

## **BOWLES SKI RACE CLUB**

### **AGM 2023 minutes – Friday 6th October 2023**

James Currie opened the meeting, remarking on the strong attendance for the Bowles Fun Race and the number of members attending the AGM.

#### **Apologies for absence**

Mark Oliver, Tim Fox and John Makonnen gave advance notice to the club secretary that they would be unable to attend.

#### **Approval of minutes from last AGM**

The 2022 AGM minutes were given approval by those members in attendance.

#### **Treasurer's report**

Nigel Hilliard advised members that the club bank account has a balance which opened the year at £1,234.19 and had grown to £1,773.06. Income from Subs had increased to £1,914 for the year end 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 from £1,641 from the previous year. During the year, equipment costs were £237.35, covering a replacement Gazebo, food for AGM and Fun races was approximately £500, medals were £380 (although Nigel advised that he had done a bulk purchase so that we shouldn't expect the cost to be repeated in the following year), SnowSport England costs of £285 and website costs of £29.99.

Nigel advised that he uses a conservative membership base on which to ensure that the expected income for 2023/4 is expected to be sufficient to cover costs, and that 40 members would raise £1400 at £35 each. This was deemed sufficient to cover expected outgoings.

Nigel advised that we actually had 73 members.

#### **Trainers' comments**

Simon Everitt it was good to see so many members at the club and so many Bowles racers taking part in regional events. Particularly pleasing was the hosting of the LSERSA race at Bowles, which hadn't happened for a while and indeed winning the club teams slalom event, which is a rare occurrence for the Bowles team. In total 72 medals had been won to date during the year.

#### **Review of "Over the Hill"**

James Currie introduced the subject, saying that it had been running for a year and sought members views. Fergus Caheny read a comment from John Makonnen on the topic which read

"There are roughly 100 training sessions a year at Bowles. The "over the hill" takes 12 away from that number. If you're really keen to race train there are 50 LSERSA Chatham sessions to add to the Bowles sessions. Personally, I believe ski racing would not happen without the parents and this gives

1. insight into what the kids go through
2. Helps some improve their own skills so that when they take the kids away they can cope on the mountain
3. Rewards with some top class training so they can improve and enjoy their skiing
4. Give them some confidence to actually ski race

I believe the over the hill sessions are very worthwhile and help encourage parents to understand and participate in skiing."

Caroline Neall also expressed her opinion that it really helps what you children are going through and how challenging it can be. Josh Wakeling stated that the actual attendance levels for the “Over the Hill” session were not statistically different to the other Tuesday sessions. James Currie stated that his introduction to racing had been through the session, which Steven Nelson also agreed with. Fergus Caheny said that it seemed that being a race club it seemed that we shouldn’t be leaving spots for people who wanted to train empty, as for some Tuesday was a more available option. However, he recognised his view was in the minority. Simon Everitt was asked if he enjoyed coaching the session, which he said he did. It was resolved that the Over the Hill session would continue in the current format.

#### **Election or re-election of Club Officers**

President - John Makonnen remains in post

Chairman – Tom Wontner standing for re-election – seconded Nigel Hilliard

Treasurer – Nigel Hilliard standing for re-election – seconded Simon Everitt

Child Welfare – Jenni Watts standing for re-election –seconded James Currie

Club Secretary – James Currie standing for re-election – seconded Simon Everitt

Athletes’ Rep – Stella Pople standing for re-election – seconded James Currie

#### **AOB**

Anthony Forte asked about obtaining dual slalom timing equipment. Dom Wakeling explained that LSERSA and Snowsport South were having issues with their dual slalom equipment. The dual slalom equipment is custom built and requires strong technical and coding knowledge. Both LSERSA and Snowsport South are attempting to build new dual slalom equipment and it was resolved that if success was achieved from either of those initiatives that Bowles could then ask for assistance to build their own. Further discussion re the different timing brands also followed.

Caroline Neall generously donated some skiwear to whoever it would best fit.

Jenny Watts highlighted that a safeguarding section had been added to the Bowles Website, where various policies relating to safeguarding had been published, including anti-bullying policy, social media policy and snow safe policies. Link to the website is below.

<https://www.bowlesskiracingclub.org.uk/safeguarding/>

James Currie advised that he had reviewed the club’s whatsapp membership and that he believed all were over 16 and members of Bowles.

Josh Wakeling advised that he still had the admin rights to the Bowles Ski racing Instagram account (although acknowledged that he had not posted for a while). There ensued some questions around best practice on posting photos with children with names identifying the children. Jenni Watts advised she would contact SnowSport England to clarify if there was guidance on the matter.

Steven Nelson enquired whether a later session would be possible for Over the Hill. Nigel Hilliard and Simon Everitt explained that the slope was booked from 7p.m. until 9p.m., so 9pm was likely to be too late to commence a training session.

In closing, James Currie thanked the coaches, Nigel, Simon and Toby for their efforts.