

Scottish Athletics Limited
Road Running and Cross Country Commission

Minute of Meeting of Wednesday 3rd December 2008 held at 6.30 p.m.
in Adelaides, Bath Street, Glasgow

Present:

Ron Morrison	Convener	Alex Jackson	Secretary
Graham Sword	Finance Officer	Jim Young	Championships
Robin Thomas	Vice-Convener	Alan Potts	SAL President
Ian Hislop	East District Convener	Mike Johnston	SAL Endurance Manager
Margaret Daly	Assistant Secretary		

Apologies:

Lindsay MacNeill and Marjory Cook.

1 Chairman's Opening Remarks

Ron Morrison welcomed everyone to the meeting and commended Alex Jackson on his award of UK Official of the Year, justifiably in recognition of all his work on behalf of Scottish Athletics. He also noted that the Sunday Mail/Sport Scotland Awards were due to be presented on 4th December at with the Local Organising Committee for the World CC Championships were in the running for the Event of the Year Award.

Ron outlined the new approach to be taken in the preparation of agendas for Commission meetings in the future, using a starring system for items that were to be discussed. This would ensure meetings focused on appropriate issues and gave time to discussion on matters of development.

The technique is to only discuss items that are starred (*) and nothing else. When the agenda goes out some items will be already starred for discussion. Anyone on the commission can add to that by starring an item, either by e-mail or at the beginning of the meeting. In particular there will be no discussion of passed minutes unless someone stars an item.

1.1 Papers Circulated with the Agenda

Commission Minute 23/9/08
Management Board Minute 6/10/08
East District Minute 26/11/08
SAL Competition Review (CC & RR only)
McAndrew Relay (1)
McAndrew Relay (2)

Additional items for discussion but not starred on the issued agenda were agreed.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd September 2008 were agreed as a true record.

2.1 Actions Cleared

Action RRCC2008-3: RM – Accident Report at National CC Championships
Action RRCC2008-8: AJ – European Clubs Trial
Action RRCC2008-9: RM – Grand Prix of Cross Country
Action RRCC2008-10: RM/AJ – Meeting Procedures

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2.2 Actions Outstanding

Action RRCC2008-1: AJ – UK Risk Assessment
Action RRCC2008-2: AJ /JY – yearbook checklist
Action RRCC2008-4: AJ – Officials Lists
Action RRCC2008-5: RM – Eligibility rules
Action RRCC2008-6: AJ – Young athletes road relays
Action RRCC2008-7: AJ – Ultra Highland Fling

2.3 Starred Items from the Minutes

Officials Lists

Concern was noted that CC officials are not completing cards and returning these to John Innes. The Commission has already agreed (23/9/2008) that after championships, the Secretary will send confirmation to John on those who officiated. A proposal was made that permits note a requirement for race organisers to confirm the names of officials after the event. Some concern was noted that this may not be enacted, but agreed nonetheless.

Action RRCC2008-4: AJ

Young Athletes Road Relays

South Lanarkshire had accepted an invite to host these races. The course was on footpath using underpasses, finishing on the track at John Wright Sports Centre. SAL to appoint officials. Proposed date Sunday 22nd March 2009. South Lanarkshire will provide a prize of £250 for the best overall team with SAL providing other prizes on the day.

Action RRCC2008-6: AJ

Ultra Highland Fling

Alex Jackson has consulted Adrian Stott on this but the matter has yet to be resolved. The course was noted as a trail run, not normally used for Ultra races. Alex suggested that trail championships should be considered as a possible addition to the event calendar. Further information to be sought on this.

Action RRCC2008-7: AJ

3 Finance

Graham Sword reported that West District Championship entries were up on the previous year but had no other matters to report.

4 Fixtures / Championships

Arrangements for the Youth Athletes Road Relays are noted previously. Jim Young reported that the start and finish arrangements for the National CC relays should be revisited to avoid problems that had arisen with the finish of the young female athletes and the start of the Senior men's races. All arrangements were in place for the forthcoming championships at Irvine.

Action RRCC2008-11: AJ /JY

Women's Teams

Robin Thomas proposed that the number of women to count in teams should be increased from three to four. Extending this to junior men's teams was also raised. To consider this further, it was agreed that analysis of events over the last five years would be useful to assess the impact on the number of teams and the outcome of races.

Action RRCC2008-12: RM/AJ

Course Building

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Jim Young reported that some of his course building team members would have to reduce their involvement due to family commitments. This could impact on event organisation, particularly in the West where clubs have not been proactive in offering to host championships or in assisting with course building (some exceptions noted). The position in the East was also outlined. Mike Johnston suggested that dealing with Local Athletic Partnerships (LAPs) in the future may be the way forward. Discussion on payments to clubs for hosting events was also discussed though noted this may not address the course building issues. It was confirmed, during discussion on this item, that an offer of £100 for support in setting the national course should be made to Falkirk Victoria Harriers.

Action RRCC2008-13: AJ

It was agreed that a query should be raised with Geoff Wightman on whether contracts with event sponsors might include (or be increased to include) payment to course building teams.

Action RRCC2008-14: AP

Championship Hosting

Negotiations on hosting arrangements for future national championships to be targeted at larger clubs.

Action RRCC2008-15: RM/AJ

Grand Prix Road Races

Clarity required from Geoff Wightman on the role of the Commission in this series.

Action RRCC2008-16: RM

McAndrew Road Relays

A request had been made, from Inverclyde AC, for the Commission to consider the issue that had arisen at this event as a result of an athlete going off course. The Commission took the view that it had no power to overturn the decision of the Referee for the event. It was suggested that all events should have a UK graded referee or at least, a referee who was not a member of the host club.

Action RRCC2008-17: AJ

Trophies

Graham Sword reported that no trophies had been available at the National CC Relays and complaints had been made by Central AC. He and John MacDonald had now carried out a review of trophies to categorise them for the different events. They would be numbered prior to going to storage for future championships.

Action RRCC2008-19: GS

5 SAL Competition Review

Alex Jackson outlined the proposals for Road Running and Cross Country emerging from the awayday held at Caledonia House. Copies of presentation slides used at the event were circulated to inform discussions. Following discussion, the Commission's views were noted as:-

- a) Age Groups – Preference is for defining date to be 31st December in recognition of the need to be in line with everyone else. Noted age groups would be U14, U16, U18, and U20. The Commission were not of the view that agreement of the SSSA was essential.
- b) Cross Country – There should be a phased development stage for athletes that set out key events they should target. These should be planned in conjunction with athletes and coaches. The issue of no U13 championships, whilst agreed, could be tactically difficult to introduce although this could be resolved by moving to U14 age group. Moving the District Championships to late January would work if the Nova event ceased but not otherwise.

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- c) Road Running – The Commission should have input into the Grand Prix series. The Marathon in Glasgow was unlikely to succeed without impacting on Great Scottish Run (or would need full support of Glasgow). Agreed need for an elite relay event possibly to be staged at Knockhill. We should look to develop the Boulder project. Ultra running – how could championships be identified?

A reply will be prepared on behalf of the Commission

Action RRCC2008-18: RM/AJ

6 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 25th February 2009 in the SAL Offices. Note the office has now relocated to Caledonia House.

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.