**MSC – RACE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**THURSDAY 18th MARCH 2021**

In attendance: David Beech

Roger Cromblehome

Alan Edwards

Gerry Elgy

Joe Feiven

Brandon Fennell

Di Fennell

Paul Johnson

Dave Lee

Jane Lee

Richard Newboult

Andre Tchakotine

Abbey Ward

Apologies: Bryan Arnott

Bryan Thomas

Gill Weeks

1. Approval of prior minutes - approved
2. Back to Training
   1. Ackers – Tuesday 6th April – see comments in c) below
   2. Swad – Wednesday 7th April – see comments in c) below
      * Rob Taylor no longer works at Swad; we should contact Beverly Whale; Roger has confirmed that this has not changed anything re our bookings.
   3. Short-term training proposals
      * To enable training to get back up and running quickly and with minimal complexity, training will start on Tuesday 6th April at Ackers and Wednesday 7th April at Swad using the same schedule as extant before lock-down at end December. The Same Covid compliance rules and practices will also apply.
      * There will be no Thursday training as we found that it was only cost effective to run 4 days and Thursday was by far the weakest day.
      * John will populate the Eola booking system to this effect, starting Tuesday 6th April, possibly going out 3 or so weeks.
   4. Longer-term training

* Longer-term the desire is to put more structure around the training sessions and the below details a proposal prepared by Roger which, it was agreed, is a good idea and seems to meet requirements. Roger and the other coaches will spend the next few weeks (although no time limit is set) canvassing skiers and parents as to what days / locations works best and the proposal will be flexed to reflects the feed-back.
  + It may be that Race Performance (at Swad) needs to be some day other than Thursday to meet the target racers’ requirements and other days then flexed around this to suit.
  + It has been noted that, while proposed for good racing reasons, only holding Race Performance training at Swad may be structurally inaccessible to some racers who would otherwise be expected to benefit / attend these sessions. This needs to be taken into consideration when deciding on sessions and all options should be considered including, but not limited to, separate Swad / Ackers sessions or at different slopes on alternate weeks.
* ***Mondays* –** proposal is that Monday will be left as an empty night as 5 nights not economically viable and Race Performance will be Thursday at Swad as have a more suitable slope. This is a proposal only and still subject to validation and might have to reconsider depending on racers availability.
* ***Tuesdays at Ackers***: Will be aimed at**Skill Development Training**
  + 6:00 to 730pm:
    - Under 12 years of age (Under 10 and Under 12 age categories).
    - Those that are committed to racing and/or intending to race in stubbies.
    - Want to develop their skill levels higher to improve performance levels at Fun Races (Summer and winter race series) also Club National and potentially higher levels of competition.
  + 7:30 to 9:00pm:
    - 12 and over (Under 14’s and above category).
    - 12 years of age and over (Under 14 and above categories).
    - Those that are committed to racing and/or intending to race in stubbies
    - Want to develop their skill levels higher to improve performance levels at Fun Races (Summer and winter race series) also Club National and potentially higher levels of competition.
* ***Wednesdays at Swadlincote***: Will be aimed at**Skill Development Training**
  + 6:00 to 730pm:
    - Under 12 years of age (Under 10 and Under 12 age categories).
    - Those that are committed to racing and/or intending to race in stubbies
    - Want to develop their skill levels higher to improve performance levels at Fun Races (Summer and winter race series) also Club National and potentially higher levels of competition.
  + 7:30 to 9:00pm:
    - 12 and over (Under 14’s and above category).
    - 12 years of age and over (Under 14 and above categories).
    - Those that are committed to racing and/or intending to race in stubbies.
    - Want to develop their skill levels higher to improve performance levels at Fun Races (Summer and winter race series) also Club National and potentially higher levels of competition.
* ***Thursdays at Swadlincote***: As in the past will be aimed at**Race Performance Training -** (will start only when enough demand is realised)
  + 6:00 to 730pm:
    - Under 12 years of age (Under 10 and Under 12 age categories).
    - Those committed to racing competitively and will be racing in stubbies.
    - Have the skill level to develop their performance levels at Club National, GBR and Championship levels of competition.
  + 7:30 to 9:00pm:
    - 12 and over (Under 14’s and above category).
    - 12 years of age and over (Under 14 and above categories).
    - Those committed to racing competitively and will be racing in full gates.
    - Have the skill level to develop their performance levels at Club National, GBR and Championship levels of competition.
* ***Fridays at Ackers***: Will be aimed at **Recreational Skill Development**
  + 6:00 to 730pm:
    - Under 12 years of age (Under 10 and Under 12 age categories).
    - Those that want to develop their general skiing skill levels to this may involve skiing around markers and possible introductions in to racing through stubbies when abilities allow.
    - Want to develop their general skiing skill levels to enable onward progression on to other sessions and boost competency and confidence levels to a point where they can enter a fun race.
  + 7:30 to 9:00pm:
    - 12 and over (Under 14’s and above category).
    - 12 years of age and over (Under 14 and above categories).
    - Enabling families to train together.
    - Those that want to develop their general skiing skill new levels, this may involve skiing around markers, stubbies and full gates when abilities allow.
    - Want to develop their general skiing skill levels to enable onward progression on to other sessions and boost competency and confidence levels to a point where they can enter a fun race and above.
  1. April Training Camp – Swad; Tuesday 13th to Thursday 15th April
     + ***Tuesday 13th April*** at Swadlincote: 10:00am to 16:00pm - Full Gates: 12 years of age and over (Under 14 and above categories).  These sessions will have a mix of fitness, skill development and race performance. This will enable this group to get ack to Ackers and attend the late session there as well if they wish.
     + ***Wednesday 14th April*** at Swadlincote: 10:00am to 16:00pm - Stubbies: Under 12 years of age (Under 10 and Under 12 age categories. These sessions will have a mix of fitness, skill development and race performance. This will enable this group to attend the early Swadlincote session as well if they wish.
     + ***Thursday 15th April*** at Swadlincote: 10:00am to 16:00pm - Full Gates & stubbies: All age categories. Full Gates & Stubbies: All age categories. We will be running timed/race practice sessions in the afternoon for all categories on varying courses
  2. Ski Racing Supplies wish to attend our camp – Tuesday 13th, this is the only day they can do due to commitments at other camps. Joe to confirm back to Ollie and Pete that this is fine with the RSG but they (SRS) need to confirm OK with Beverly at Swad

1. CN – Stoke, 10th July
   1. No significant changes since last race and so no need for Jane to visit at present
   2. First Aid – cannot rely on slope first aid alone. The decided solution is that slope will provide First Aid as before but we will have a dedicated first aider for the day. We need a volunteer, it was suggested that maybe Toby Carver or some other suitably qualified current coach / instructor who would not be racing on the day might be willing to fill this role.
   3. Jane will prepare an Emergency Medical Assessment (EMA) and Abbey will review to ensure compliance with Covid regulations and other medical requirements – a new compliance list is anticipated issued (by SSE?) on 8th Feb. Jane will prepare a similar plan for the Swad event.
   4. We will use Stoke’s poles and stubbies for the CN (but may take our stubbies as easier to transport and sometimes Stoke are short for a full course)
   5. Use our bibs for our CN but Telford will need to get their own / borrow from SSE to meet Covid sanitation requirements.
   6. Still awaiting the new, recommended SSE format as to how CNs / GBs etc should be run to meet Covid requirements.
   7. Jane has talked to Dave Hanlon about the CESA CN and Dave will act as organiser for this event. Jane has proposed work split for this at Swad between CESA; Telford; Midland.
   8. Swad homologation is given “subject to” start area being improved and pylons having padding – plus finish area being tidied / laid to Astro-turf. Jane will add these requirements to her race planning.
2. Club Questionnaire
   1. Had over 80 responses, some covering families – so response good.
   2. Basic conclusion is that most people are happy with most of what we are doing.
   3. Preliminary analysis sent out to MSC group and since then have had 7 more replies. Questionnaire now closed.
   4. John will finish the analysis in the next week or so and send out.
   5. John did draw, live on the call – Jane won.
   6. RSG thanked Roger for his work in putting this together – and John for his analysis
3. Timing Gear long-term strategy
   1. The timing sub-group identified that the critical item in the Club’s timing was the Alge timing computer – we are currently running a Timy1 which is old, at risk of failure and out of homologation in 2027. We have the option to buy a latest generation Timy3 at an attractively reduced price (£753) and recommended that the Club purchase this.
   2. The sub-group also recommended the purchase of two suitable carry cases (with foam inserts) such that 4 distinct kits could be created for different activities. Battery recharge packs will also be required to make these stand-alone and to ensure ready availability of fully charged equipment
   3. A future, nice-to-have option is the purchase of a MT1 unit (circa £600). This is similar to the Timy3 and enables a simplified timing system to be established for training purposes. It seems sensible to wait a while to see how adoption / acceptance of the technology goes (it works via GPS / mobile phone) and then make any decision in the light of this and Club funds available
   4. The main Committee meeting approved the spend for the Alge Timy3 device
4. Any Other Items
   1. AGM will be 2nd September (provisionally) – will try to do by Zoom
      * Gerry will stand down at this meeting – so candidates please
   2. Have had two volunteers to be welfare officer (Abbey and Joe). Best practice is that we have two and so we gratefully accept both their self-nominations.
   3. Our website says we do not run training for persons with disabilities – a better wording is to say “we do not run Adaptive training”.
   4. Clothing
      * Expenditure approved for Coaches’ uniforms and Di has proceeded with this.
      * Mike Thomas has ordered a Zip top but found it included “racing” on in the logo - which is not appropriate for him. Di has suggested to the supplier that a logo is made available without “racing” for use by social members.
      * Di has subsequently had confirmation from supplier that the items she suggested will appear on our club pages in the next one to two weeks, with the option of embroidered Midland Ski Club or *MSC in place of the logo*
   5. We still have to order the panels for the GS poles – Di has some prices from Ollie; £8.50 plus VAT plain or £12.50 plus VAT embroidered.
   6. Need to change the banner at Swad to unify Arrows with MSC
   7. Race Manager position - deferred to this call
      * It was suggested that this might be something Andre would / could do. Joe suggested having others to assist in this role. Andre has subsequently suggested that two roles are created, one for Under 12s and one for Over 12s, as the roles may be slightly different and fit better with family structures. This seems an entirely sensible suggestion.
      * Andre asked that draft role requirements be circulated so that those potentially interested can assess fit. It should be noted that the role, to a large extent, can be what each manager wishes to make of it. Gerry has sent out existing descriptions for all to consider, including how they may be amended to fit two separate roles.
      * With respect to the Over 12 role, Di has subsequently discussed this with Andy Orzel who has expressed a keen interest in this. Adam is apparently hoping to come back to dry and both Emilia and Adam will be doing snow. Andy has been around the Club and race circuit for a long time and knows the in's and out's and also already knows most of the parents.
      * With respect to the Under 12 role, Joe has asked Les Jones whether he would be interested in taking on the position and he has expressed his interest if that is what the committee want.  Over at least the past two seasons he has been attending Club Nationals, where Tommy is one of our fastest racers in U12, and also assists newer parents with Ski Prep at sessions, helps them with deciding and entering races and has helped Joe at the races in Pila.
      * It looks as though we have a number of strong, potential Race Managers and they would all be an asset to the club – it could be that we have more than 2 and they could act in concert to ease the load on each, while concentrating on the age group most relevant to them.
   8. Jane has agreed to represent Midland on behalf of our officials with SSE.
   9. Roger (and Beverly) have discussed the Swad timing hut (or lack of) and Swad have stated that they will not have the funds available to build a new one this year (before he left, Rob got a quote for £2k) and are looking for contributions for anyone to fund this. Jane made the point that we were attracting skiers / race events to the slope which generates revenue for them. Brian T will be talking to John Nike about this. If need be, we can use a (suitably weighted) gazebo - power has apparently been tested close to platform. At some point MSC would also like a start ramp etc.
   10. Joe commented that the BASI web-site has a jobs board which we might be able to use to attract coaches – Joe verified that we do not have to pay. It was subsequently commented that SSE also have jobs wed-site and it was decided to look at posting on both – having noted that both organisations are in competition with each other in this (and similar) areas.
   11. Provisional date of next meeting – provisionally Thursday 29th April.