



**MINUTES OF SKI RACING NEW ZEALAND INC BOARD MEETING
HELD AT: THE RUSSELY HOTEL, CHRISTCHURCH
ON THURSDAY 13 JUNE 2006 10.00 AM**

1. PRESENT

Roger Miller (Chairman)
Tony Oxnevad
Marty Johanson
Nick Tapper

Sue Bridgwater CEO

2. APOLOGIES

None

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Board Meeting: 16.02.06

Moved: Miller

Seconded: Tapper

That the minutes of the Board meeting of 16 February 2006 are a true and accurate record.

Carried

4. MATTERS ARISING

Alpine Director Resignation The Alpine Director resigned on April 25th, SB met with him on April 30th to discuss the work to be carried out prior to his employment ceasing. The Board was advised that there had been little done by the AD prior to his departure, this was very disappointing. It had been expected that he would have produced a working draft of the Athlete Development Plan.

National Teams Launch It was agreed that the event had been a success, and that future events could be built from this starting point. There was some disappointment in the lack of media present. SB had contacted a list of media, it had been hoped that Volkswagen would be able to help with media awareness, but this had not eventuated.

Talent ID Programme SB gave details of the North and South Island dryland training camps that had been run in late May and early June. The feedback from the camps has been very positive, all athletes have been provided with essential guidance on how to train, fitness programmes and feedback on their current fitness levels.

The July school holiday part of the Talent ID Programme will not run, however the October on snow camp will take place at Mt Hutt, snow conditions permitting. This will be co-ordinated by the new Alpine Director. TO advised that he had been speaking to Mario Fuchs of QAST, who had advised that SRNZ should also be targeting younger talented athletes, he believed that some of the current athletes on the programme did not have the promise of the younger ones.

It was agreed that the 2006 NZ season should be used to identify the best prospects for the Talent ID programme.

The selectors are currently the 2 National Team coaches and the Alpine Director.

This will entail the National Team coaches attending the Talent ID camps; this may not be practical.

It was agreed that the new AD will review the makeup of the Selection Panel and report back to the Board. The Board wishes to pass on its appreciation to Gin Bush and Jon Turnbull for all the work that they have put in with the Talent ID athletes.

National Teams programme There was discussion about athlete subsidies. It has been suggested that the National Team athletes should receive greater funding/subsidies than the Development Team athletes.

The Board will look at providing a performance related athlete support/financial incentive at National Team/Development Team level in the future.

The loss of support when an athlete does not perform to the required level was also discussed.

It was agreed that this should be looked into by the new AD and a strategy recommended to the Board.

It was agreed that this would be an appropriate time to also look at the team structure.

It was felt that clarification of the National Team/Development Team and NZ Alpine Ski Teams was necessary.

The AD will report back to the Board, with the final decision lying with the Board.

National TD and Volunteer Training This should have been initiated by the AD following the February meeting, however it was not done. SB can co-ordinate it but the time required to produce training tools etc is a constraint.

The extra training required by the National TDs was also raised. It is not going to be possible to undertake this training prior to the season.

SB undertook to produce training tools for volunteers prior to the season.

National TDs Schools events

SB to pursue providing National TDs to oversee the Secondary Schools sports events for 2006 and beyond. It is hoped in the future that the primary schools events can also benefit from the assistance of SRNZ.

CEO Report

It has been 4 months since the February meeting and it is fair to say that my feet have hardly touched the ground.

The interim report provided in mid April gave a detailed overview of events in late February, March and early April.

To summarise:

- I attended the Snowsports Industry Federation meeting at Marty's suggestion to clarify the position of SRNZ in regard to Snowvision.
- Ski Area Association NZ meeting – networking with ski area and industry management.
- Early April – visit to Southern Lakes region.
Meetings with member organisations and training providers.
- Early April – SSNZ AGM.
Roger was elected as SSNZ Convenor for the next 2 years.

Jim Davis, the Alpine Director, resigned on April 25th.

Jim and Jon Turnbull (ASI Strength & Conditioning) had already planned to visit the Talent ID and selected National Team athletes at the end of April, this went ahead as planned. The athletes were assessed by Jon. They are to be provided with feedback and pre season dryland training guidance. This guidance will be ongoing, and in conjunction with the regional coaches.

I met with the AD on April 30th to work through the handover of information etc prior to his departure.

We agreed that Jim would finish work on May 11th in order to take the 2 weeks annual leave owing to him.

We worked through the projects in progress and apportioned the workload appropriately.

It had been hoped that Jim would have made some good progress on the Athlete Development Model, but sadly this was not to be the case.

Jim undertook to wrap up the National Team Programme finances before he left – but on picking up the computer from him this had not been done.

The Talent ID Programme requires around \$30K for the season in order to run successfully.

An application to Pub Charity for a proportion of the funding required has been submitted.

(Following your email resolution approval)

I have heard today that \$7,000.00 has been granted for the programme.

Further applications will be prepared to assist financially with the programme.

The High Performance Committee has met to consider the team nominations.

It was agreed that the current makeup of the HPC should be interim, and once the new AD is appointed the members would discuss whether the make up is appropriate.

The interim HPC will also be given time to decide if the Terms of Reference are appropriate.

A Conference Call will be held towards the end of June to discuss the above matters.

Handbook advertising information was sent out to the industry in late April, the response has been good and I anticipate at least breaking even this year.
The Handbook will be sent to print once the new rules passed at the recent FIS Congress have been incorporated and the amendments made to the National rules.

I travelled to the North Island for a number of meetings w/c 8th April. It was a similar exercise to that carried out in the Southern Lakes region in March.
I met with representatives of RAL, who had some concerns regarding SRNZ's support of the ANC series, following a meeting with Eric Henry and David Howden.
I was able to assure them that SRNZ is fully supportive of the series.

I am confident following meetings with Secondary Schools Sports Directors and other interested parties, to include National Park Primary School, that we will be able to work together to raise the standard of schools racing this season and in subsequent years. National TDs will oversee schools events for the first time this year.

Sponsorship continues to be a major cause for concern; I have been unable to devote much time to this aspect of my job; however Nick Tapper has been working in the area sadly with little success.
We need a sponsor for our National Teams in order to make the programme financially viable to athletes/parents in the future.

National Team and Development Team nominations were prepared by the selectors following the release of the 7th FIS list at the beginning of May.
Nominations were checked for correct application of the selection criteria by the HPC on May 12th.
The subsequent receipt of Athlete Agreements and Board Conference Call are documented separately.

The Volkswagen Teams were launched at Snowplanet on May 27th.
This event was held in order to give Volkswagen, our main sponsor, an opportunity to showcase the athletes in Auckland and to try and break in to the Auckland media more successfully.
An auction was also held to raise funds for the National Teams Programme.
The event was deemed to be a success; however, the Auckland media still proves to be a hard nut to crack.
The auction raised \$7,500.00, somewhat less than had been hoped.

Following the Board Conference Call regarding the Alpine Director position I did a huge amount of work with Mark Elliott and Ashley Light of the ASI to get the job description and reporting lines tidied up.
The resulting document is now much more in line with other New Zealand national sporting bodies.
During the discussions with Ashley and Mark it was agreed that a more appropriate mix was required for the appointment panel.
Accordingly Roger and I agreed that Mark Elliott as WPP Director would be invited on to the panel.
Tony Oxnevad kindly agreed to stand down.
The appointment process should be drawing to a close by June 13th.

I can confirm that following the FIS Congress both Scott Gange and Janelle Miller are now skiing for New Zealand and are officially confirmed to the National Team.
Nils Coberger, Mens Team coach, commenced his contract a little earlier than planned in order to assist with pre season panning for the teams.
Eric Rolland the Womens Team coach arrives on June 10th.

The TD and ROC Seminar scheduled for June 17/18 in Sydney has not yet attracted significant registrations. I will be following up shortly with National TDs and ROCs.

Due to the extra workload following the departure of the Alpine Director I have been unable to progress the Strategic Plan.
It is my aim to finalise this document once a new Alpine Director is on board.

Sue Bridgwater
Chief Executive

Member Organisation AGMs TO attended the QAST and Wanaka Ski Club meetings; the commercialisation of the training programmes in the Wanaka area was discussed. Concern was raised regarding the directioning of funding from Central Lakes Ski Racing (CLSR) to one particular training provider. There was also concern that CLSR will provide funding to athletes for equipment but that this is tagged to one particular retailer. A letter is to be sent to CLSR with the Boards concerns and a request for an explanation.

MJ attended the Team Turoa meeting. Turoa has a new President, RM to ascertain who it is.

There was general discussion around the problems with the membership structure, and the appropriateness of the current member organisations. The member organisations' responsibility to SRNZ needs to be reaffirmed.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Membership Applications

Team Hutt has now created an Incorporated Society and is eligible to become full member of SRNZ. An application for full membership has also been received from Northern Snow Sports Club Inc.

The Constitutions had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The applications were discussed.

TO and RM had briefly looked at the Constitutions prior to the meeting. It was agreed that TO would take a more in depth look and make any necessary recommendations regarding them for SB to pass on to the organisations.

Moved: Miller

Seconded: Oxnevad

That we accept Team Hutt Inc and Northern Snow Sports Inc as full members of SRNZ subject to the approval by SRNZ of the constitutions.

Carried

A letter of congratulation, to include the organisations' willingness to abide by the rules of SRNZ, will be sent, along with any relevant comments from TO.

There followed general discussion about the SRNZ constitution in regard to the member organisation voting rights.

All full members have 4 votes; it was raised whether proportional representation, using the number of registered athletes, should be used to determine voting rights.

6. FINANCE

Detailed income and expenditure for the teams will be produced once suspense account coding is completed.

The accounts can then be sent to the accountant for completion

Moved: Miller

Seconded: Oxnevad

That we receive the income and pay the accounts.

Carried

Team Account

The team account was discussed. There is a total of income over expenditure of \$51,644.40. There was discussion as to how the excess income should be dealt with; it was agreed that it is important to have contingency funds for the following year. SB advised that the split of the funds received for the programme was broadly 2/5 parental and 3/5 SRNZ. There was discussion as to whether the parents/athletes should receive all the excess income or in proportion to the source of the generation of the funds.

It was agreed that SB write to the parents/athletes advising that a refund of 2/5 of the excess income will be given in direct proportion to that contributed by each athlete/parent.

All athletes, to include Olympic, injured and retired, that were part of the programme will be offered the refund.

TO advised that he would prefer to see a proposal sent to the parents/athletes, giving them the chance for input into the level of the refund.

Funding resolutions

Moved: Miller

Seconded: Oxnevad

That a request be made to the New Zealand Community Trust for \$7,000.00 to assist with the cost of staging the 2006 New Zealand Alpine National Championships at Mt Hutt Ski Area, Canterbury.

Carried

Moved: Miller

Seconded: Oxnevad

That a request be made to the Lion Foundation for \$7,000.00 to assist with the cost of staging the 2006 New Zealand Alpine National Championships at Mt Hutt Ski Area, Canterbury.

Carried

Moved: Miller

Seconded: Tapper

That a request be made to the Eureka Trust for \$5,500.00 to assist with the running of the Talent ID programme at Mt Hutt October 2006.

Carried

Main Account

The 2006/07 Budget was presented, along with the trial balance for Year End to end March 06. It is anticipated that there will be around \$20,000.00 loss for the 05/06 year.

It was advised that between March and June is the tightest time of the year in regard to cashflow.

SB advised that Scottwood Trust has granted \$20,000.00 towards the Alpine Director salary. The cashflow situation will ease further once the athlete registrations start to arrive.

(It was agreed that the MYOB trial balance is a little difficult to follow, SB will investigate whether it is possible to make it more user friendly).

The 06/07 Budget was looked at with a view to cost cutting. There are few areas where it is possible to cut costs. This will be looked into more carefully.

SB advised that costs are kept to an absolute minimum where possible, asking people to assist with accommodation, VW for vehicle loan etc.

Team Budget 06/07

It was agreed that the team budget needs to be reduced. It is sitting at a similar level to 05/06 but we have less funding through Caversham Foundation. This will be discussed with the National team coaches.

The FIS Solidarity application for team support has been declined.

Another Sponsor for both SRNZ itself and the National Teams is required. SB and NT have been working on this over the summer. NT advised that sponsorship funds are very tight within the retail sector currently.

15 proposals have been sent out for the Junior Programme but there have been no takers so far. NT often gets referred to a third party when he follows up, and the impetus is lost.

It was discussed whether it would be better to focus on contra deals instead.

TO raised the possibility of using Christchurch Airport for sponsorship. NT to follow up with Graeme Smolenski.

SB to check FIS Solidarity information, and reapply.

TO suggested that we use a sponsorship/marketing expert. NT advised that many are not interested because minority sport is such a difficult sector to be successful in.

The Jim Mutch Foundation will be progressed but it is a difficult time to gain charitable status with the IRD.

Nils Coberger has a contact in sports marketing, Nils and SB will meet with him asap.

TO spoke to the Marketing Executive with Alpin Canada; he advised that we must build up the 'product' in order to be successful.

NT advised that building a brand is an evolving process that takes time. This is something that Snowvision is doing right now. There is concern that there is a very limited pot of money available and Snowvision is currently cornering the market. SB has made both the NZSIF and SAANZ aware that there is no relationship between Snowvision and SRNZ. There is still however confusion within the membership of SRNZ as to the status of Snowvision.

The Government agencies are aware of the status; it is important that those more closely involved in skiing are also made aware.

It was agreed that a statement would be included in the next SRNZ Newsletter.

MJ advised that he believes that SRNZ should not be concerned about Snowvision.

7. GENERAL

Alpine Director Appointment

The panel to appoint the new Alpine Director comprises Sue Bridgwater, Mark Elliott and Marty Johanson. A shortlist has been compiled and interviews will be held over the next couple of days.

Joint AUS/NZE planning

SB advised that it has been tentatively suggested that NZE and AUS should be looking at joint high performance training programmes. There is also the possibility of being involved in the work that Kurt Hoch is proposing to do for AUS in the form of a 10 year plan. Many of the difficulties that are faced in AUS are similar in NZE.

It was agreed that if the opportunity arises we should work more closely with the AUS Federation.

SSNZ Award Dinner

The 2006 Awards Dinner will be held at Oakridge Clearwater on October 28th.

This year each code is being asked to sponsor their award to the value of \$2000. SB to approach VW for this.

Volkswagen Nationals and ANC

There was discussion about whether in the current financial situation we should spend \$20,000 on the TV production for the Nationals.

It was agreed that SB approach the NZSIF and SAANZ for financial assistance.

It was agreed that we should encourage the AUS teams to attend the Nationals.

The Board supports the National Team athletes travelling to AUS for the ANC series. The coaches should be encouraged to discuss the participation of their athletes with the ANC Committee.

Athlete Agreements

It is important that all athletes that have signed the agreement understand that the team budget is based on a fixed number of athletes participating in the programme.

A number of the National Teams athletes have expressed some concerns regarding the Athlete Agreements. This is mainly centred around reporting processes and athlete management.

It was agreed that this is something that the new AD should deal with. Eric Rolland, Womens Team coach is keen to have a reporting process in place, to ensure that any problems that might arise this year are dealt with promptly and appropriately.

Once the new AD arrives a meeting between parents/athletes and coaches will be held.

A structured process will be set in place for dealing with athletes that do not perform/behave in the appropriate manner.

Rules Review

Changes to the rules in regard to the Draw for National Points races and K Cup have been recommended by the Alpine Director following meetings with the Programme Directors. These recommendations will be looked at over the next week and incorporated in to the 2006 Handbook.

Meeting closed 3.45pm

Next meeting immediately prior to AGM (12th September 2006)

Signed as a true and correct record:

Chairman: _____

Date: _____

