

To the:  
- Members of the Committee for Speed Skiing

For information to:  
- National Ski Associations  
- Gian Franco Kasper  
- Sarah Lewis

**INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION**

Blochstrasse 2  
3653 Oberhofen/Thunersee  
Switzerland  
Tel +41 33 244 61 61  
Fax +41 33 244 61 71

Oberhofen, 14.06.2011  
I:\SPEED SKIING\Meetings\2011\Portoroz\Layout minutes SS  
Portoroz.doc

**Minutes Meeting Committee for Speed Skiing  
Hotel Bernardin, Portoroz (SLO), Friday, 03.06.2011**

Dear Speed Skiing Friends,

We have pleasure sending you today the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee for Speed Skiing held in Portoroz (SLO), 3<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

We would also like to take the opportunity of informing you that the minutes are available on the Member Services section of the FIS Website: [www.fis-ski.com](http://www.fis-ski.com).

Thank you very much for your valuable contribution. We wish you an enjoyable and beautiful summer.

Kind regards,

**INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION**

Dick Taplin  
Chairman Committee for Speed Skiing

**Enclosure: Minutes.**

**INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION  
Committee for Speed Skiing**

**Invitation Meeting Committee for Speed Skiing  
Friday, 03.06.2011, 10.00 – 18.00 hrs, Conference Room “Adria 1”**

**AGENDA**

1. Roll call
2. Welcome by Chairman
3. Accept minutes of last meeting:
  - Zürich (2 Oct 2010) (attached)
4. Matters arising (not covered elsewhere in Agenda)
5. World Championships – Verbier (18 – 20 April 2011)
  - Report from those present
6. Plans for World Championships 2013 and later
  - 2013 – Sun Peaks (CAN)?
  - 2015 – San Domenico (ITA)/ Pas de la Cas/Grandvalira (AND)?
  - 2017 - ?
7. 2010/11 World Cup season reports
  - Nation’ Cup winners
  - Individual winners
  - Race cancellations (Vars/FRA)
  - Trophies
8. FIS races:
  - Pas de la Cas/Grandvalira (AND)
9. Outline Calendar for 2011/12 season
  - Bids requested
10. Homologation Issues (Luc Cristina)
  - Potential new pistes: Slovenia (Chairman)
  - San Domenico (D. Berthod)
  - Visit to NZE (L. Cristina)
11. Working Group (TD WG) Report (Luc Cristina)
  - Speed Rule changes:
  - To be advised
12. Sponsorship Reports
13. Any Other Business
14. Dates of next meeting – Zürich (SUI) Sat 8 Oct

**All proposals and decisions of the Committee for Speed Skiing are subject to the approval of the FIS Council in Ljubljana (SLO), 06.06.2011**

**1. Roll call**

<b>Ordinary Members</b>	<b>Nation</b>	<b>Remarks</b>	<b>Substitutes</b>
TAPLIN Dick	GBR	Chairman	
ANTOR Nadal (NA)	AND		
BAR Jean-Louis (JLB)	FRA		
CHRISTOPHERSEN Ingrid	GBR	(Ladies Cttee)	
KJELLSTROM Per (PK)	SWE		
MONTICONE Alberto (AM)	ITA		
PYM Dave	CAN	Items 6, 11	Richard BEARE
 <b>Guests:</b>			
BILLY Philippe	FRA	FFSV member	
CATTANEO Francesco	FIS	IT Manager	
COZZI Marco	ITA	FIS TD	
LESSING Judith	FIS	Secretary	
 <b>Excused:</b>			
CRISTINA Luc	SUI		
BEARE Richard	CAN		
HÄKKINEN Kalevi	FIN		
MAY Philippe	SUI		

**2. Welcome by Chairman**

The Chairman welcomed all attendees to Portoroz – the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting that has been held there. He passed on the good wishes from Kalevi Hakkinen and Luc Cristina; the latter had provided suggestions following a meeting of the TD WG in Geneva, and these were discussed early in order that recommendations could be drafted for the FIS Council meeting on 6 June.

The Chairman reported that it had been a somewhat mixed season, with the low point being the cancellation of the World Cup in Vars because of a catastrophic avalanche destroying so much hard work. Positively, we started the season with a race on a brand new piste in Andorra (Grandvalira) – with many thanks to Nadal for his initiative. Hakki advised that he won a SL on that hill in 1955. There was also another first rate World Speed Ski Championships in Verbier-Nendaz under the direction of Philippe May and Alex Barblan.

**3. Accept minutes of last meeting**

The Committee accepted the last minutes, from Zurich on 2 October 2010, as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

**4. Matters arising (not covered elsewhere in Agenda)**

The Chairman briefly covered the matters arising from the previous meeting, as follows:

**Action 1: Francesco Cattaneo** was to investigate Nations Cup programme. *The 2011 listing had again been produced by Jean-Lou Montes (who is thanked). Francesco would ensure that a programme was in place for the 2012 season.*

**Action 2: All** to advise World Championships organisers to recognise the 'Best Junior at the World Championships'. *This was done at Verbier-Nendaz, with Jean-Lou Montes presenting a trophy.*

**Action 3: Jean-Louis Bar** to investigate if Les Arcs wished to run a FIS race to open the season, applying the current limited homologation. *This race did not take place because of snow and organisational difficulties. However, Philippe Billy indicated that Les Arcs were interested in future races, as discussed in Item 6.*

**Action 4: Chairman** to pass details of Speed Ski programme to CEO of LISSKI (Dr Diego Parigi) so the latter can investigate possible sponsorship in kind. *This was passed on to LISSKI, but it was felt that they could not provide much help in 2011. Decision: The Chairman would pass on details for the 2012 calendar.*

**Action 5: Luc Cristina** to advise all TDs of rules for expenses. *This was done.*

**Action 6: Jean-Louis Bar** was to investigate with Vars the possibility of Verbier-Nendaz running SDH WC Finals. *It was felt that this would confuse the World Cup races with the World Championships, which was not to be encouraged. As it transpired, the Vars event had to be cancelled, meaning that Hundfjallet was the last World Cup race of the season, and the alternate WC prizegiving in Verbier-Nendaz was overshadowed by the World Championships.*

**Action 7: Chairman** to write to FIS Council requesting permission for Verbier-Nendaz to run World Championships to the full homologated potential of the piste. *This was done, and we have now been advised that this dispensation is in force in perpetuity for both Verbier and Vars, subject to weather and safety considerations.*

**Action 8: Chairman** to contact Adam Earle with offer from Verbier-Nendaz to demonstrate their organisation and assist with budget. *Adam attended, and was very well hosted and briefed by the Verbier-Nendaz OC.*

**Action 9: Alberto Monticone** to investigate progress with homologation of San Domenico, and thence future race programme. *San Domenico has been removed as a potential piste.*

**Action 10: Judith Lessing** to request if Salla can hold their WC races from 21-23 March, **Per Kjellstrom** to ask Idre/Hundfjallet if they could run 25-29 March), and **Jean-Louis Bar** to ask Vars if they would be able to start a day later on 9 April. *The timetable was resolved before the start of the season.*

**Action 11: Chairman** to contact AUT Ski Federation (Dieter Posch) about having an AUT representative on the Speed Ski Committee. *OESV has been approached, and Klaus Leistner has since responded, asking about AUT speedski representation.*

**Action 12: Chairman** to write to FIS Council to request that budget set for Blake Andreassen (CAN) to come to Europe be used instead for a European TD to go to Sun Peaks. *This was done, and Walter Druetti attended Sun Peaks.*

**Action 13: Judith Lessing** to update Speed Rules with the agreed precisions from 2008-2010. *This has been done – next publication of integral rules will be in 2012.*

**Action 14: Judith Lessing** to investigate whether any disciplines within FIS had a system for moving athletes equipment (skis etc) rapidly and cheaply between race locations. *Nothing suitable located for our programme.*

**Action 15: All** to note that next meeting would be in Portoroz (SLO) in the period 31 May to 5 June. *The Committee members were present ...*

***The Committee then moved to Item 11 – Rule Changes – in order to provide a report for FIS Council.***

**5. World Championships – Verbier (18 – 21 April 2011)**

The WSC had passed off well, and without injury. The winners in each category were congratulated on their performances: in Ladies S1 these were Karine Dubouchet (FRA), Linda Baginski (SWE) and Sanna Tidstrant (SWE); in Mens S1, Simone Origone (ITA), his brother Ivan Origone (ITA) and Bastien Montes (FRA) 3<sup>rd</sup>; and in Mens SDH, Markus Münzer (AUT) won, from Gregory Meichtry (SUI) and Stefano Bar (FRA). The committee also congratulated the winners in the SDH(Jun) classes – Sara Niemi (SWE) for the girls and Erik Backlund (SWE) for the boys – whose participation and performance was a great testimony to the work by the Swedish Federation to attract and train younger racers for Speed Skiing.

Those who had been present congratulated the Verbier-Nendaz OC for all their hard work. Unfortunately, the new start ramp had not been able to be used because a lack of snow depth led to too steep an angle to use; hope was expressed that suitable amendments could be made for future events. There were some minor criticisms of organization: a lack of skipasses for the reserve day's racing; no 'flower ceremony' on the piste; and some concern that the 'CAT line' fencing was insufficiently anchored to stop a racer who might lose their footing. That said, all were very satisfied and grateful for Verbier-Nendaz's efforts, particularly the work done by the Pisteurs to prepare an excellent track.

**6. Plans for World Championships 2013 and later**

a. **2013.** With Dave Pym present, the Committee discussed the possibility of the 2013 World Speed Ski Championships being held in Sun Peaks (CAN). All were agreed that it was their aspiration that North American (and Far East) racers should be given the opportunity of a championships. However, it was clear that Sun Peaks had concerns over raising sufficient sponsorship in the short term to stage a memorable event, and to pay the FIS race fees. Consequently, advice was taken that we should consider an event in 2015 to be more likely.

At this point the FRA delegate advised that FRA would be happy to stage the World Speed Ski Championships 2013 in France. Their first choice would be using a newly aligned piste in Les Arcs, but always having a default of using Vars, as necessary.

**Decision: The Committee unanimously agreed to recommend that France be awarded the 2013 World Speed Ski Championships, and that this should be advised to the FIS Council.**

***{Chairman's Note: At its 6 June meeting, FIS Council set the proposal aside, pending a nomination of a specific venue. They also took this action for a number of other, non-Speed, championship proposals.}***

b. **2015.** Following the discussion above, the Committee agreed that their preferred option for 2015 would be Sun Peaks (CAN). NA advised that, if CAN were unable to confirm their participation for 2015, Grandvalira (AND) would be honoured to stage these Championships.

**Decision: The Committee unanimously agreed to support Sun Peaks as the preferred candidate for the 2015 World Speed Ski Championships, subject to this being officially confirmed by the time of the next Congress.**

***{Chairman's Note: At its 6 June meeting, FIS Council did not reject Sun Peaks as a candidate. However, they did reject the idea that the FIS fee could be reduced or waived.}***

c. **2017.** SWE advised that they would be interested in holding these Championships in 2017.

**Decision: The Committee noted Sweden's interest in holding the 2017 World Speed Ski Championships.**

#### **7. 2010/11 World Cup season reports**

The committee noted that there had been a total of 6 World Cup races in 2011, with the Final in Vars being, most unfortunately, cancelled because of avalanche damage. Philippe Billy assured the meeting that the damage would be cleared away, and the piste made better than before. There was discussion over the Sun Peaks piste, and concerns were expressed over the two 'rollers' in the course of the piste, and the hope that these might be removed or reduced by earth or snow moving in future years. The Committee requested any injury statistics from Sun Peaks.

**Decision: The Chairman is to contact Sun Peaks (via the Canadian Ski Federation) to ascertain if there are any injury statistics from the past decade.**

In the Nations' Cup event, SWE came first, followed by ITA and AUT – and there is a very positive hope that AUT will take a more active part in both race organisation and in this committee in future years.

At an individual level, congratulations must be given to the Origone brothers, who have retained their prime positions in the World Cup circuit and also to Christian Jansson (SWE) who was in 3<sup>rd</sup> place – after many years of effort, it was good to see him on the overall podium. In the Ladies event, Sanna Tidstrand and Linda Baginski topped the World Cup rankings – both from SWE – with Jennifer Romano (FRA) in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. At SDH Mens' level, there was a tie for first place – and the Hakkinen Trophy – between Stefano Bar (ITA) and Sebastien Lindblom (SWE). Erik Backlund – also SWE – headed the SDH(Jun) rankings, and was awarded the Montes Trophy. There were insufficient contenders for either the Kjellstrom Trophy (best SDH(Jun) lady) or the Taplin Trophy (best SDH Lady).

#### **8. FIS races**

With the non-participation of Les Arcs, the only FIS race of the season was held at Grandvalira in Andorra. This had gone very well, with 14 new speedskiers joining the competition, including 6 from AND. The course was described as safe but 'technical', and the best time recorded during the race was nearly 162 kph (by committee member Philippe May (SUI)). It has been agreed by the TDs that Grandvalira was cleared to run a World Cup race in 2012, and suggested that some thought should be given to both the profile and the stopping zone for this piste.

There was considerable discussion over whether Les Arcs would be able to hold a FIS race in 2012, which included their aspirations to hold a World Speed Ski Championships in 2013. Philippe Billy advised that Les Arcs wished to greatly improve their piste, by moving it some 20 m to the right (looking up the hill), pisting out the mogul field further right, and stopping casual skiing on that slope to restrict future mogul creation. It was agreed that Les Arcs would need to hold at least one FIS race and one WC race before they could run a WSC. Philippe Billy agreed to carry this information back to the FFSV and the resort.

**Decision: If Les Arcs wish to hold the 2013 World Speed Ski Championships, they will need to have the piste reinspected and possibly rehomologated prior to the 2012 season, and would then need to hold a FIS race prior to a World Cup race in 2012 (Action: Jean-Louis Bar (organisation), Luc Cristina (homologation)).**

AM advised that the new track at San Domenico had been shelved for the moment. Conversely, there was the potential to resurrect the Bardonecchia piste suggested in 2005 by Walter Duetti, and ITA would appreciate being able to prove this piste with a FIS race in 2012, subject to its homologation.

#### 9. Outline Calendar for 2011/12 season

The FIS Office (Judith Lessing) had requested bids for races in 2012, and Sun Peaks (CAN), Grandvalira (AND) and Idre/Hundfjallet (SWE) had responded. In addition, both Bardonecchia and Les Arcs needed to be considered (see para 8 above), and Hakki had indicated that there was also a chance that Salla might be able to put on a pair of World Cup races.

After considerable discussion and consideration of alternate dates, the committee agreed the following outline programme for 2012:

Date	Location	Comment
<i>mid-Feb 2012</i>	<i>Bardonecchia (ITA)</i>	<i>FIS race - To be confirmed</i>
<b>24/25 Feb 2012</b>	<b>Grandvalira (AND)</b>	<b>1 x WC race</b>
<b>1-4 Mar 2012</b>	<b>Sun Peaks (CAN)</b>	<b>2 x WC races</b>
<i>(7-10 Mar 2012)</i>	<i>Salla (FIN)</i>	<i>Potential for 2 x WC, if dates suit the resort.</i>
14/15 Mar & 16/17 Mar	Hundfjallet and Idre (SWE)	2 x WC races
<b>23-25 Mar 2012</b>	<b>Vars (FRA)</b>	<b>1 x WC race</b>
<b>26 Mar – 5 Apr</b>	<b>Vars (FRA)</b>	<b>Speed Masters event (non FIS)</b>
<i>mid Apr (between 7 and 20 Apr)</i>	<i>Les Arcs (FRA)</i>	<i>1 x FIS race 1 x WC</i>
<b>23-25 Apr</b>	<b>Verbier (SUI)</b>	<b>1 x WC (Final) (assumed)</b>
<b>26-28 Apr</b>	<b>Verbier (SUI)</b>	<b>Speed Masters events (non FIS)</b>

(**Note:** details in bold are agreed. Items in red are non-FIS events. Remainder to be confirmed, as at 5 June 2011)

**Decision: All delegates to confirm these dates and locations with their home nations, and to ensure that formal requests are then made to FIS.**

**{Chairman's Note: SWE have subsequently advised that, because of a lack of available netting, Idre/Hundfjallet cannot move their dates, and would have to maintain their proposal of 24/26 March (Idre) and 27/28 (Hundfjallet)}.**

#### 10. Homologation Issues (Luc Cristina)

The TD WG had considered homologation issues for several pistes.

- As advised above, **San Domenico** is not currently going forward.
- ITA have identified **Bardonecchia** as a potential new piste, and this will need homologating by Luc Cristina.
- Philippe Billy has advised that **Les Arcs** is considering changes to their piste location (see point 8), and this would require a (re)homologation visit to verify.

- Valentin Muntzer (AUT) has suggested that **Tarvisio** might have a suitable piste, but this has not been confirmed by ITA; Tarvisio lies very close to the AUT and SLO borders.
- Finally, the Chairman has been to see the Ski Flying hill at **Planica** (SLO) (also on the AUT/ITA border and about 20 km from Tarvisio), and is awaiting further technical details for the hill from its management.
- There has not been any further contact with regard to a possible piste in NZE, and it was felt that this option should be dropped for the moment.

The committee was advised that Cervinia would not be seeking any speed events in the near future. The new owners had made it clear that the speed organisation in Cervinia had been personally under-written by Sig Cravetto for some time.

## 11. Working Group (TD WG) Report (Luc Cristina)

Luc Cristina apologised for his absence, and had provided a copy of his notes from the meeting of the TD WG in Geneva on 14 May. The committee noted comments about the conduct of races throughout the season, and considered 6 specific rules proposals:

1. **WC Points.** The case was made that there is no logical reason why only the S1 Mens WC points should start at 100 points, and all others at 25 points. It was unanimously agreed that Rule 1233.10.3 should be amended to include only the single '100 point' table, and that all events (S1, SDH, SDH(Jun) for both sexes) should now use this single table.
2. **SDH Skis.** The current rule is **1234.1**, and specifies: "SDH and SDH(Jun) class skis must be standard production downhill skis, as defined in the FIS Equipment Specifications, and no longer than 2.25 m. DH skis conforming to previous Specifications, between 2.15 and 2.25 m in length may also be used."

It was agreed that current, shorter skis are potentially less stable at high speed, and that longer skis are preferable. Hence, the wording is to be amended to read: 'SDH and SDH(Jun) class skis must be standard production downhill skis, as defined in ~~the current or former~~ FIS Equipment Specifications, and ~~no longer than 2.25 m. DH skis conforming to previous Specifications,~~ between 2.10 and 2.25 m in length ~~may also be used~~

3. **Fairings.** TDs advise that accurate measurement of fairings is difficult, and the application of the rule that front fairings are not allowed is unenforceable. Consequently, it was agreed that Rule **1234.7** should be changed as follows:

*....the maximum depth of fairings, measured ~~from the front of the shin and parallel to the ground~~ perpendicular to the leg, must not exceed 30 cm.*

- *front fairings ~~may not be worn~~ must be rounded*

4. **Red line.** The precisions to Rule **1232.5.2** specify "Timing zone: red border markings. In addition, ~~the end of the timing zone must be marked across its entire width by a red colored line on the snow; this should be between 2m and 5m after the timing cells.~~ This line must be at least 30 cm broad, and clearly visible from the competition track." It was agreed that the line should increase in width from 30 cm to 50 cm broad to make it clearer for both athletes and spectators, including TV.

5. **Reserve Day.** Our current rules (1234.1) include a provision for a Reserve Day. In practice this day is rarely used and creates a major limitation for both organizers and competitors who need to plan their movements many months in



advance. It was agreed that reserve days should be taken out of the Rules. Thus, single events will now require only 2 days (under 180 kph) or 3 days (over 180 kph), with 3 days for a double event (when the first event must be under 180 kph).

6. **Gloves.** Rule 1234.4 advises that gloves must be worn to protect the hands. It was agreed that these have to be standard items for SDH racers, and so the rule should now read “*Athletes must wear gloves to protect their hand; for SDH, these may not be plasticised”.*

**Decision: Chairman to advise these changes to FIS Council for its agreement.**

***{Chairman’s Note: At its 6 June meeting, FIS Council accepted all these Rule changes.}***

***{Chairman’s Note: PK sought an agreement that the timing trap at non-FIS races could be reduced to 50 m in place of the current 100m in order to help the sport develop on smaller hills at a national level. It is noted that this dispensation was originally given in Oct 2006 for the 2007 season, and suggested that it be agreed to add this change permanently in October.}***

***{Chairman’s Note: PK has subsequently clarified that he was specifically seeking dispensation for FIS races to be allowed to use the shorter trap, and asked that this should be discussed in October.}***

## **12. Sponsorship Reports**

The Chairman advised that the major limitation on the sport was the lack of money to pay resorts and provide prizes to athletes. Such funding could only come from sponsorship, and there was little around at present. Three points were made:

1. Subaru are noted as sponsoring individual WC races in 2 locations (Sun Peaks and Hundfjallet). There might be potential to find blanket sponsorship for the whole Speedski WC circuit from Subaru International.
2. It was suggested that all committee members might seek the assistance of a professional sponsorship company on a ‘no win, no fee’ basis.
3. Alex Barblan (SUI) has suggested that a meeting of all OCs be held to try to find an overall sponsor. This was strongly supported.

**Decision: All committee members to review their contacts to seek a sponsorship partner on a ‘no win, no fee’ basis.**

**Decision: The Chairman to contact Alex Barblan to encourage his actions to find an overall WC sponsor.**

## **13. Any Other Business**

a. **Racer Registration.** There was considerable discussion on problems faced by a number of athletes whose national federation either make registration very expensive – despite there being no FIS registration fee to pay – or which exclude the discipline entirely and thus give the athlete no help. The Committee agreed that this is potentially unsporting, and encourages all nations to treat Speed Skiers fairly. As a minimum, NFs should: process athletes’ applications and register them with the FIS; verify insurance provisions and athletes’ declarations; undertake all these activities for a minimal additional fee.

**Decision: the Chairman to seek FIS Office support in encouraging NFs to act responsibly towards Speed Skiing.**

b. **CAT line.** It was noted that the purpose of the CAT line (named after CAitlin Tovar (GBR) who died on 17 April 2007) was to provide a positive barrier to stop athletes from accidentally sliding down the hill on their way to their start position. Consequently, if a CAT line could not be fixed so as to achieve that role, the committee observed that the start position should be moved to a position where the CAT line was secure.

c. **French Speed TD.** Jean-Lou Montes has advised that Bernard Lirot was interested in becoming a FIS Speed TD. The Chairman advised that the normal route was for a TD to be FIS Alpine qualified, and then take a conversion course with Luc Cristina to become Speed Ski qualified, although other events (eg Telemark) were looking at a process of converting National TDs to FIS TDs in the specific discipline directly.

**Decision: JLB would advise M Lirot to contact Luc Cristina directly.**

d. **Racing Helmets.** There was considerable discussion about new marques of racing helmet, for S1 racers, which would meet established certification. AM advised that he was in consultation with a specialist helmet producer in ITA, and hoped to bring a prototype helmet for the committee's consideration at the October meeting.

**14. Dates of next meeting**

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held in Zurich Airport Hilton on Sat 8 Oct 2011 at 10.00.

The following meeting would be held at the FIS Congress in Gangwon Province (KOR). A number of attendees expressed their concern that this would be both expensive and difficult to attend, and so consideration should be given to holding an earlier meeting in Europe, possibly in conjunction with one of the races.

The meeting closed at 17.20.

R K TAPLIN (GBR)  
Chairman Committee for Speed Skiing