

Scottish Athletics Limited Road Running & Cross Country Commission

Minutes of Meeting - Wednesday 27th January 2021 (zoom 5.30pm)

Present: John Rodger (Chair), Alex Jackson, Dave Cairns, Sandra Hardacre, John MacKay, Dawn Armitt, Ted Finch, Alasdair Love, Marjory Cook, Mark Munro, Ross Cairns, Ron Morrison, Mark Pollard, Caitlin Watt, Shona Malcolm

Apologies: Michael Wright, Julia McAfee

1/2

Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks.

The Chair welcomed everyone and commenced the meeting by inviting A Love to provide feedback about the recent Short Course event staged at Scone Palace on 5th December. AL commented that the venue was good with the only issue being limited parking on the day (additional parking can likely be secured for any future event). The race format could serve as a useful template for other run events to be staged at Scone Palace or other locations. JR added that he thought the event was a great success and that the course could be considered for a future major championship event. MP also provided feedback on the recent Elite 5k road race at Lochgelly on 29th November, commenting that the race had been a success.

4.1

MM advised that this would be his final NC meeting before his move to a new role with UK Athletics. Colin Hutchison, former Head of Development, moves into the role of SA CEO on Monday 1st February. MM also advised that Stephen Macguire, following his recent step down as Director of Performance and Coaching, is moving back to Ireland but will remain as a consultant head coach for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. Mark Pollard currently replaces Stephen as interim Head of Performance. SA staff members Julie Mollison and Allan Hamilton have both moved to new roles with Julie being appointed Interim Head of Coaching Development and Talent, and Allan taking up the post of Interim Performance Coordinator.

TF commented that it had been a hard year for Event Organisers, with many events being cancelled, and wondered if SA could issue procedures which give guidance to Organisers if an event is cancelled. AL advised that there is information available under race event's terms & conditions (for those events which SA take entries for) on the SA website and this could be used as a starting point. MM felt it was important that we consider what protection could be given to Event Organisers.

4.2.1

Discussion around proposal to stage National Cross Country Championships at Calendar House on 6th March 2021. AL suggested that we change venue to Scone Palace given how popular Calendar House is with public, making it more difficult to control numbers/host race. Concern also raised about the ability to host an event on this date in the light of current lockdown restrictions. It was agreed that this be reviewed following

4.2.1 cont

the Scottish Government's update on 2nd February. If the lockdown is extended towards the end of February it was accepted that it would not be feasible to hold the event on the 6th March. MM commented that Iain Beattie/Lindsay's was keen to host the event later in the year, if not deemed practical currently. Some discussion about hosting in June as an option. To review next meeting.

4.2.2

It was agreed that a decision would be deferred about the planned March road races (YARR, East Fortune) pending further information about lockdown restrictions.

AL asked the Commission to consider whether we should award championship status to District/National road race events for the remainder of the 2020/21 season, or whether we should start afresh from 1/9/2021 (new 21/22 season). It was unanimously agreed not to award championship status given the current uncertainty and restrictions on race format.

4.2.3

AL provided an update on the Virtual races commenting that uptake had been good but entries are now starting to reduce, suggesting athletes are getting fed up with these. AJ also commented that the limited travel restrictions would likely be another reason for the decline in uptake.

4.3

It was agreed to plan endurance events as normal for the forthcoming 2021/22 Calendar. A clash of dates with District XC Relays being held on same date as SA Awards dinner, was discussed and the Commission did not foresee this to be an issue.

4.3.3

A letter had been received from Cliff Robinson, UK Cross Challenge organiser, who has provisionally included a leg of the Cross Challenge, to be incorporated into the Inter Districts, staged at Edinburgh on 15th January 2022. Cliff also suggests using the venue to stage the World Cross Country Trials. JR commented this would add status to our existing Inter District event. MM was hopeful that SA could put forward a good case for funding/sponsoring it.

Minutes taken by S Hardacre: (4.3 cont)

Fixture Calendar – 2021-22

Saturday, 15th January, 2022 – Inter District – Edinburgh

Cliff Robinson wishes to speak with someone from Scottish Schools re potential date clashes in March 2022. Ally Love agreed to speak with Margaret McInally.

World Cross Country in Australia in 2022 will take place in February – if it had taken place this year it would have been in March. With this event now taking place in February it means that most of our fixture can be on last year's corresponding Wk Nos.

Road Running – The London Marathon in April 2022 will be the Championship event.

4.4 District Reports

- 4.4.1 North – Thanks to Ross Cairns for efforts in organising an Inter District Event which unfortunately has now had to be cancelled.
- 4.4.2 East – A few Lothian Junior events took place before the end of 2020. Good work has been carried out by Clubs in organising local events whether they be in bubbles or virtual.
- 4.4.3 West – Local club events have been organised.

4.5 Endurance Officials Report

Report Circulated.

4.6 World Athletics Shoe Regulations

Discussion took place on this and that it will be impossible to check the shoes of every athlete in a National Championships – we could check medal winners.

Question was asked if the information we had been given had been approved by the UKA Board or if it was an unapproved report which had been sent out?

Agreed to take this matter forward to the next meeting.

Other Business

Ron Morrison – proposed that Endurance races be started with an Air Horn rather than with a gun. Dave Cairns/Shona Malcolm to take this proposal to Official Start Team with the recommendation that we proceed with this.

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 15th March, 2021.