

Snowsport Scotland
Meeting of Clubs to discuss Modernisation in Scotland and the UK
7 December 2005

Present:

Paul Hancock, Steven Gray, Bill Gray, Tony Trayner, John Liddell, Kay Bates, Peter Bates, Gillian Glover, Bill Aitken, Lewis Grant, Ed Guest, Susie Berry, Fiona McNeilly, Peter Kuwall, Charlie Wright, Nigel Brown, Sam Montgomery, Bruce Crawford.

Apologies:

Mike Hurst, Roy Smart, John Clayton, Katie Barnett, Peter Ord, Brian McIntosh, Brian Adams

The meeting was opened by a welcome from the chair and a quick summary of the current UK modernisation position from John Liddell.

A statement was circulated on the current Snowsport Scotland Board's position. This statement is to be issued to all of the other organisations involved in the process.

"From our initial consultations with the clubs in Scotland, a purely centralised UK structure will not be acceptable. We believe however that modernisation/evolution of snowsports in the UK is required and our clubs would proactively support such modernisation. If change is worth doing, it is worth doing right and may take more time. We are now beginning our consultation with clubs in Scotland."

A range of views were expressed from the floor about the process that has happened in the development of the UK (BOB) proposals. These views (in no particular order) were wide ranging and are represented as:

- Need for more information before able to develop a view
- Support for change
- Need to justify all reasons for making any changes
- Support for Bob proposal or something like it
- Rejection of the BOB proposal
- Support for keeping existing Home Nations, further developing strengths
- Need to make changes at British level

Following the lively discussion, issues of concern in Scotland and/or the UK were taken from the floor: (recorded on the flip chart)

- Need to keep Scottish Delivery that is accountable to the Scottish Clubs
- Need to work together (eg. FAST camps are working well)
- Need better clarity of structures
- Duplication of volunteer time
- Lack of volunteers
- Travel costs (to events)
- Threat of clubs leaving membership
- This consultation process
- Trust in all bodies
- Coach and tutor qualifications
- Future finance
- Attracting sponsors
- Need more discounts
- Need better insurance deals
- Risk analysis needs to be conducted
- Lack of snow is a concern
- Marginalisation of non-alpine skiing disciplines
- Need more continuity
- Racing structure
- Performance pathways
- Communication from GB
- Lack of accountability

This list is just the start of the process and it was agreed to set up a working group out-with the board, the working group would have 6-8 members, from a broad range of our clubs. Nobody volunteered at the meeting though Bill Aitken and Sam Montgomery would consider this and respond to the email. It was agreed that the board would put this information out in an email and on paper as well as putting it on the web. Copies would be sent to the clubs, board and honorary officers and any others present.

Anyone interested in being involved in the working group should email: bruce@snowsportscotland.org or call the office to express their interest. The group would be appointed by the Board, with details published on the web.