**Jan 28th, 2025 **

**AOAC Meeting Minutes**

**In attendance**: Pat Biggs, Geneviève Fortin-Robinson, Bob Real, Tim Buchanan, Nick Bubela, Thomas Trusler, Tori Johnston, Shawn Banfield

**Absent:** Joey Lavigne, Jacques Reid

## Action Items

* [ ] Pat to Reach out to the three potential host sites (Alpine, Osler, GP) to confirm the schedule details.
* [ ] Tori Send a note to all U16 coaches to notify them of the new proposal to start the event on Thursday for U16 OCUP Finals
* [ ] Get feedback from the out-of-town teams on the impact of an extra night's accommodation.
* [ ] Check with Dave on the possibility of having U14 athletes train and watch the World Cup race on the Saturday.
* [ ] Communicate the changes to athletes, parents, and coaches by Thursday.

## Outline

### Challenges with Calabogie and Event Relocation

* Patrick Biggs discusses the challenges faced by the Calabogie club, including a strained relationship with the resort owners.
* The club has decided to walk away from operating at the facility, affecting about 60 kids and 40 families.
* Patrick emphasizes the need for a new host to guarantee high-quality race events.
* He seeks feedback on potential paths forward and the importance of maintaining a good quality event.

### Potential Host Options and Challenges

* Speaker 2 inquires about other options besides Fortune, leading Patrick to mention St. Marie as a possibility.
* Patrick outlines the three main options: St. Marie, Camp Fortune, and a combination of both, or SOD
* St. Marie has a first GS track with great safety netting but challenges in accommodations during March Break.
* Camp Fortune has more accommodations but has stipulations on the use of the skyline side.
* SOD has high quality tracks, and lots of accommodation options

### Accommodations and Logistics

* Patrick highlights the ease of accommodations at SOD, Camp Fortune compared to St. Marie.
* Speaker 5 and Speaker 3 discuss the availability of hotels and Airbnbs in the region.
* The group rates the options, with St. Marie receiving a higher logistics challenge rating.
* Thomas provides feedback on the limited availability of accommodations in St. Marie due to March Break. Also, hotels are already quite full in Gatineau during this block and could be challenging for large reservations.

### Evaluating Race Slopes and Logistics

* The group rates the race slopes of St. Marie, Camp Fortune, and Southern Ontario venues.
* St. Marie is rated highly for its race slopes, but logistics are challenging.
* Southern Ontario venues are considered more logistically feasible, with Camp Fortune receiving a lower logistics challenge rating.
* The group discusses the potential for a training day on Wednesday and the impact on the schedule.

### Scheduling and Event Duration

* The group considers starting the event on Wednesday the 12th and finishing no later than Sunday the 15th.
* Patrick suggests taking the Saturday off to accommodate watching the World Cup.
* The group discusses the potential impact on out-of-town teams and the need for additional accommodations.
* Speaker 5 and Speaker 7 express support for the new schedule, considering the quality of the event and the logistics involved.

### Finalizing the Schedule and Communication

* Patrick recaps the recommendation to move the event to Southern Ontario and start on Wednesday the 12th.
* The group discusses the potential for training on Saturday and watching the World Cup on Sunday.
* Patrick plans to reach out to potential hosts for confirmation and communicate the new schedule to athletes and parents.
* The group agrees on the importance of maintaining a high-quality event and addressing the logistical challenges.

### U16 OCUP Finals Schedule

* Bob presents plan for moving the U16 OCUP finals up by one day to start on Thursday instead of Friday.
* Due to a new race slope not being ready for GS and SG, advancing the schedule by one day would let them run down the front face prior to the weekend, and help keep the cost down with the race entry fee.
* Impacts of teams adjusting hotel reservations, and additional missed school were discussed.
* The committee supports Bob’s recommendation to advance the event by one day to help accommodate the resort and keep race entry free low.
* Tori will email U16 OCUP coaches to communicate the proposal and collect additional feedback

### Impact on Calabogie Club and Future Planning

* Speaker 6 inquires about the impact on the Calabogie club and their athletes.
* Patrick explains that the Calabogie club plans to maintain programming but seek support from other clubs for training.
* The group discusses the challenges of accommodating additional athletes in the region due to race registration caps.
* The conversation highlights the need for long-term planning and support for affected clubs and athletes.

**-Meeting adjourned-**