

Scottish Athletics Limited
Road Running and Cross Country Commission

**Minutes of Meeting on Monday 7 December 2015 held at 6.30pm
at the Caledonia House, South Gyle, Edinburgh, EH12 9DQ**

Present: Ron Morrison; Nigel Holl; Clare Barr; Alex MacKay; John Rodger; Alex Jackson; Leslie Roy; Marjory Cook; Alasdair Love; Stuart Gibson; Tom Ferrington

Apologies: Julia Henderson; Dave Cairns; Sophie Dunnett; Mark Pollard; Ian Hislop; Graham Sword

1. Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks

- 1.1 JR welcomed everyone to the meeting, mentioning Stuart Gibson as a new addition as West District Rep.
- 1.2 Two items were added to the agenda – Scottish Schools Athletics Association Cross Country and Cross Country Grand Prix.

2. Congratulations

Edinburgh AC and Central AC for their respective wins in the Women's and Men's Scottish National Relay Championships at Cumbernauld on 24/10/2015.

Laura Muir (Dundee Hawkhill) and Andrew Butchart (Central AC) for their respective wins in the Women's and Men's Scottish Short Course Championships at Bellahouston Pk on 7/11/2015.

Edinburgh AC and Central AC for their respective wins in the Women's and Men's Scottish National Relay Team Championships at Bellahouston Pk on 7/11/2015.

Steph Twell Senior Women (6th Team Gold); Laura Muir (Dundee Hawkhill 4th Team Gold), Madeline Murray (Edinburgh AC 14th Team Gold), Under 23 Women; Luke Traynor (Giffnock North AC 41st Team Silver), Under 23 Men for their selection to compete for UKA at the Euro XC in Toulon – Hyeres on 13/12/2015.

3. Finance

- 3.1 Draft budgets for the 2016/17 season have been issued by Dawn Allan, these are to be completed with suggested dates and venues by mid-December. AL, MP and DA will then complete budgetary figures for board approval.

4. Minutes of the last meeting of the RR&CC of 21 October 2015

- 4.1 Proposed by Marjory Cook and Seconded by Tom Ferrington

5. Report from the East District Committee held on 2nd December

- 5.1 Nothing to add.

6. Report from the West District Committee held on 5th October

- 6.1 Nothing to add.

7. Cross Country Leagues

- 7.1 AL has queried the inconsistent approach to the North and East District Leagues in terms of the East being an Associate member of scottishathletics and applying for permits for all events whereas the North District League do not hold any membership and individual hosting clubs apply for permits for league events.

Administration of permits for leagues would be eased if there was a consistent approach. AJ confirmed that Associate member organisations gain a vote at the scottishathletics AGM, but he felt it unlikely that the North District League would take up this offer and would view the £75 annual charge as a barrier to changing approach.

ACTION: AL to write to Hamish Cameron outlining benefits of Associate Membership to encourage the North District League to follow suit (RRCC2015-12/1).

8. Fixtures/Championships

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8.1 National Short Course XC

Event was held in very wet conditions, CHIP company did well and Dave Cairns has submitted his referee's report.

3 Athletes failed to register, one of which caused a change to the Team Result of the Senior Women's race. AL will supply replacement black gold medals for the winning team rather than continue to attempt to redistribute existing medals.

Tarmac Crossing discussed with CB taking an ACTION (RRCC2015-12/2) to investigate suitable coverings which can be easily set out, taken up and transported as well as having a minimal trip hazard.
4 Digit numbers should be avoided to ease recording at finish line.

8.2 National XC

Graeme High School and Callendar Park are both booked. A course visit with AJ; AL; members of FVH and Falkirk Community Trust will be arranged in January 2016.

The course will be similar to 2015 but with a revised start area. Agreed that Finishline will be approached to CHIP time the event with consideration given to letting clubs know the importance of returning non used CHIPS.

FVH also to be approached regarding course build as quote received from Concept Events at £950 maybe avoidable.

8.3 Inter District, Celtic Nations and Cross Challenge

Home Countries relay will be incorporated into main TV event. Confirmed Timetable still has U13 races in the middle of the programme. The Celtic International event has meant a few Team Managers for District Teams are not available. Team scoring at this event is challenging but not insurmountable.

Re Cross Challenge JR will respond to Giffnock North relating to correspondence on hosting a Cross Challenge event in Scotland (RRCC2015-12/3).

RM suggested that if the commission are not satisfied with the level of support and ownership of the Inter District event it should consider reducing support of this and taking some races elsewhere. This would be a future agenda item for the commission to discuss.

9. Road Race Calendar

9.1 Championships for 2016 are:

Marathon: London Marathon; HM: Glasgow; 10m: Tom Scott; 10k: Stirling; 5k: Silverknowes

Various comments have been received regarding the decision to hold the Scottish Marathon Championships in London, some via sportscotland and MP/MSP's office.

Rationale behind the decision:

To provide balance to the Callander; lack of suitable alternatives; London is ideal timing in the season; 2016 is an Olympic year with London being the Olympic qualifier with first 2 gaining automatic selection; Loch Ness is not a ratified course for ranking purposes; clashes with the HM Champs in Glasgow; Edinburgh although an alternative would require a better working relationship and potentially 3yr agreement.

Disadvantages of differing starts for athletes will be negated through the use of the CHIP time for results. Championship entry system is still open to those athletes with a qualifying performance.

Northern Ireland & Wales hold their championships in this way each year, as has Scotland in the past.

This is a 1yr decision only and will be reviewed with ongoing discussions around a Glasgow Marathon a real possibility. Inverness organisers are aware and supportive of this decision.

With CWG 2018 approaching and the move towards selection performances to be registered in suitably organised races with the inclusion of suitable quality fields. As well as the late announcement that the 2016 London Marathon will be the Olympic qualifying race resulting in difficult athlete preparation time and poor timing of this event in relation to the Olympic Games. Does the commission wish to take these concerns to UKA?

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ACTION: RM will revisit Championship host documentation to produce guidelines and criteria for event organisers to bid for championship events. This will allow the commission more authority to dictate the Callendar to race organisers (RRCC2015-12/4).

ACTION: NH to respond to MSP and sportscotland relating to rationale outlined above (RRCC2015-12/5).

The criticism that Scottish Championships should be open to all and be in Scotland is acknowledged and accepted, however the number of athletes that are directly affected is low.

1. Athletes with a Disability

Report from TF mentioned the following points:

Wheelchair racing bears no relation to mainstream Road Running. Various Safety concerns arise from having the same start time and place. Few numbers concerned, possibly on 5 active WR athletes in Scotland. Feedback from Ian Mirfin that if the course can handle it then OK, Balmoral, Aberdeen and Jed already established as well as Strathclyde Parkrun. SDS have their own Championships. Champs do not need to be at the same venue. Scottishathletics can provide medals but SDS should promote. Any new scottishathletics event should be suitable and inclusive.

NH confirmed that equality is the responsibility of scottishathletics as laid down by the Scottish Executive and therefore also the responsibility of the commission and other associated bodies. Something that should be continued to be discussed and be aware of.

10. ACTIONS arising from previous minutes:

Action	Status
NOVA XC	JR & AJ to revisit discussions with Nova (JR&AJ)* Clarification on associated costs required. (AL)
Consider SAL organised 10k event for the 2017 RR Championship programme	Working group to be established to consider*

11. Race Distance Equality

11.1 The IAAF and scottishathletics announcement to implement equal race distances for Male and Female Senior athletes for 2016/17 prompted feedback on social media. The main area of concern surrounds the reduction of the Senior race from 12 to 10km.

This rule recommendation creates the possibility to restructure the season to allow a consistent and structured approach to the season.

Potential ideas to create 4km; 8km & 10km Championships; or 5km; 10km & 15km Championships. 12km could become an open race with an 8km Women's only event. Issue with additional races may cause confusion as to which race is the actual National Championships. A poll conducted by Ronhill Cambuslang was acknowledged but without suitable sample sizes supplied cannot be fully relied upon.

AJ raised the issue of the East League enjoying considerable increase in numbers, especially in the female side. They would wish to protect this successful trend. This would also have an effect on District Championships.

12. AOCB

Coordination of County XC events. CB passed on concerns from County Champs organisers of trying to alleviate fixture congestion by hosting them all on the same weekend, this would free up other events on the calendar. This can be supported through the issuing of permits by scottishathletics.

13. Officials Newsletter

MC advised that this is a monthly newsletter issued by the Officials Commission, if anyone has anything to add or submit to the newsletter it should be done through Brenda Stephen.

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14. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 22nd February @ Emirates Arena, Glasgow