



Date: 2nd February 2021

To: GB Snowsport (GBS)
Paul Trayner Alpine Director
Vicky Gosling CEO
Rory Tapner Chair

From: Concerned GB Alpine ex-racers and coaches, stakeholders and well-wishers

Re: FIS Alpine Ski World Championships – Cortina 2021 – Jack GOWER (GBR)

Dear All,

We understand that Jack Gower has not met GBS Alpine selection criteria as published September 2020. Despite this, and before you announce the GB Alpine team for Cortina d'Ampezzo, we urge you to reconsider Jack's (anticipated) non-selection.

The new COVID calendar for FIS was confirmed in October 2020, ruling out North America for World Cup and taking Alpine Combined completely off the schedule. Most national ski teams amended their long-term schedules and goals for Alpine Combined accordingly, with a change to their selection policies. There is ample precedence for selection panels to exercise latitude in regard to criteria. If applied well, selection criteria stimulate performance at elite and developmental level.

Many speed racers mature in their mid to late twenties and peak in their early thirties. In Jack's case we see a 26-year-old athlete who has proven his form in the past and is now on the comeback trail from injury. His efforts to rebuild this season in spite of all difficulties and discouragement have been heroic. His dedication to the sport is exemplary.

- Number 1 British male in Super G, Downhill and Alpine Combined (ranked 72 in the world)
- No GBS speed program
- Unable to train with friendly foreign teams due to COVID restrictions
- Unable to qualify in Alpine Combined due to COVID calendar
- Unable to pre-qualify in Alpine Combined due to inflexible GBS selection policy

We applaud Jack for earning his spurs on the Hahnenkamm downhill while prepping his own skis and with no course report. We question the strategic wisdom of not filling any British slots in the speed disciplines at Cortina d'Ampezzo.

Not to take Jack to the Worlds would send a terrible message to the sport at large, to developing athletes and their families, and to sponsors. We (GBS) are averse to the participation of British speed racers in major events. You can reach an elite standard, good enough to race Kitzbuehel, good enough to dominate your disciplines nationally, without any material support from your governing body to enhance performance. You can do all this and still we may exclude you from major events. We are the masters of British ski racing but not its stewards.

COVID has changed the global landscape of Alpine ski racing. We must all adapt to what is in front of us. We respectfully ask you to reassess the decision to exclude Jack Gower and allow him to compete in the upcoming Alpine Ski World Championships.

Yours sincerely

Adam Sullivan

Alain Baxter

Alan Whyte

Chris Blagden

Damon Hill OBE

David Cook

Dan Walker

Dougie Crawford

Dion Taylor

Emma Carrick-Smith

Graham Bell

Jason Barton Grimley

James Fletcher

John Harris

Malcolm Erskine

Mark Quinn

Martin Bell

Nick Fellows

Nigel Smith

Ray Robinson

Roger Walker

Simon Kelton

TJ Baldwin