



**MINUTES OF SKI RACING NEW ZEALAND (INC) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT THE METHVEN RESORT HOTEL, METHVEN
ON TUESDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2006 at 7:00 pm**

1. Present:

Roger Miller, Tony Oxnevad, Marty Johanson, Scott Zahn and Sue Bridgwater

QAST: Rob Greig (v), Roz Greig(v), Wayne Cafe(v), Graeme Rodwell

Team Hutt: Andrew O'Donoghue(v), David Wilson(v), Graeme McGlinn(v)

Turoa: Mark Butcher (v), Sue Johanson(v)

Wanaka: Peter Duff (v), Adi Bernasconi(v), Grant Winsloe (v) and Paul Steens(v)

Whakapapa Snow Sports: Peter Gendall (v), Catherine Loe(v), John Armstrong(v), Angus Howden

Canterbury Snowsports: Cyrus Berry, Eric Dally

David Howden, Jolyon Ralston, Georgina Ralston, Dean Sheed, Jarrod Ho, Libby Jarvis, Jon Jarvis and David Bridgwater.

'v' denotes voting delegate

2. Apologies:

Nick Tapper, Bonnie Teat (Wanaka), Markus Rieck (Team Hutt), Mark Taylor (QAST), Paul Brownsey (Northern Snowsports)

For lateness: Marty Johanson

3. Confirmation of 2005 AGM minutes

Moved: Oxnevad

Seconded: Peter Duff

That the minutes of the 2005 AGM are a true and accurate

Carried

Matters Arising

The Chairman reconfirmed that the Auditor had not accepted that the 'Unauthorised Expenditure' line item be amended in the 2004/05 Financial Statements and the item remains unchanged in the Financial Statements.

The Chairman formally welcomed Team Hutt Inc and Northern Snowsports Inc as Full Members of Ski Racing New Zealand.

The Chairman also advised the meeting that a letter of resignation, effective immediately, had been received from Canterbury Snowsports Association (CSA). CSA wishes to remain an Associate Member of SRNZ. The Chairman recorded the Board's appreciation for all the work that CSA has undertaken over the years.

4. Confirmation of 2005/6 Financial Accounts

The Chairman addressed the meeting stating that the growth of the organisation over the last 2 years had been exponential, this had also been noted by the Auditor; however the Board is not happy with the financial situation and it is imperative that we find further sponsorship/funding for both the National Team Programme and the organisation itself.

The Chairman thanked our major sponsors: Volkswagen, Caversham Foundation and also the team members and their families for their financial support.

The Chairman opened discussion up to the floor.

G McGlenn advised that he is concerned that the organisation is nearly insolvent, showing a deficit of \$33,000.00.

6 monthly Management Accounts were requested.

SB advised that these will be produced and circulated as soon as they are to hand.

Wanaka Ski Club requested that a 6 monthly cashflow projection be prepared and sent out as soon as possible.

D Wilson advised he was concerned about the equity losses as shown in the Financial Statements, and requested that stringent budgeting controls be put in place for the next 6 months. The Chairman advised he was aware that stringent controls were required and that the current situation cannot continue.

The line item 'Legal Expenses' was discussed. The expenses were incurred in order to settle an employment issue. The Board terminated a contract of employment, the matter is now finalised.

The meeting was advised that the Volkswagen sponsorship is divided equally between the Nationals, National Teams and Administration.

Moved: RH Miller

Seconded: T Oxnevad

That the 2005/6 Financial Statements be approved

Carried

6. Chairman's Report

The Chairman spoke to his Report

Much has been achieved in the last 12 months and consequentially as Ski Racing New Zealand develops there is much more to be consolidated, achieved and promoted.

First and foremost, I thank our Chief Executive Officer, Sue Bridgwater, for her tremendous contribution to the organisation - "beyond the call of duty" would not do justice to the effort and hours that Sue has undertaken on our behalf.

Secondly, this was a year for the athletes. The strategic approach to Nor-Am races – World Cup races culminating in the Winter Olympics for our athletes, was well resourced. The results are a credit to those athletes, their coaches, and the support teams. Special mention must be made of the Caversham Foundation for enabling this to happen.

Thirdly, our organisation could not survive without Volkswagen. To Dean Sheed and his team, we extend our appreciation and with the renewal of the contract it is pleasing to know that support is in place for the future. What has not occurred or eventuated has been our ability to attract a principal co-sponsor. What we do have is a number of secondary sponsors to whom we also extend our thanks, as without them our cost of training facilities, clothing, equipment and some of our general expenses would not be met.

Despite the advancement made during the year for the organisation and the success of the athletes, it is been, quite frankly at times, a disappointing and frustrating time for the Board. This is clearly shown in our financial performance for the year. There is no alternative but to reverse this trend if we are to assist our top athletes and all aspiring athletes in the years ahead.

Disappointments include not securing a principal co-sponsor and frustration on such issues as:

- The delays in the establishment of SRNZ Foundation to build a capital base for the benefit of the organisation for the future (sport is not a charity).*
- The changes to legislation for the allocation of the Community Trust funding which is affecting all sports.*
- The recent release of the SPARC High Performance Strategy and the possible effect this will have on SRNZ and Snow Sports in general.*
- It was extremely disappointing that our Alpine Director, with such high recommendations and credentials was unable to establish himself within our community and country.*

- *That a few members of the ski racing community still believe that working outside of their NSO is preferable to assisting and benefiting the sport as a whole.*
- *That inappropriate and improper aspersions about SRNZ, its staff and regional organisations was, to say the least, extremely time consuming.*

Now, on a positive note! The growth of the sport is encouraging. The consolidation of our teams, coaches and support teams approach is benefiting our top athletes immensely. The consequences of 25% of Olympic funding for winter sports can only assist us. Our close relationship with NZOC, the ASI and the Winter Performance Programme Director, Mark Elliott is ensuring that our top athletes are reaching their true potential.

For the year ahead, our challenge is to continue the growth of SRNZ and to do so, we must become financially secure.

Finally, to our National teams and, in particular, our Olympic athletes; Nicola Campbell, Erika McLeod and Mickey Ross; our congratulations and appreciation for the manner in which you represented us.

Roger Holmes Miller

The Chairman added that progress is being made with SPARC and SSNZ in relation to funding for all the snowsports codes.

The Chairman thanked all the athletes that had represented New Zealand in the 2005/06 Northern Hemisphere, Winter Olympics, his fellow Board members and the Chief Executive.

7. CEO Report

The CEO summarized her report.

I would like to start by acknowledging and sincerely thanking Caversham Foundation, Volkswagen, Southern Recreation, Karbon, Reliable Racing, Helly Hansen, Prosource, Skiers Edge, Outside Sports and Aussie Bodies for the support that they have given Ski Racing New Zealand over the past 12 months.

Ski Racing New Zealand, with the assistance and support of the Board and our sponsors continues down the path as set out at the Strategic Planning Meeting of Spring 2003; sadly due to a lack of impetus and fresh thinking from the Alpine Director throughout 2005 we have yet to achieve all that was planned for the 2005/06 year. It is with regret that the Athlete Development Model, so important to the structured development of the sport, will not be available until autumn 2007.

The position of Alpine Director is pivotal to the athletic success of our organisation.

This stated, Ski Racing New Zealand continues to grow; the generous financial support from Caversham Foundation during the 2005/06 year ensured that we were able to set up the National Team training programme. The programme, employment of full time National Team coaches and continued support of the Winter Performance Programme are all making a big difference to the support that our top athletes need and deserve.

As with any new venture there were teething problems, but with teamwork I am confident that we can ensure that the programme will flourish.

Despite the financial assistance from Caversham Foundation and Volkswagen towards the National Team Programme the not inconsiderable cost of the programme continues to be a financial burden on the athletes and their families.

Sponsorship and fundraising continue to be a cause for concern, we are as ever hugely thankful to Volkswagen for their support to both SRNZ itself and the National Teams, however if we are going to continue the National Team programme, for the benefit of current athletes and also our future team members, and put in place an effective Talent Development Programme we need to secure further financial support.

The current economic climate, to include the ever increasing cost of fuel and overheads in general, inevitably tightens the purse strings of prospective sponsors.

The financial statements reflect our situation; we cannot sustain another year like the last; the success/failure of the 2006/07 summer sponsorship and fundraising drive will be critical to the success of the organisation.

The 2006/2010 Strategic Plan, though not complete, due to the lack of input of an Alpine Director, is in draft form and will be completed over the summer; looking to the future I am confident that we can achieve the targets that have been set through to 2010; our membership continues to grow and there are more athletes on our National Team than we have had for many years.

The increased level of support for the Race Organising Committees has been well received; this will continue to be rolled out over the next 12 months. The National TD pool will be increased over the summer, and supplementary training undertaken as SRNZ takes a more active role in the running of not only National Points and FIS events but also entry level and schools events.

As the National Sporting Organisation for a minority sport our situation is no different to similar organisations in New Zealand, if we all work together what we can achieve will be greater than the sum of the individuals.

Sue Bridgwater

The Chairman opened the meeting up to the floor for questions on the reports.

SB advised that the ADM, though promised by the previous Alpine Director, had not been completed. This has had an impact on the Strategic Plan, it is envisaged that the Strategic Plan will be finalised by the end of 2006.

Moved: RH Miller

Seconded: R Greig

That the Chairman's and Chief Executive's Reports be adopted.

Carried

8. Board Elections

Tony Oxnevad has offered himself for re-election, there being no further nominations Tony Oxnevad was duly re-elected to the Board for the 3 year term.

9. Amendment to the Constitution

The Chairman advised that this item now lapses because Canterbury Snowsports Assn is no longer a full member organisation.

10. Regional Reports

Attached

Northern Snow Sports Club

- Formed in April 2006
- Purpose is the promotion of Alpine Racing, Free-skiing, Boarding
- Currently around 35 member families
- Partnership with Snowplanet as a primary venue
- Currently running on a weekly basis:
 - o entry level race training
 - o entry level freestyle skiing
- Also running on a weekly basis:
 - o Race training for advanced racers
 - o Training for elite freestyle skiers
- Currently developing long term development programs for alpine race skiers and freestylers. These programs will include:
 - o year round training at Snowplanet
 - o NZ winter programs at ski-fields using a combination of club resources and existing training providers
 - o northern hemisphere training camps
- In June, The club ran a four week series of dual slalom races at Snowplanet. Over 80 individual racers (age 3 to 21) from 13 different schools competed over the series
- The club has received strong support from the following sponsors:

- o Snowplanet
- o Snowcentre
- o Sportive (NZ) Ltd – (importer of K2, Smith Optics)
- o Korbond Industries
- Officers of the club:
 - o President Paul Brownsey
 - o Treasurer Rose-Mary Read
 - o Secretary Liz McKay
 - o Committee Yvonne Walker
Chris Lambourne
Theresa Allen
- Coaching co-ordinators are:
 - o Alpine Racing Simon Mills
 - o Free Skiing Dave Turner
- Contact details: info@northernsnowsports.co.nz

Queenstown Alpine Ski Team (Inc).

The 2006 season looks set to finish up being a successful season with good snow cover and weather allowing for good training and racing.

QAST this year held the ANC races at Coronet Peak that were unable to be held in Australia as well as the Japanese FIS series. Although this was of considerable strain on our volunteer resources it was a great opportunity to undertake this next level of FIS racing. Both races were well attended by international teams training at Coronet Peak at the time plus a number of races that visited for the series. The minimum race penalty was achieved on several occasions highlighting the caliber of the entrants.

Maio Fuchs and Yannick Bellon continued in the rolls of Head Coach and Head junior coach respectively and this consistency has assisted the ongoing development of our programs.

Our financial condition is satisfactory and we have managed to maintain our level of sponsorship from various sectors. Longer term we see the new Carrisbrook stadium as a threat to funding from various charitable organizations, particularly long term funders Caversham Foundation, as the sheer size of the project must deplete distributions available to organizations like our own in the southern region.

This year QAST took over the organization of the NZ Skiing Masters at Coronet Peak to augment its fund raising activities. In keeping with the events history net proceeds from the race will be applied to overseas training. This will be done by way of contribution to QAST's overseas camp budgets.

We lost 2 senior athletes who received substantial scholarships that required them to join the new Cardrona Program and can expect further departures in the future. We applaud the generation of significant funds for athlete scholarships by the organizations involved. However at a higher level the athletes have arguable received similar skiing outcomes but with reduced educational outcomes by virtue of the scholarships requiring them to leave school and study by correspondence. Accordingly we question the requirement of the scholarships to be linked to one New Zealand commercial development program.

We have had an overall decrease in athlete numbers with 59 local athletes and 23 overseas athletes training with QAST during the season. We had a very promising intro program over the July school holidays with 42 participants however the conversion rate into the full program was less than 25%.

In the future we will continue to focus on growing the membership which is alarmingly inverted in its structure at present with only 17 E level athletes.

Mark A Taylor
Chairman
Queenstown Alpine Ski Team (Inc.)

Team Hutt

Team Hutt is pleased to be able to advise that its program continues to grow within its entry level ranks. Of 70 athletes, 35 are in the entry level age group, with strong interest in next years program from prospective new members.

This year we have also been successful in gaining corporate sponsorship.

Our Head sponsors are Orbit Corporate Travel and Qantas, Co-Sponsors are Miles Continental VW and associate Sponsors are Business Distributors Ltd. The funding support from these organizations is of incredible benefit to our program, in particular being able to provide financial stability to us, as a non profit organization, whilst undertaking new initiatives in developing our training programs, purchasing equipment and developing the sport within the Canterbury region.

We are looking forward to the completion of the K-Cup race series for this year, as well as hosting the South Islands at Mt Hutt in late September. Team Hutt is very keen to see the K Cup series embraced by all regions as a vital pathway for youth racers to follow, whilst we appreciate the economical issues facing some ROC's and the need to support local race series, the bigger picture should be inclusive of a strong and competitive K Cup series.

We welcome Scott Zahn to New Zealand and are looking forward to seeing some real progress made, through leadership, in developing effective pathways and structures for our athletes to follow. We sincerely hope that all regions can support Scott in developing the initiatives required to move our sport forward positively, enabling our athletes to truly reach their potential.

Team Hutt

Team Turoa Ski Racing Race Programme

We are well into the second season of a programme at Turoa Skifield that is run by Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL). The previous programme and structure was rearranged at the end of 2004 such that race training on both the Turoa and Whakapapa sides of the mountain is now managed by the Mount Ruapehu Competitive Centre. Previously they were run as two independent programmes with very little overlap or synergies.

The Competitive Centre continues to be run by John Armstrong with Head Coaches appointed to each side of the mountain and separate coaching teams. At the top level the Mount Ruapehu Regional Team works well in bringing the best athletes from both skifields together into one team.

When it comes to race days the two programmes remain fiercely competitive but outside of these days the benefits of an overriding structure have been

- Greater cooperation amongst the two sides over matters of common interest.
- Crossover with training between the two teams.
- Athletes being closer to each other with fitness testing and some dry land training sessions being combined.
- Sharing of resources that enables travelling to the South Island easier – we have increased the number of Mt Ruapehu athletes competing in the South Island this winter.

While there were some minor initial teething problems in the 2005 season these have now been overcome and the current season has highlighted the benefits from such a structure. We have been lucky to have high quality coaches with fantastic attitudes this season and this just flows through into the athletes (and parents).

Racing has been extremely competitive and the abundance of snow and good weather has meant to date no races have had to be cancelled this season – hopefully this will continue in the future.

Our Athletes:

We have experienced a reduction in the number of athletes participating in the programme over the past two years. Numbers with the programme are down from their peak of 40 three years ago to 26 this year but we believe that we have arrested this decline and expect an increase in numbers for next year.

The fewer numbers relative to previous years are due to

- Other interests both alpine (freeski and snowboard) and non alpine
- Schooling pressures reduce numbers able to commit to rigours of programme particularly in the FIS athletes.
- We have lost a small number of athletes each year to South Island programmes.

Our level of "E" level athletes remains a concern as we have not experienced a lift in numbers and these provide the feeder to the older programmes. Our E team won the Mapei childrens race and this has attracted interest from parents looking to sign their children up with Team Turoa for next year.

While our numbers are down, the athletes are however training hard and racing has been extremely competitive. The abundance of snow and good weather has meant that to date we have experienced a good training season and no races have had to be cancelled this season – hopefully this will continue in the future.

Over the 2005/06 summer we had seven of our athletes train in Canada and three in France. Team Turoa athletes raced in Europe at the Children's Races and two gained selection for the Whistler Cup Team. Finally a small number attended the Ski Racing New Zealand Talent development camp.

Team Turoa

Despite the reduced membership Team Turoa remains in a financially sound position with income derived from uniform hireage, sponsorship and volunteer payments.

Our clubrooms are being well used and are a focus on the social side for families has helped. They have been used for team captain meetings and can be used by visiting teams if desired.

Aside from ensuring the continued development of the athletes, Team Turoa is focussed on the following areas

- Funding: the sponsorship dollar is to obtain – pub charities have reduced funding for Team Turoa activities but there is also greater competition from other groups seeking funds. Given that we are a sport with only limited window relative to those sports that are visible all year round other fundraising initiatives are required.
- Increasing membership: We need to convert recreational skiers and those who participate in Mapei, Primary School and Secondary School races into the programme.
- Profile of Ski Racing: There is a need to be continually in the face of the RAL and pushing ski racing amidst the other competing segments. Ski racing remains a minority sport in the eyes of the public and is not as important to ski area management from a financial perspective as other users of the mountain facilities. As such every regional body and the national organisation must do what it can to elevate the profile of ski racing

Mark Butcher
President
Team Turoa Ski Racing Inc

WANAKA SKI CLUB INCORPORATED

The Club has had another very successful year and has a healthy membership of over 300.

We are actively involved in fundraising to help provide financial assistance to our athletes over all codes namely; Alpine, Freestyle, Snowboarding and Masters.

Treble Cone and Cardrona now offer training programs for Alpine Skiing to the club members and both programs have been very successful this year.

The Club is the R.O.C for the area and worked with the two mountains to run excellent ski races.

An Entry Level FIS race was run at Treble Cone (a first for NZ) in the early part of the season and despite a small field, they are happy to schedule it again next year. K Cup, Interfield and a first FIS races were also run.

Cardrona hosted the NZ K Cup Finals over four days and apart from very cold weather, the Series was completed to a very high standard. They also hosted their part of the Interfield series which is a very important event in the southern region.

Mention must be made of the contribution of our volunteers help for the success of all our races.

Two very strong Masters Training Programs were run in our region and both Treble Cone and Cardrona hosted very successful Masters races.

We wish our athletes that are traveling to the Northern Hemisphere all the best in their endeavours and look forward to another competitive season in 2007.

Peter Duff Gary Tate (President)

Whakapapa Snow Sports Inc

The Whakapapa Race Program is ticking along nicely. We have had a good training season so far with ample snow and more training days than scheduled.

Overall number of athletes in the program is down 12% on last year due to a "bulge" of J2 athletes leaving ski racing. K1/K2 numbers are up 27% with strong development improvements being made at these levels. The programme is shifting to a more typical pyramid with a healthy base of younger athletes. Entry level numbers remain low in race programme, but steady in snow school and club programmes.

Preparation for ANC races at Whakapapa is on track. We are hoping for a period of colder weather to counteract the recent warm spell.

Peter Gendall
President
Whakapapa Snow Sports Inc

ANC Committee

David Howden spoke briefly on the ANC events. He advised that the ANC Committee is looking to work more closely with the NSOs in future.

David explained the benefits to the winner of the ANC Series, in the form of privileged start positions at the Continental Cup events overseas.

The Chairman wished the committee all the best for the upcoming events on the North Island.

9. Appointment of Auditor

Concern was raised regarding the professional status of the current Auditor, Terry Coyle is not a member of the NZ Institute of Chartered Accountants. It was agreed that an alternative auditor would be sought with the assistance of Graeme McGlinn. G McGlinn declared his conflict of interest and advised that he was not in a position to do the job himself, but would assist with the choice of the Auditor.

Moved: RH Miller

Seconded: G McGlinn

That the appointment of the Auditor is left with the Board, and a proposal is put to the membership within 6 months.

Carried

10. General Business

Setting of Fees

Moved: Miller

Seconded: P Duff

That the registration fees remain unchanged for the 2007 season

Carried

Appointment of Selectors

The Chairman advised the meeting that constitutionally the Board must appoint the Alpine Director and the two national Team coaches.

Scott Zahn, the new Alpine Director, does not believe that this structure is correct and will be looking to put a proposal to the membership once he has had time to consider the appropriate structure.

Selection Criteria

Jon Jarvis advised the meeting that he believes that there is also an opportunity to amend the current selection criteria to the National Teams.

S Zahn advised that SRNZ gradually needs to raise the bar in order for the athletes to aspire to the goals being set. The meeting was advised that the NZOC will be setting the standards for the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics, and there will be a raising of the bar.

Rob greig advised that any change in criteria must be advised well in advance, and that he believes it is important to send athletes to the major events.

Ultimately the team structure will be reviewed by the High Performance Committee.

There followed general discussion about High Performance funding through SPARC, FIS etc.

Wayne Cafe advised that there are currently athletes competing in other snow codes that started their careers in alpine, he suggested that SRNZ should be able to generate some positive synergy from this.

The Chairman advised that he hopes, as the new Convenor of SSNZ, that all the snow codes will work together more closely than previously, and that as a result all will be in a stronger position. SSNZ is looking to take over the SPARC contract and is currently working towards this.

David Howden wished to compliment the Board on the National TD Programme; he believes it is a positive initiative.

Athlete Registration

Wanaka Ski Club spoke to the item of general business that it had forwarded by email after the agenda had been circulated.

The club administers the SRNZ registrations for athletes training at Treble Cone and Cardrona, and favours on line registration due to the problems that occurred in the 2006 season.

John Armstrong advised that RAL finds the current registration system works well.

It was agreed that the possibility of on-line registration would be investigated.

The meeting was advised that Associate Members are able to register athletes.

John Armstrong requested that SRNZ looks in to the possibility of an all area season pass for athletes. SB advised that she will discuss this with the SAANZ, however in the past they have not been receptive to such an idea.

John also raised that entry fees are spiraling out of control, \$700 for a weeks racing at Mt Hutt for example.

Adi Bernasconi endorsed John's comment.

The meeting agreed that race entry costs vary from one country to another, but that the costs of competing need to be kept down.

Events should be sponsored to assist with offsetting costs.

Peter Gendall spoke to the WSS suggestion to create a dual slalom series, wishing to gauge the degree of support for such an idea.

All agreed that the idea has merit, SRNZ agreed to try and progress, given that the calendar is already very congested.

Adi suggested that the event could be linked to the National Championships.

There was brief discussion about the reasoning behind the resignation of CSA, as one of the founding members of SRNZ.

Wanaka Ski Club held the most concerns, the discussion was not progressed.

The meeting was closed at 9.10pm

Signed as a true and correct record:

Chairman: _____

Date: _____