2007 Staff
 - Eric Rolland has submitted a letter stating that he is not be interested in returning as the Women's Team coach.
 - Nils Coberger has expressed an interest in returning next season as Men's Team Coach.
 - Several National Team coaching positions have been advertised internationally. To date we have received over 10 CV's from candidates. The closing date for the positions is April 15th.
 - A short list will be compiled and candidates will be contacted to arrange for interviews with the hiring committee. Committee TBD
 - Timeline for naming coaching staff – May 1st.
 - Dependent upon the total number of National Team athletes there may be a restructuring with the current staffing. If there are a relatively few number of athletes who are selected to the team it may be more productive and cost effective to move towards a Head Coach – Men and Women with 1-2 assistants type scenario. Likewise the number of Development Team coaches and their respective roles is highly dependent upon available funding and the number and age level of the athletes selected.

Athletes Overseas:

- Approximately 25 additional New Zealand FIS athletes have been training/competing in both North America and Europe. In addition there were approximately 30 K level athletes training/competing in the Northern Hemisphere season. Many of these athletes have achieved personal best results. Every effort has been made to track their achievements and publish them on the SRNZ web site.
- International Kinder Level Races
 - Topolino – Three athletes represented New Zealand – Taylor Smith, Adam Barwood, Willis Feasey
 - Whistler Cup – One athlete will represent New Zealand – Taylor Smith

Current Projects/Initiatives

- WPP Program
 - The WPP has initiated an application for the funding of equipment that could be used across the snow codes. If successful, this equipment will be stored at the Wanaka Base Camp facility and will be available for use of the Development Team. SRNZ was consulted in regards to what equipment would be the most beneficial.
 - The WPP in coordination with SRNZ is planning on holding 4 3-week physical training camps. These camps will be mandatory for National Team athletes. They are scheduled to begin May 1st. Primary funding for these camps will come from the recent SPARC investment. It is envisaged that all the winter sport athletes will be involved in portions of the camps.
 - The WPP continues to be supportive of the SRNZ programs/initiatives and it's athletes.

- National Development Team
 - The National Development Team project has been met with mixed reviews as was expected. While most of the regional programs support the concept they are concerned about its impact on their local FIS programs. There are also a lot of mixed messages being received by the general membership.
 - It is expected that we will have a better idea of the amount of available funding by May 1st. A working budget should be available at that time. The goal is to for SRNZ to secure sufficient funding to cover the cost of coaching wages, and all team equipment.
- 2007 Event Calendar
 - The 2007 SRNZ event calendar is 95% complete. We are awaiting final confirmation from one ski area regarding their events. The calendar should be published within the next week. The process of establishing a calendar has been both frustrating and exhausting. The relationship between the ANC committee and the NSO is currently unacceptable.
- National Development Model
 - The National Development Model is still very much in the development stage. It is hoped that a basic outline of the model will be available to the member organizations by June 1. This abbreviated version would be built upon over the next year taking input from the regional programs.
- National Points System
 - I have proposed that we no longer use a National Points seeding system. Currently only the K1 and K2 and non-FIS athletes are using this as a ranking/seeding system.
 - I have proposed that the K series event move to a sprint format instead. Under this format the athletes would compete in four runs a day each run would count as a race. A random start order would be generated for the first run. The second run (race) start order would be a reversal of the first. The third run (race) run start order would be generated by splitting the first run start order in the middle and “folding outwards”. The middle athlete would run first and the athlete that followed him/her in the first run would run last. In the final run (race) of the day the start order would be a reversal of the third run. Series points would be utilized to rank athletes nationally.
 - This race format is already being used in North America and Europe and most of the overseas coaches will be familiar with it. It has several benefits over a traditional race series such as:
 - Athletes are encouraged to “race” every run. It creates a more competitive environment.
 - Because there are more races in which to score series points - athletes will not be adversely penalized should they DNF 1-2 events. It will give a truer indication of the best athletes.
 - Athletes gain more race experience
 - More bang for the buck. Ski racing is expensive as it is – why send a development level athlete to an out of area event only to ski 1-2 runs a day.
 - Several regional programs have already been consulted about the change in format and they did not raise any objections. I am in the process of soliciting more feedback from the other regions before announcing the implementation of the system.

Scott Zahn
Alpine Director

Discussion following the Management Reports

The Alpine Director advised that he had also met with Roland Kuhn of the Snowsports Industry Federation, but had not reported on this. Negotiations are progressing well in regard to a ski pool and a better structure for discounts for athletes’ equipment. The AD will present to the next NZSIF meeting to be held in Christchurch late April.

Tony advised that he believes that there are a number of New Zealand wholesalers that are supportive of a ski pool.

The NH Camp Report will be sent to the Board.

Team Selection was discussed; the probable team members were advised to the meeting. The Womens team is likely to be low on numbers.

Roger advised that is important from a commercial perspective for SRNZ to have both Mens and Womens National Teams. It was agreed that the HPC should be used in the first instance should there be an appeal for non Selection.

The coaching staff requirements were discussed; it is possible due to the projected team numbers that only one head coach will be employed and up to two assistants.

The AD advised that he hopes to interview towards the end of April, and appoint by early May; with a view to appointing through to 2010.

There will be a launch for the teams at a location to be confirmed.

Roger raised that he has a concern in regard to the National Team athletes potentially not competing in the ANC events. It is important for commercial reasons that the teams are seen competing in New Zealand.

The AD advised that it important for the athletes to be able to train appropriately in preparation for the NH season, which is their main competition season. The National Team will compete in all FIS/ANC events that fit in to their training schedule; however travelling over the Tasman to the AUS ANC events is most unlikely for both financial and athletic reasons.

The relationship between the ANC Committee and SRNZ was discussed. It was advised that the ANC is a FIS committee and that all NZE nominations should go through SSNZ. It was agreed that SSNZ/SRNZ needs to take control over the NZE members of the committee. The committee cannot and should not work in isolation of the NSO.

Tony advised that he had put Scott Zahn forward for the vacant position on the committee.

Moved: Miller

Seconded: Oxnevad

That SSNZ is asked to recommend Scott Zahn for the vacant position on the ANC Committee.

Carried

The future of the National Points system was discussed.

The AD is proposing that the National Points system is scrapped, to be replaced by a World Cup scoring system for K age group athletes; it is only this age group that now uses the National Points system and the systems validity is being called to question due to the manner in which the points are calculated.

(The majority of penalties in the 2006 year were calculated using the maximum value).

The race format of the K Cup events, as advised in the AD report, will also be discussed with the Programme Directors.

The AD is planning to discuss this concept with the Programme Directors once they are in the country, and to put a proposal to the forum following the SGM.

The proposed National Entry Level Series for 2008 and onwards was discussed, it was agreed that this is an excellent concept and will raise the profile of the sport at the grass roots Entry Level.

Preliminary discussions have already been held with a party that is interested in being the promotional figurehead for the series. The AD and CEO will also be looking to attend the Mapei events in 2007, with a view to building the relationship; it is the Entry Level that Mapei is most interested in.

Tony raised again the importance of the Athlete Development Model; the AD is committed to producing the basis for the draft document before the beginning of the season.

The AD advised that a Fitness Testing Protocol for Entry Level through to Elite will be available within the next month.

9. GENERAL

Winter Performance Programme 2007

The AD advised that the NST athletes should all be accepted on to the programme with full status. It is envisaged that the NDT athletes will also be included on the programme but with limited direct support, they will be invited to any dryland camps that are held.

Roger asked what sort of relationship SRNZ currently has with the WPP and how it is likely to evolve through to 2010.

The AD advised that the relationship is good and that the two organisations work well together.

SSNZ

Roger advised the meeting of the progress that SSNZ is making in regard to becoming more effective for all its member organisations.

A new Constitution is being worked on; the committee/Board structure is being changed to a business model and ultimately it will be SSNZ that drives the direction of all the snow codes, using a similar model to that recently adopted by Bike NZ. SSNZ is now the officially recognised body for the sport with SPARC (it was formerly Snowsports Council)
SSNZ has recently presented to the Board of SPARC, one of only very few organisations to do so.

There is a steering committee for the process comprising: Roger Miller; Mark Elliott (WPP); Richard Lindsay (SPARC); Paul Rodgers (Independent advisor) and Stu Waddel (Acting EO of SSNZ)
Roger asked if the SRNZ Board sees merit in the proposed structure and whether it wants to be part of it.

Moved: Johanson

Seconded: Tapper

That the SRNZ Board supports, in principle the adoption of the new Constitution of SSNZ and the Board structure.

Carried

Pacific Rim Winter Games – 2009

Roger advised the meeting that there is a strong probability that the proposed games will go ahead, there is support from SPARC, NZOC and Trade and Enterprise NZ.

The AD advised that he supports the concept of the games; however it would be very difficult to add more events into an already congested alpine calendar. He envisaged that it would be possible to run them within the ANC structure.

Volkswagen National Championships 2007

These are to be held at Coronet Peak in early September, with the Super-G at Mt Hutt.

The AD advised that a very good Race Chair must be put in place to ensure the success of the event.

The AD would like to see all major races being much more of an event, often the mountain wants to get the race finished as early in the day as possible, leaving the athletes with time on their hands, the AD believes that even if the race itself is over there should be some form of activity organised for the athletes. Dean Sheed of Volkswagen who would like to see the Volkswagen Nationals promoted better with much more going on throughout the day.

A contract, to include expectations of the ROC, for the Volkswagen National Championships is to be prepared.

Athlete Registration

Correspondence has been received from Wanaka Ski Club in respect to the athlete registration process.

Wanaka Ski Club would like to see the registration process completed by athletes on line.

This item was held over by the Board in order for the CEO to do further research.

The CEO did note that certain categories of membership require extra paperwork to be supplied to SRNZ prior to registration, and leaving individual athletes to deal with this may result in athletes not being registered in time for international deadlines. The CEO also noted that the matter was raised at the 2006 AGM and that it is only Wanaka Ski Club that has a concern regarding the current registration process.

Meeting closed 3.35 pm

Next meeting TBC

Signed as a true and correct record:

Chairman: _____

Date: _____

