



**MINUTES OF SKI RACING NEW ZEALAND INC BOARD MEETING
HELD AT: THE COTSWOLD HOTEL, CHRISTCHURCH
ON FRIDAY 28 OCTOBER 2005 10.00 AM**

1. PRESENT

Roger Miller (Chairman)
Tony Oxnevad
Nick Tapper
Jim Davis

Sue Bridgwater CEO

2. APOLOGIES

None

3. Election of Chairman

Roger Miller handed the chair over to the CEO.

Moved: Oxnevad

Seconded: Tapper

That Roger Miller continue as Chairman

Carried

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Board Meeting: 13.06.05
Conference Call: 02.09.05

That the minutes of the meetings as listed above are a true and accurate record.

Moved: Miller

Seconded: Oxnevad

Carried

5. MATTERS ARISING

Will be dealt with under General

6. CORRESPONDENCE

The Membership application from CAST was briefly discussed.

SB has received correspondence from the member organisations, all supporting CAST becoming a member with the exception of Wanaka.

CAST has been advised of the Constitutional requirements in order to become a member of SRNZ. They will be accepted as a full member once this is completed.

7. FINANCE

ACCOUNTS PAID (Main a/c) June 05 – Sept 05 inclusive

\$85,836.00

INCOME MAIN ACCOUNT) (GST exclusive)

\$133,591.11

ACCOUNTS PAID (Team a/c) June 05 – Sept 05 inclusive

\$100,405.20

INCOME TEAM ACCOUNT (GST exclusive)

\$180,811.95

Moved: Miller

That we receive the income and pay the accounts.

Seconded: Tapper

Carried

An updated Cash-flow chart was presented. The cash-flow is very tight up to the end of the financial year. Further funding to assist with employees salaries will continue to be sought. Sponsorships for events and secondary sponsorship for the representative teams will be worked on over the summer. SB to investigate obtaining Officers and Directors insurance.

Funding resolution

Moved: Miller

That a request be made to The New Zealand Community Trust for \$22,000.00 to assist with the travel costs of the eleven Ski Racing New Zealand National Team athletes for their Northern Hemisphere training and competition.

Seconded: Oxnevad

Carried

8. CEO REPORT

Since my previous report presented on June 13th we have been through what has been a testing season. The snow conditions prevented many of the scheduled events from taking place. We were also in the first year of a pretty major rules review; it is often difficult putting in to practice rules that appear to make complete sense on paper. There have been some teething troubles, but I am sure these will be ironed out for next year over the summer.

We must be mindful that it takes time for people, especially volunteers, to become familiar with new rules, we must beware of making too many changes again over the summer.

On a positive note the Media Launch of the National Mens and Womens Alpine Ski Teams was very successful.

It was attended by several members of the regional press, parents of athletes, fitness providers and Wayne Morris the Chairman of the Caversham Foundation. Wayne's presence was particularly pleasing because he had previously stated he did want any form of publicity for the Trust.

The teams commenced on snow training in mid July and Southern Recreation provided the teams with excellent training facilities free of charge throughout the season.

It is hoped to build the relationship between SRNZ and Southern Recreation for future seasons.

Financially, SRNZ is a little more stable than was projected in June.

An updated Cashflow is attached through to February 2006, and July 2006.

In the short term to February, there is a small surplus, but we need to be prudent.

Snowsports Council funds are expected in March, and will be required to meet our administration salary needs prior to the July registrations.

I am hopeful of further financial assistance next year from Scottwood Trust.

The projected figure for 2005 athlete registrations has been exceeded by over \$3000, something that is becoming a pleasing trend.

Despite this easing of the financial situation the organisation still needs to secure another sponsor both the SRNZ administration itself, and the National Teams.

The other area that we desperately need to find sponsorship is events, from the lowest levels right through to the Continental Cups.

This is something that must be of paramount importance over the next few months.

I am not a marketer and do not feel that I have the required skills to successfully take on this type of role. I have met with Dean Sheed and he is keen to work with SRNZ to help enhance the profile of ski racing in New Zealand, using the contacts he has in Auckland.

The Strategic Plan is the other major task to be undertaken over the summer months. The existing plan runs until 2006; we therefore require a new 4 year plan built around the next Olympic Cycle.

The Strategic Plans that have been in place over the past 8 years have really been a re-hash of previous plans. There is therefore much work required to produce a meaningful document to take us through to 2010.

A Business Plan for next year also needs to be produced.

Peter Arnott has advised that he wishes to hand over the maintenance of the website by the beginning of 2006.

I will progress discussions with Cabbage Tree Creations who host a very user friendly website system.

Other suggestions will be gratefully received.

The time required to maintain the website has increased considerably over the past couple of years, relying on what is essentially a volunteer to upload information has had its drawbacks, and the possibility of maintaining our own site will give us complete control

S Bridgwater

9. ALPINE DIRECTORS REPORT

Introduction:

This report will provide the board with a brief overview of recent activities for the technical side of our organization.

NZ Ski Team:

i) NZ Season Review:

In general the ski team programme operated successfully this winter. The athletes are making progress and for the most part are working well with the coaching staff. As with any new venture there are things we learned, and this will allow us to build on strengths and correct weaknesses. I feel that the principle areas for attention are:

- o The sport science services delivered through the WOPP were very good and are resulting in better fitness and greater commitment to physical training and mental skills. The only drawback to the programme is that it is somewhat Otago-centric.
- o We had excellent support from the ski areas this winter and I believe this will continue. Although the on-snow programme was hampered by inconsistent snow conditions, I believe the overall plan was good and we should stick with similar approach next year.
- o The naming of the team and confirmation of the coaching staff should happen earlier.
- o Team budgets should be available earlier, and if possible part of the team fee should be payable for the NZ season. The later was not possible this year because of requirements to spend the Caversham funding in NZ.
- o Having the men's and women's teams train together was effective both financially and athletically. There were some challenges with staff communication but this improved over the winter.
- o The early spring did not allow us to race as much as we had hoped. This is unfortunate as the races would have provided some great point opportunities and a chance to benchmark our training. Results in the races we did attend were quite good although several athletes struggled with consistency.

ii) Northern Hemisphere Season:

The team will leave for Colorado November 9 and will be based at Copper Mountain and then Winter Park. The women fly to France just before Christmas, and the men will join them in early January. Both teams will be based in France in the lead-up to the Olympics.

Peter Warmington has been hired as an assistant coach November through February, and Ginny Bush will be with the teams in Colorado to provide physio and assist on the hill.

We have commitments for the Northern Hemisphere programme from 7 of the 9 athletes and I feel that the remaining 2 will agree to join the programme. The cost of the programme is coming down as we have been able to negotiate better deals on vehicle rental and accommodation.

iii) Selection:

The new FIS list has just come out. We will review athletes' rankings against the guidelines and the selectors will have a report for the board at next week's meeting.

Coaches Committee

The coaches committee met in Ohakune during the Nationals and again by conference call in early October. The committee is working effectively and provides valuable input on technical and development issues. The only concern at this point is irregular attendance by one region.

Regional Programmes

Snow conditions this winter made it impractical to visit the regional programmes as much as I had hoped. It also led to the cancellation of the Youth Group camp that was planned for early October. These factors combined with the cancellation of the RS Duncans did not allow me to spend as much time as I had planned to with the regional programmes. This has retarded relationship building with some of the stakeholders at the regional level. It should be noted though that main focus for communication has been with the coaches, and the communication problems experienced seemed to occur mostly where there is a disconnect between the regional organization and its athletic programme.

We are currently working on setting up physical training programmes with the regions. This seems to be well received and it much needed.

Competition Programme:

i) Calendar

A draft calendar for 2006 will be available shortly. It has been developed with the input of the regional coaches and has also been discussed with key ROC's and ski areas. The main change is an additional opportunity for the best Kinder skiers to race head to head in a National event. It should also be noted that the calendar is designed to allow for a season long Kinder Cup series. It is proposed to use designated FIS races for the J1 series.

Calendar is a challenge due to school holidays and the variable ski seasons in the different. For example: It is difficult to schedule a national level event prior to August 1, and because of snow conditions it is unwise to schedule events in Otago after September 15. This leads to a very compressed schedule.

ii) Event Quality

My main observation over this winter is that there are large differences in event quality from region to region. More officials training will help correct this, and there is a need for me to work more closely with the ROC's particularly in terms of safety installations and slope preparation. The National TD programme was only in its first year and I feel it will make a real contribution to race quality. TD training that is specific to the needs of TD's working at the National Point level and familiarizes them with the Competition Handbook will also be of help. We are also working with David Howden to ensure the TD reports are sent to the right people for review so that any deficiencies in race organization can be identified and addressed in a timely fashion.

The other observation is that many of the races run with what I would describe as minimal participation from volunteers. This affects race quality and also pushes up the cost of racing as race departments are required to put more paid staff on the hill.

J Davis

Following the presentation of the reports there was discussion about the ANC events and the entry numbers involved, overseas teams training in NZ (this is cyclical around the OWG). It is appreciated that the overseas teams are big business for the Commercial Ski Areas.

The team make up for the NH was discussed, and the athletes that are most likely to gain qualification to the Games.

Jim explained how the logistics of running the teams will work during the OWG period. The athletes and coaches will not be in the Olympic village for the whole of the Games, the athletes will compete at other events in close proximity to the Games. The coaches will therefore have time with the

team athletes that do not qualify. If we qualify more than 3 athletes Jim will go over to Torino (paid for by the NZOC), this will assist with the logistics.

The Coaches Committee was discussed, Jim advised that it is working well, though the coaches from Treble Cone rarely attend or make comment on requests etc.

Jim feels that Treble Cone is in effect working on its own.

This caused inevitable problems with athlete registrations during the 2005 season. This year there has been some flexibility with registrations due to the introduction of the new system. Prior to the 2006 season the member organisations will be advised again of the procedure for athlete registration.

In future the rules for registration will be applied more rigorously.

Jim is to formalise the information regarding the rule changes for 2006 as soon as possible. The final draft will be available for the Board by mid December and the membership will be advised by December 31st.

The teams for the FIS International Childrens events will be notified prior to the end of November. SRNZ will assign a head coach for each event, it is unlikely that SRNZ will take charge of the running of the teams for the events.

It is possible that Jim may be in North America (if he travels to the OWG) at the time of Whistler Cup but this will not be certain until the OWG team is named.

Jim would prefer to see the young athletes concentrate on training overseas rather than too much racing.

The appointment of the High Performance Committee was discussed.

Jim had previously circulated (21 Oct) a copy of the Terms of Reference for the committee.

The HPC appointments are to be made by the Board on recommendation from Jim.

Input from the HPC is important to bring a balance to the decisions made by the Selectors.

Jim Davis, Nils Coberger and Eric Rolland currently comprise the Selectors.

Moved: Miller

Seconded: Tapper

That the High Performance Committee Terms of Reference are adopted

Carried

It was agreed that Tony Oxnevad would be the Board representative on the HPC.

High Performance Committee Terms of Reference October 2005

General Description:

The High Performance Committee is a sub-committee of the SRNZ Board of Directors and contributes to the strategic direction of SRNZ by providing information and recommendations to the Board of Directors and the SRNZ technical staff on matters related to high performance athletics.

Level of Authority

- The High Performance Committee (HPC) will consist of a Board member, two members with sport science expertise, the Alpine Director, and a representative of the Regional Coaches Committee.*
- With the exception of the Alpine Director, which is a permanent position, each member of the High Performance Committee will be appointed for a term of 2 years and there is a maximum of 3 terms or six years that the committee member may sit on the HPC.*
- The HPC in conjunction with the SRNZ Alpine Director will provide a report of HPC activities at each meeting of the SRNZ Board of Directors.*
- As required the committee may invite resource person(s) such as SRNZ coaching staff, other technical experts, or sport scientists to bring specialized knowledge to meetings and discussions*

General Objectives

- To contribute towards the realization of SRNZ's goals in the area of superior program delivery with emphasis on the high performance stream.*
- To review technical policies and athletic plans and provide support to the staff in the development of these policies and plans.*

- To promote effective dialogue between SRNZ technical staff, key stakeholders at the regional level, and key sport organizations (WOPP, Academy of Sport, NZOC, SPARC etc.)

Specific Objectives

- Review and approve SRNZ staff recommendations regarding the development NZ Ski Team selection policy.
- Review and approve SRNZ selector's recommendations regarding the implementation of NZ Ski Team selection policy.
- Review and approve SRNZ selector's recommendations regarding other SRNZ selection policies such as FIS International Childrens races, World Championship, and World Junior Championship events.
- Support the design and implementation of a SRNZ athletic development model with the goal of promoting high performance at all levels of the sport.

It was agreed that the Alpine Director must build relationships with the member organisations. The Alpine Director (or Chief Executive) should attend the end of season debriefs that the member organisation hold, assuming the member organisations are happy for SRNZ to do so. We must endeavour to create a closer working relationship with the member organisations.

Jim gave an overview of the calendar for 2006. He advised that the calendar will be finalised by the end of November and will be uploaded on to the website.

National TD training must be improved. Jim advised that there will be training sessions on the North and South Islands prior to the beginning of the 2006 competitive season. Race Department personnel will be asked to attend the regional training sessions. These will be run by the FIS TDs, Jim Davis and David Howden.

SB will progress discussions with the NZSSSC Director and RSTs with a view to improving the quality of the schools events nationwide.

Primary school events will also be targeted for assistance as agreed at the AGM.

Homologation renewals/inspections were discussed. The meeting was advised that all are up to date. The possibility of homologating a DH at Mt Hutt over the 2005/6 summer is in question. Treble Cone is undertaking earthworks over the summer and may homologate a DH.

Team Selections

Jim spoke to the recommendations that have been circulated. These selections are for 6 months until May 06 and are based on the existing selection policy. The new selection policy will be implemented in May 06.

Moved: Miller

Seconded: Oxnevad

That the recommendations of the Selection Panel be ratified.

National Team

Nicola Campbell
Erika McLeod
Mark Bridgwater - *promoted*
Mickey Ross

National Squad

Michelle Greig
Sarah Jarvis - *promoted*
James Amott
Ben Griffin - *promoted*
Tim Cafe
Andrew Greig

National Junior Team

Michael Eyles
Rory Hill - *new*
Leighton Winsloe - *new*

Carried

Jim will advise the athletes of their selection and SB will send out team contracts to the promoted and newly selected athletes.

A Press Release will be put out once the newly selected athletes have returned their contracts.

The possibility of some form of recognition, perhaps a plaque or certificate for newly selected and retiring athletes is to be explored.

10. GENERAL

Speed Events

Jim advised that there will be 2 x ANC Super-Gs, plus a Nationals Super-G at Mt Hutt next season.

There will be a Super-G at the K race finals, this is however dependant on the venue, which is still to be finalised.

Jim does not see the need for Downhill to be run in New Zealand in the short term. There is an inherent difficulty in running DH in New Zealand: weather conditions, lack of resources, only 2/3 mountains with required vertical, lack of available mountain space for training etc.

Turoa is looking to upgrade its lifts on the upper mountain, this may give a more viable opportunity for DH in future.

The Speed Sub-committee will be retained with a view to a DH being run at Turoa or Treble Cone in 2007

Board Nominations

Following a request to the membership for nominations, one only has been received. This is for Marty Johanson.

The nomination was discussed, and it was agreed that the Board is delighted to have Marty join the Board.

SB to send all relevant information to Marty and officially welcome him to the Board.

FIS

The next FIS Congress commences on May 21st 2006, in Portugal. It was agreed that Tony would attend for SRNZ, SB to progress at the Snow Sports NZ meeting the following week.

Committee representation will be discussed with D Howden.

Scott Gange

Jim advised that Scott (an Australian) wants to ski with the NZ Mens Team during the Northern Hemisphere season.

(Scott has applied for New Zealand citizenship, and has trained over here with Wanaka for several years).

Jim advised that there have been preliminary discussions with Scott; but there is currently concern amongst the SRNZ technical staff regarding Scott joining the programme.

Jim advised that he sees no advantage to the New Zealand athletes athletically, but some advantage financially.

It was agreed that Scott would be advised that an invitation to join the team would not be extended at this time; however, the situation would be revisited if and when he gains New Zealand citizenship.

SAANZ

There is some concern amongst the Masters racers that there is a huge amount of investment going in to the terrain parks at the commercial ski areas; the users of these parks do not pay any extra over and above their lift pass to use them, and yet the ski racers have to pay for training lanes.

This has the effect that often the Masters racers do not have the opportunity to train for their races.

It was suggested that a form of NASTAR course might be possible on both the North and South Islands thereby giving people in general the opportunity to experience skiing through gates.

This sort of pay course could also create some interest from either new or existing sponsors.

SB to raise this with Duncan Smith at the SAANZ Conference next week, if possible.

Masters

Dean Sheed has advised that the competition structure of Masters needs to be much more robust in order for Volkswagen to remain associated with it. SB advised that there is a great deal of work to do to create a structure that is sustainable by SRNZ. Currently all events are run independently, often with longstanding sponsors (sometimes in conflict with VW).

It is not core business of SRNZ, many other SRNZ sanctioned events need sponsorship prior to thinking about Masters events.

Website

Peter Arnott has advised that he wants to cease managing the SRNZ website at the end of 2005. SB has asked for a quote from one web provider based in Christchurch.

Nick advised that he would look in to other possibilities.

It was agreed that Peter had done a great job over many years.

SB will progress.

Marketing Promotion and Sponsorship

Nick led a discussion about this.

SB and Nick, plus any other available assistance, will work over the summer on this.

We need a secondary sponsor for the VW Nationals, and the National Teams, and sponsors for the significant events. It was highlighted that there is good marketability in the Talent ID Programme in conjunction with the K Series events.

Strategic Plan 2006 – 2010

There was lengthy discussion about the new plan. Points raised were noted by SB. The new plan will be progressed over the summer by SB and JD and presented to the Board in draft form.

It was agreed that SB would provide the Board with a copy of the existing plan and the achievements.

This would then be forward to the membership.

Meeting closed 5.30pm

Next meeting TBC

Signed as a true and correct record:

Chairman: _____

Date: _____