



INTERNATIONAL SKI INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION
INTERNATIONALER SKILEHRERVERBAND
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES MONITEURS DE SKI

Minutes

of the Steering Committee Meeting 03/2014

on 18 October 2014

Flumserberg, Switzerland

Hotel Cristal



Present

President:	Riet Campell
Vice President Europe:	Vittorio Caffi
Vice President America:	Martin Bacer
Vice President Pacific Region:	Yuichi Mabuchi
Interpreter:	Eiichi Kodama
Treasurer:	Jiri Kotaska
Advisor:	Valentin Kiedaisch
General Secretary:	Hugo Reider

Apologies:

Advisor:	Dave Renouf (ill)
Absent:	
Advisor:	Gilles Chabert
Advisor:	Richard Walter

The meeting began at 9 a.m. on 18 October 2014 in the seminar room of Hotel Cristal in Flumserberg, Switzerland

AGENDA of the meeting:

The agenda had been sent to all steering committee members and as there were no further amendments or changes, it was considered approved.

1. Welcome

The President welcomed the steering committee members present and thanked them for coming. The host Dr. Harald Kiedaisch had already welcomed the steering committee members the previous evening and this morning at breakfast. President Campell thanked Valentin Kiedaisch for the hospitality and good organisation.

The only apologies for the meeting today were from Dave Renouf who is still ill. Richard Walter had registered for the meeting and his room reservation had also been confirmed by TSLV. Nothing has been heard from Gilles Chabert since his appearance at the DM in Vuokatti and he did not reply to the invitation. However, his statements at the DM were clear, namely that he is not going to fulfil his mandate until his demands are met.

President Campell introduced Seraina Kuppelwieser who also took part in the meeting. Seraina will be taking over responsibility for all the ISIA work in the Swiss Snowsports office formerly carried out by Helga Oles.

Around midday, Heinz Rubi, the organiser of the ISIA Golf World Championship, and Jan Kindschi, head of the Swiss demo team, are expected to join the meeting as well as the Director of the Ski School Flumserberg, Vali Gadiant.



Valentin Kiedaisch welcomed the meeting participants again, also on behalf of his parents, and gave a brief overview of the ski resort which boasts around 16,000 skier days. 500–600 beds in Flumserberg are clearly not enough but the proximity to Zurich means that there is increased weekend tourism or day trippers, with a lack of visitors staying one week or longer. The Kiedaisch family has now been in this ski resort for 5 years. They never made the mistake of setting up their own ski school but work very well with the local ski school.

President Campell gave a brief overview of the development of snow sports using a PowerPoint presentation based on the lecture by Laurent Vanat in Vuokatti. He concluded that the ISIA also needs to take more action in this direction.

2. Reports of the Vice Presidents and executive committee members

2.1. Report of the Vice President America

Martin Bacer reported that the season had finished in South America and had been the worst for 10 years in every respect. Bad weather, no snow, average temperature around 15°. There was admittedly a lot of snow in August but with winds of over 100 km/h, the lifts remained closed for almost 20 days. There is now a bilateral agreement between Argentina/Italy (FISI and Collegio Nazionale) which allows casual employment for ski instructors from both countries to work in the respective other country for a period of up to 20 days.

An ISIA test was carried out in Chile because there was not enough snow in Argentina.

2.2. Report of the Vice President Pacific Region

Yuichi Mabuchi: We are making preparations for Interski, both organisations, SIA (professional ski instructors) and SAJ (association ski instructors). The costs for participation are almost twice as high as for a normal congress with the high cost of the flights.

Owing to the parallel slalom which is reserved for ISIA members only, SIA will be providing more members of the demo team.

2.3. Report of the Vice President Europe

Vittorio Caffi: At a meeting in Belp with the President, attempts were made to set the programme for the next two years. The large ISIA poster was revamped and all the member country flags were included. The ISIA map still needs to be adapted as the flags of the new members are still missing.

In Europe, a lot should have been done but this has not happened. The last meeting of the EU countries in Brussels was held in July, a further meeting in September was cancelled without giving any reasons after a large majority of European countries indicated they were against the Memorandum in its current form.

BASI and Great Britain also seem to have turned away to some extent. Free movement of labour is also being requested for the lower training levels.



Nobody turned up to a meeting in London which BASI had arranged on this subject.

Vice President Caffi said that it is a duty of the ISIA to protect and represent its own members and to provide assistance in such important matters that affect the future of the entire profession.

The time has come for the ISIA to intervene once more and contact Brussels. We should demand attendance at future negotiations. All the work carried out by the ISIA so far and the corresponding documentation must be presented to the European Commission again.

Resolution 1-3/14

The Vice President Europe will prepare a letter with the GS to be sent to the EU Commission, again expressly referring to "ISIA Europe", with 20 members from EU countries, to the DM resolutions from Jesolo 2008, where the adjustments to the ISIA minimum standard were unanimously approved by 33 member associations present (also including France, Austria and Italy), with no votes against.

The ISIA firmly insists on attending further discussions within the European Commission on the introduction of a European Professional Card and will lodge an appropriate appeal and seek political support in the event of a refusal.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

3. ISIA Workshop 2015 January – Promotion of snow sports

Resolution 2-3/14

The ISIA event 2015 will be carried out in Pec pod Sněžkou, in the Czech Republic, in the Giant Mountains at the foot of the Sněžka at the end of January (exact date still to be decided). The theme of the event and workshop is the "Promotion of Snow Sports". At the same time as the event, the ISIA will be organising and carrying out an ISIA test there in cooperation with APUL. Resolution carried unanimously!

4. ISIA database (update) – ISIA card (update) 2014/2015 – Programme for ISIA test & inspections

Database and card update

Mario Fabretto has carried out an update of the ISIA database that should be completed shortly and can then be communicated to the members. Vittorio Caffi presented the changes to the steering committee.

In future, the member associations should be able to enter data and make changes themselves.

The steering committee felt the adjustments were good. It was noted that it must be obvious to people whether a ski instructor is the holder of a card or a stamp. For this purpose, an image of the card or the stamp should be displayed next to the photo of the ski instructor.



The database should only show ski instructors that have either the card or the stamp. Also, only the two highest titles authorising the instructor to hold the card or the stamp should be displayed on the member associations' page. The lower titles should not be visible to people as this would only lead to confusion. Before the database is activated, it needs to be blocked for Google and other search engines so that when entering the name of a ski instructor in Google, people are not immediately referred to the ISIA database.

Resolution 3–3/14

A clearly visible link will be provided on the ISIA website (www.isiaski.org) to the ISIA database. This will be communicated to all member associations, ski schools, to FIANET and the national ski lift operators. The link will be activated on the opening day of the event in the Czech Republic. At the event itself, the participants will receive all the necessary information on the database again and it will also be distributed in written form in an information folder.

Vice President Caffi was given responsibility for the project management. He will be reimbursed for his work in accordance with daily rates.

The resolution was carried unanimously!

Resolution 4-3/14

The logo on the back of the ISIA card will be reworked, the flags of the missing member nations will be added. The reworked logo will be used for newly issued cards.

ISIA test and inspection programme:

A first ISIA test will be organised by Romania in Hintertux at the beginning of November.

Resolution 5-3/14

The secretary's office will ask all member associations to communicate the dates for the ISIA test and will enter these dates on the website.

The ISIA test in the Czech Republic will be organised directly by the ISIA with the cooperation of APUL.

Resolution passed unanimously!

5. ISIA website – update

The ISIA website has been revised, duplicate data has been removed and the site has generally been simplified. The new graphic now appears with all 40 member countries on it.



6. Resolution 6-3/14

The secretary's office will send a communication on the successful update to all member nations.

This will include another reference to documents that are ready for download on the extranet. The extranet will need to undergo an update beforehand.

The ISIA Facebook page will be presented to the members again at the event.

The nations will be requested to communicate any suggested amendments or improvements.

Resolution passed unanimously!

7. 1. ISIA Golf World Championship

Heinz Rubi and Jan Kindschi joined the meeting at 12:15 p.m. President Campell welcomed them and immediately gave the floor to Heinz Rubi after thanking him on behalf of the steering committee for organising the Golf World Championship.

Heinz Rubi, who was Director of the Ski School in Mürren up until last year, reported that he had been organising the Swiss Ski Instructor Championship in Golf for 14 years now.

The invitation to the World Championship had been sent to all the member associations but the problem is that you cannot reach all the golf-playing ski instructors.

In future, we will try to organise the Championship in different countries, first in Europe and then maybe overseas as well. Every communication channel needs to be used to reach the ski instructors, however.

At the same time as this Championship, there will also be a European Championship for Ski Instructors. This one will mainly concern the French-speaking ski instructors from Valais, Aosta and France, however. Next year, the European Championship will take place in Crans Montana in September; the World Championship could then take place in France at the beginning of October.

The World Championship could be presented at the Interski in Ushuaia. Heinz Rubi will be present and will hold a small snow golf event as an attraction for the announcement.

Resolution 7-3/14

The steering committee decided to continue the golf event as an ISIA World Championship. Heinz Rubi will organise an ISIA snow golf event in Cerro Castor (Argentina) to introduce the Golf World Championship.

A budget of up to CHF 3,000.00 will be made available by ISIA for the prizes at the Golf World Championship 2015.

Resolution passed unanimously!

The meeting was adjourned for lunch at 1 p.m. The Flums cableways invited the participants for a light meal and to view the ski lifts including a trip down on the summer toboggan run.

The meeting resumed at 3 p.m.



8. INTERSKI Congress 2015 – Report of Martin Bacer

Recently, there was another meeting in Ushuaia with Interski President Melmer, Vice President Egri and GS Mall at which the slopes were inspected and the progress of the preparations was reviewed. Everything will be ready for the Interski Congress. The slopes have been finished and the snowboard park is ready for SB and Freestyle, the auditorium is about to be completed. There are still a few problems with the flights.

The steering committee stated that there was still a need to create more room for the Park & Pipe.

The following suggestion will be made by the ISIA President to Interski:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				ISIA Parallel SL Final
P&P WS	P&P WS	P&P WS	P&P SHOW	
ISIA – Qualif. PSL	ISIA 1/16 PSL	ISIA 1/8 + 1/4 PSL		ISIA Final Demo

8. ISIA Competition – INTERSKI 2015

The ISIA event at the Interski originally conceived as a competition is to be known as the "ISIA Friendship Parallel Slalom" and will not really be a competition to see which is the best nation but an exchange of experience in a spirit of friendship. That is why the PS will be carried out with mixed teams, teams with skiers from different nations. Each nation has a fixed starting position for the qualification round, the remaining places will be allocated by means of a qualifying race.

The rules for the ISIA World Championship can be used as a basis.

Resolution 8-3/14

Jan Kindschi is to be instructed to draw up the rules for the ISIA Parallel Slalom and to handle the organisation.

Resolution passed unanimously!



9. ISIA Congress & Delegates' Meeting 2016 Lenzerheide

Resolution 9-3/14

The steering committee confirmed and decided unanimously to hold the 2016 Delegates' Meeting in Lenzerheide in Switzerland at the same time as the Swiss Snow Happening.

10. Europe: MoU – Renewal for 1 year

This has already been reported on and a resolution passed under Item 2. According to current information, the MoU is to be renewed for another year as long as enough member countries agree to a renewal. ISIA will try to latch into the negotiations again to represent the interests of the majority of members.

11. Applications from new members:

We have received an extensive and very detailed application from an Albanian ski instructor association, the "Albanian Ski Instructor Association (ASIA)". The documentation is complete and the content seems to be in order. The association currently consists of 4 ski instructor trainers and 14 ski instructors with the highest level of qualifications. In Albania itself, there is 1 ski resort with 3 ski lifts. There is also a skiing association on the National Olympic Committee. Two skiers from Albania took part in the Olympic Games in Sochi in the Alpine skiing event, the male participant, Erjon Tola is President of the ski instructor association.

Resolution 10-3/14

The GS should contact the applicants and carry out further investigations and obtain information from the official government authorities in Albania. A training programme will be requested and if possible, an inspection will be carried out this winter by the Technical Commission.

If all the inspections are satisfactory, approval can be given at the DM in Ushuaia for acceptance in the capacity of an observer.

Resolution passed unanimously!

There are two other incomplete applications from associations in Brazil and Uruguay which have not been pursued further and are therefore not ready for consideration.



12. Dates, meetings

ISIA event in January 2015 (probably 22–23) in Pec pod Sněžkou (CZ)

Promotion of Snow Sports!

At the same time in this location:

- ISIA test
- Steering committee meeting
- Presentation of database
- Info on Interski Ushuaia

9–11 May 2015 next steering committee meeting in Budapest (possibly)

5–12 September 2015 INTERSKI Ushuaia with:

- steering committee meeting
- DM
- ISIA event – Friendship Parallel Slalom

13. Miscellaneous

The meeting discussed whether ISIA could provide financial compensation to steering committee members for their time at these meetings. Everyone attending these meetings provides their time free of charge and the delegating associations have to pay travel expenses. Consideration should be made to how compensation could be provided by the ISIA. At the current level of membership fees, this is not possible, the reserves would be used up completely in less than one year.

There also needs to be a rethink regarding the payment of costs for the database. These costs (currently € 0.40 per registered ski instructor) must be included in the membership fee.

The membership fee per ski instructor should be increased to € 3.00.

Vittorio Caffi reported that Russia had applied for an inspection of their training to Level B). The reasons for this are not very clear. Russia currently has the stamp for Level A).

Yuichi Mabuchi asked if there was a congress theme for the INTERSKI 2015 to which Interski Vice President Martin Bacer and Riet Campell replied in the negative.

The question was posed as to how the ISIA should proceed following the ruling of the Paris Court of Appeal, which although dismissing the original plaintiff's claim and the appeal on technical grounds still regarded the facts of the case as proven that the BASI, in agreement with the SNMSF, had presented false documents for 33 British snowboarders and that the French authorities had recognised these snowboard instructors as having entirely equal rights as ski instructors in France, with Eurotest and entitlement to have the MoU sticker.



Resolution 11-3/14

ISIA will ask the BASI whether an ISIA card had also been given to these 33 snowboard instructors. If this is the case, the conditions for this should be closely examined.

The BASI should be asked for their views on this ruling.

The BASI should also be asked how Dave Renouf is and whether we can expect him to resume attendance at ISIA steering committee meetings.

The GS presented a complaint from Simon Butler, in which he claims to have been sold out and victimised by his association (BASI):

He has held the highest qualification from BASI since 1985, has a BASI level 4 ISTD licence and had the MoU sticker up to last year (2013). He has been operating his own ski school in Megève (F) for 32 years. Last winter he was arrested on the slopes in front of his own clients by the French gendarmerie and was put in prison. In the subsequent legal case, the French courts established that he had been teaching illegally and sentenced him accordingly. And this was just because the BASI had refused him the MoU sticker claiming that he had only had it in the past by mistake. The CEO of the BASI had also already passed judgement on him in a public interview for the BBC and claimed Simon Butler worked in France without the necessary qualifications even though hundreds of British ski instructors in exactly the same situation as Butler (who had also completed the highest training level before the Eurotest was introduced) still receive the MoU sticker and could still work in France without any problems.

Resolution 12-3/14

The steering committee meeting took note of the letter of complaint but declared that it does not have the competence to interfere in the internal affairs of the BASI unless this conduct violates the ISIA bylaws.

ISIA will, however, demand an explanation from the BASI as to why specifically Simon Butler was refused the MoU sticker for 2014.

Valentin Kiedaisch asked what was going to happen about Gilles Chabert being an advisor on the steering committee after he had announced himself in front of the entire delegates' meeting in Vuokatti that he had not fulfilled his mandate and would not fulfil it unless his demands are met (to recap: inclusion of a representative of the Italian ski instructor association AMSI on the steering committee with full voting rights and replacement of the GS with a person he trusts).

Resolution 13-3/14

The steering committee is in favour of having the legal and statutory background investigated by legal experts and will discuss the matter at the next steering committee meeting in January.



The President reminded the meeting of the ISIA brochure which must be completed for the DM in Lenzerheide in spring 2016 and he asked all the steering committee members to help work towards the success of this project.

With regard to the cableways associations, another letter will be sent to all the ISIA member associations, reminding them of the positive connection with FIANET and pointing out that now every individual association must approach the representatives of the cableways associations in their own countries to guarantee good cooperation in the future.

As there were no further requests to speak on this item and there was nothing further to discuss, the President closed the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Keeper of the minutes
GS Hugo Reider

The President
Riet R. Campell