



**MINUTES OF SKI RACING NEW ZEALAND INC BOARD MEETING  
HELD AT: THE RUSSELY HOTEL, CHRISTCHURCH  
ON THURSDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2006 9.30 AM**

**1. PRESENT**

Roger Miller  
Tony Oxnevad (Acting Chairman)  
Marty Johanson

Jim Davis AD  
Sue Bridgwater CEO

**2. APOLOGIES**

Nick Tapper

**Moved: Oxnevad**

**Seconded: Miller**

That we accept the apology.

**Carried**

**3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:**

Board Meeting: 28.10.05

**Moved: Miller**

**Seconded: Oxnevad**

That the minutes of the Board meeting of 28 October 2005 are a true and accurate record.

**Carried**

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

National TD Training

It is agreed that there needs to be specific training for the National TDs over and above the training provided at the FIS TD & ROC Seminar.

JD has spoken with David Howden about it this week.

DH wants all National TDs to attend the Seminar in Australia, his recommendation is that common training is undertaken for both AUS and NZE National TDs.

TO advised that he believes that the FIS training is not always of the appropriate level for the NZE National TDs.

Supplementary training must be provided to give the NZE TDs the confidence to be able to take charge of the events.

It was agreed that this would be driven by JD and Eric Henry.

National TDs will be encouraged to attend the TD Seminar in AUS. Funding assistance would be a useful incentive.

SB to discuss with Mark Elliott.

Race Volunteers

JD advised that volunteer training must be undertaken in 2/3 venues throughout NZ prior to the winter season.

JD to contact the member organisations to co-ordinate training through SRNZ.

It was agreed to add the key volunteer job descriptions to the website.

Laminated copies of these descriptions are to be sent to all ROCs.

JD and SB will produce a training guide/booklet for all ROCs, this will also be the tool for training.

Calendar

A draft is on the website.

JD advised it is almost finalised.

There is a possibility of adding an Entry League FIS event at Treble Cone in early July, this is yet to be confirmed. The Treble Cone Masters event date may also be altered. There is concern re the clash between the FIS event at Treble Cone and the ANCs in Australia. The ANC Committee is concerned that the ANC events could potentially again lose ground. Several emails have been received regarding the clash between the NI Secondary Schools race and the Volkswagen Nationals.

(Last year the Youth Championships and NI Schools race clashed).

SRNZ has had little to do with the NI Schools race in the past.

It was agreed that a dialogue needs to be opened up between the parties involved. RM will speak to the Chairman of RAL and MJ will speak to Dave Mazey.

SB to action dialogue with Ruapehu College and NZ Secondary Schools Sports Director asap.

#### High Performance Committee

JD has met with Mark Elliott; he will meet again with him on Mark's return from the Games and will progress.

The skill sets have been identified; the names now need to be found to fit these.

The HP Plan needs input from the National coaches, but the National Team Programme is in effect the HP Plan. The HP Plan will change from year to year depending on talent and finances.

At present there is no HP Plan on paper, it was agreed that this must be produced to be available alongside the NZ AIM document.

A generic HP Plan will be produced and will be available on the SRNZ website at the same time as the NZ AIM doc will be ready.

JD advised that the working draft NZ version of the AIM document (athlete development plan) will be available for the coaches prior to the NZ season.

#### Strategic and Business Plans

The new 4 year Strategic Plan is still being worked on. The Annual Business Plan will fall out of the Strategic Plan. These are scheduled to be ready by the end of March/mid April.

#### Website

SB has taken over the uploading of most information on to the website.

Martyn Davies of snow.co.nz will continue to administer some of the more technical aspects of the site.

SB has some concerns re the reliability of Martyn.

The possibility of Race Secretaries being able to upload race results on to the website was discussed. SB to talk with Martyn about this.

SB was requested to add the times/dates for the NZ alpine team competing to the website.

## **5. CORRESPONDENCE**

Bob Beresford - TO advised that he has told Mr Beresford's lawyer that we will not communicate with Mr Beresford directly, and that SRNZ considers the matter to be at an end unless Mr Beresford initiates legal proceedings.

Scott Gange – JD gave an update regarding Scott. He is training with the NZ Mens Team in Europe. Scott has now gained his NZ citizenship. The FIS declined a change of Federation mid season. The FIS Council will consider the request at the Congress following the close of the current season.

## **6. FINANCE**

**Moved: Miller**

**Seconded: Oxnevad**

That we receive the income and pay the accounts.

**Carried**

An updated Cash-flow chart was presented. The cash-flow continues to be very tight up to the end of the financial year.

We are still waiting for the outcome of the Scottwood Trust funding application.

The 2006/07 Administration Budget was presented and discussed.

Jenny McLeod's media contract was discussed. It was questioned as to whether to save money that SB and JD should do releases in future.

SB to discuss this with Jenny.

MJ advised that he feels we should be able to make money out of the Alpine Handbook, the intention last year was to break even, but there was an eventual cost to SRNZ.

The 2006/07 Budget was adopted with a minor alteration to the media line.

It was also agreed that SRNZ should produce merchandise for sale to the membership. MJ and SB to progress, working well in advance.

### **Funding resolution**

**Moved: Miller**

**Seconded: Oxnevad**

That a request be made to The Perry Foundation for \$10,000.00 to assist with the equipment costs of the three Ski Racing New Zealand National Junior Team members to compete at the Junior World Championships, Quebec Canada March 2006.

**Carried**

### **7. CEO REPORT**

November and December 2005 proved to be a rather difficult non-productive period, much of my time being taken dealing with the completely unfounded concerns of Bob Beresford.

On December 6<sup>th</sup> I travelled to Wellington in order for Roger and I to meet with Fiona Stevens (CEO of Snowvision) and Richard Merhtens (Chairman of the Snowvision Foundation). The meeting was called to enable each organisation to gain a fuller understanding of the other, and also to see whether it is going to be possible for the organisations to work together in future. It became apparent that Richard did not have a good understanding of the purpose or plans of Ski Racing NZ, nor the progress that has been made since the change in structure of the Board.

The meeting was not as positive as we had hoped, culminating in the decision for Richard and Roger to work together on changes to the contract that had previously been offered by Snowvision to SRNZ.

In the short term the status quo between the two organisations remains.

I took the week prior to Christmas as annual leave, but ended up working for part of the week due to the Judicial Committee being convened in early December.

It was important to deal with the matter brought before the Judicial Committee prior to the Christmas break.

I returned to work following the New Year break.

As of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 the Ski Racing NZ website is being hosted by snow.co.nz. Much of the uploading will eventually be done by me with some assistance from the snow.co.nz technical staff.

There are plans to update the homepage and change the navigation of the site. The timeframe for the changing of this has frustrated me somewhat and I have made my concerns known to David Scott, (Director of snow.co.nz).

A copy of the first draft of the 2006 Events Calendar is now on the website.

I travelled to Auckland for a number of meetings in mid-January, primarily focussing on fundraising, both for SRNZ itself and the National Team programme.

I met with Jim Mutch, a Masters racer, who spent his working life as a professional fundraiser.

Jim has also written a user friendly book on equipment tuning.

He will sell the books to SRNZ at a very competitive rate and allow us to market them through the SRNZ website.

The book has been well received both here and in the USA.

I propose to market the book through the SRNZ website, it will bring in a limited amount of revenue.

Jim has also indicated that he is willing to assist with future fundraising.

I also met with Dean Sheed of Volkswagen and a representative of DDB, the marketing company that VW uses, with a view to utilising their expertise/knowledge for new sponsorship opportunities.

Finally, I met with Nick and Marty to bring Marty up to speed with some of the current SRNZ issues, and to brainstorm with both Board members some ideas for sponsorship.

Nick has a proposal for Junior Development and Marty had some useful thoughts on where to secure funding.

I would like to discuss these thoughts, plus others that were suggested by Jim Mutch at the Board meeting.

(This is to include the suggestion of forming a trust for capital projects and for the National Team programme).

The financial situation to the end of current year (end March), should the outstanding Scottwood Trust application for salary funding be unsuccessful, is not looking positive. Attached you will find the updated Cashflow to both Feb 06 and July 06. Attached is also the 2005/6 updated budget. We will be reliant on the Snowsports Council funding being available in March in order to remain in the black. Current Gaming Licensing rules preclude us from applying more than twice in a twelve month period, to any of the major trusts, and the funding available has without doubt diminished over the past year, the focus of many of the Trusts has also changed. A draft Budget for the 2006/7 year has also been prepared, and is attached.

Snow Sports New Zealand went through a Strategic Planning exercise with a SPARC representative in early October 2005. However, the progress is very slow, a first draft on the plan is now being circulated but I have concerns that there is a lack of impetus to action the employment of the Coaching Director and Executive Officer positions. The Snowsports Council contract with SPARC ends in December 06 and unless SSNZ can prove that it is a worthy body to receive the funding in future, another 3 years will be lost. Snowsports Council is not due to meet until April 06.

My main focus over the summer is still to work on fundraising and sponsorship, plus the new Strategic Plan.

Sue Bridgwater  
Chief Executive

#### Discussion on CEO Report

There was discussion about the current situation with SSNZ and SPARC. SSNZ needs to press on with its Strategic Plan in order to make a case to SPARC in order to be officially recognised by SPARC. The proposed Coaching Director position was discussed. JD was under the impression that this was progressing, however, SB advised that there has been little progress, further funding needs to be sought – there are a number of avenues to pursue but this has yet to be progressed by anyone at SSNZ. SPARC money is available for the position, SSNZ needs to apply to the FIS for Solidarity funding in order to be able to advertise for the position. SB to discuss with M Elliott on his return.

RM elaborated on the Wellington meeting and the current situation with Snowvision. To date there has been no progress made since the Wellington meeting in mid December. MJ advised that SRNZ must ensure that all the industry is aware and understands the situation between Snowvision and SRNZ.

The Central Lakes Ski Racing scholarship programme information was then presented to the meeting (this had only arrived in SBs hands the previous day). It was agreed that the reason there is no Junior programme run by SRNZ is a lack of available funding. CLSR has managed to secure funding for their programme for which they should be congratulated. SRNZ supports the programme, but does have some concern that a commercial entity will benefit financially from it ultimately. (Ski racing around the world is based on a non-profit club structure). SB to write to CLSR wishing them all the best with the programme, that we will be looking forward to the results, and that we would like to work with CLSR on as many aspects of the programme as possible. SB to discuss some minor wording changes to the information document that is to be uploaded on to the SRNZ website.

RM wished it to be minuted that he is appreciative of all the work done by SB prior to Christmas regarding the Gange and Beresford matters. It was a difficult time.

## 8. ALPINE DIRECTORS REPORT

### **Introduction:**

This report will provide the board with a brief overview of recent activities for the technical side of our organization, and an overview of plans and budgets for the 2006 / 07 year.

### **NZ Ski Team:**

In general the ski team programme has operated successfully to date. The significant points the Board should be aware of are:

- The staff has done a good job of controlling costs and the programme is ahead of budget as of Dec 31. I hope to be able to update the board on January figures at our Feb 16 meeting.
- Colorado proved to be a good base for November / December. It provided good training and competition opportunities and I feel is generally a better environment than Europe at that time of year.
- Erika McLeod and Nicola Campbell have met the discretionary Olympic selection guideline in Slalom and we expect the NZOC selectors to approve their entry in this event. That will make our representation Campbell SL, GS, SG; McLeod SL, GS; Ross SL.
- The coaches are generally pleased with the progress of the athletes, several are still struggling with consistency but are showing the potential to perform better than their points this spring. A performance summary for team members is attached. (red figures denote improvement)
- Scott Gange joined the team on January 25 and is working in well. As I believe the Board is aware the FIS has declined Scott's change of nationality at this time and will not review it until April / May.
- Ben Griffin is based in Silver Star BC with the Ruapehu programme and struggling to ski to his points.
- The base in Pralongan, France worked out well and was quite economic. The women will return there post Olympics, and the men will spend most of their time in Switzerland / Austria.
- It will not be possible to have the uniforms embroidered until after the Northern winter. The coaches simply don't have time to organize it, and we will therefore have them done in New Zealand. I will be meeting with Karbon just before the World Juniors and will hopefully get a better commitment out of the company for next year. If that is not forthcoming we should look for another supplier.

### **NZ Junior Team**

- Michael Eyles is based in Jackson Hole and struggling to ski his points.
- Alice Ralston is with Ski Club Vail and making good progress in all disciplines. She won an NJR FIS race in Germany February 5.
- Leighton Winsloe and Rory Hill are with World Ski Connection in Switzerland. Hill has been ill and missed a few races while Winsloe is struggling to ski to his points. Their coach reports they are training well and they hope for better results in the next couple of weeks.

### **Domestic Programme:**

#### **i) Calendar**

A draft calendar for 2006 is now on the website. I will be meeting with Guenther Birgmann of Treble Cone prior to our board meeting and subsequent to that meeting I expect the dates and venues for all major events will be finalized.

#### **ii) National Points**

The race penalties for the 2005 National points races have been recalculated using a more logical fill-in value and the list should now be more accurate. Moving forward the use of the new fill-in value will allow for penalties and points that provide a better evaluation of a skier's ability.

#### **iii) Children's Races**

Selection has been completed and some athletes are competing this week in Andorra and Spain. The next major events will be the Topolino races in Italy mid February, and the Whistler Cup early April.

## Technical Plan February 2006

### i) NZ Ski Team:

#### Potential Team: (N.B. for planning purposes only)

##### Men: NZ Team: Up to 8 men

The potential team will be a challenge to staff because Bridgwater will likely focus on Continental Cup speed, Ross and perhaps Gange on Continental Cup Slalom, and the other athletes on lower level FIS races.

##### Women: NZ Team: Up to 4 women.

Although the staffing challenge is not as great on the women's side as on the men's it is still evident. Campbell will need to ski Continental Cup in GS and perhaps Slalom while the others are still at a less high profile FIS level.

#### Staff / Budget:

The immediate challenge to the future of the ski team is funding. As the attached budgets show the team programme is likely to be considerably more expensive than this year, and at a level I feel athletes and most families will just not be able to afford.

We need to be able to advise our staff of their employment status no later than March 31. Their current agreements expire on April 30, and if we are unable to hire them back they need to know in time to secure other employment.

Team members also need an overview of the programme content, staff, and costs much earlier than last year.

### ii) Talent ID Programme:

A budget and programme outline is attached. Although the programme could operate on a user pay basis, some financial support from SRNZ would be well received.

Jim Davis  
Alpine Director

#### Discussion on AD Report

JD leaves for Canada next Wednesday (22.03) to attend the JWC with Tim Cafe. Tim is the sole junior attending the event. (S Jarvis and M Greig also qualified but chose not to attend).

RM raised the colour of the National Team uniforms; all agreed the theme should be predominantly black. JD is meeting with Peter Schure of Karbon to discuss future uniform needs on his arrival in Canada. JD to report back to SB regarding uniform colours in order to co-ordinate this with SRNZ merchandise to be produced.

RM asked whether the Whistler team needed to be ratified by the Board.

JD did not advise the team names to the meeting.

It was agreed that in future any junior athlete representing NZ should sign a code of conduct.

(All National team members will continue to sign the athlete agreement).

The National Team 2006/07 budget was discussed.

Coaches need to be appointed on 12 month contracts by the end of March.

The athletes/parents need to be given details of the team budget for the next 12 months.

Currently due to the unexpected shortfall from Caversham Foundation we need to find around \$300K in total, at least \$150K of this by the end of March.

RM advised that we also need a secondary sponsor for operational costs, for up to \$100K.

It was agreed that a Conference Call would be held sometime during w/c 27th March to assess progress on funding and plan accordingly.

It was agreed that a foundation is to be set up for donations to the National Team programme.

This will be completely separate to all other aspects of SRNZ.

SB to contact Dean Sheed to check on sponsorship progress following the meeting in Auckland.

There was general discussion about sponsorship.

MJ asked JD to produce a document with the ideal model for HP training, this is to also include 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> tier options to be used for promotional purposes for the Foundation.

JD advised he would do this prior to 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

It was agreed that RM will talk to the Chairman of Caversham Foundation following the Games to advise them of the difficulty that we are now in due to the siphoning of some of the promised funds to another recipient.

## **9. GENERAL**

### FIS Congress

SB advised that SSNZ is looking to cover the cost of delegates' flights and registration to a maximum of \$3,200.00, leaving the individual NSOs to pay for accommodation and daily expenses.

It was agreed that TO will attend Congress.

### Athlete Development Model

JD advised a working draft will be ready for the coaches prior to the start of the NZ season.

TO advise he would like this sooner, JD will progress.

### Race Rules

Minor changes are required to the K Cup rules, a scoring system will be re-introduced for the 2006 season.

Other minor amendments are required – SB and JD will work on this.

The 2006 handbook will be produced at the usual time in order to encompass the new FIS rules.

### Team Selection

TO advised that National Team Athlete Agreements MUST be signed and returned to SRNZ before team nominations will be ratified by the Board, once this process is complete the team will be announced.

The HPC will be in place prior to the May 06 team selections being made.

### Masters

SB advised that she has had a meeting with Bonnie Teat and that there regular dialogue between the Masters committee.

SB has concerns that the committee is not willing to accept some basic SRNZ requests, eg the need for a national TD to oversee events.

The meeting agreed that Masters should be either completely under the SRNZ umbrella, as they had requested only 2 years ago, or not have any association with SRNZ. For legal reasons (with regard to the safety of events and possible prosecution etc) this would have to extend to Masters events not being included on the SRNZ calendar, no website link, etc

TO is to speak to Rick Pettit (Masters Chairman) to try and find a compromise.

SB to send a letter to this effect once TO has spoken to Rick.

### FIS Licensing

JD advised the meeting that he would like to see all FIS athletes undertake a medical examination each year in order to confirm that they are fit to compete.

This is a recommendation in the ICR rather than a rule.

It was agreed that we will recommend that athletes undertake an examination, and that the form is sent back at the same time as the FIS Declaration. The medical form will be put on the SRNZ website along with the wording from the ICR.

Overseas athlete insurance was also discussed. Due to SSNZ administering this insurance SRNZ cannot be certain whether all its athletes have adequate insurance when they are training/competing overseas. This is a FIS requirement.

It was agreed that in future all athletes travelling overseas must prove to SRNZ that they have adequate insurance before their departure.

Athletes will not be entered in to overseas events unless SRNZ has been provided with evidence of adequate insurance.

### Judicial Committee Rules

TO advised that it has become evident that the JC process should be made clearer and be standardised.

Accordingly TO has produced a set of rules/guidelines to assist those wanting to take a matter to the JC.

**Moved: Oxnevad**

**Seconded: Miller**

That the Judicial committee rules are adopted

**Carried**

The rules will be uploaded on to the SRNZ website

### Publicity

TO suggested that a weekly/monthly e-news letter should be sent out to the membership.

Information is already uploaded on to the website but TO feels that we should also email the membership direct.

SB will investigate the logistics of this – a monthly e-news letter would be easier to manage from a time management perspective.

SB advised that Martyn Davies of snow.co.nz is progressing a proposal to show ski racing live through a satellite feed to mobile phones.

SB will progress this with Martyn and report back to the Board.

Meeting closed 3.30pm

Next meeting TBC

Conference Call w/c March 27th

**Signed as a true and correct record:**

**Chairman:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_