

Scottish Athletics Limited
Road Running and Cross Country Commission

Minute of Meeting of Wednesday 25th February 2009 held at 6.30 p.m.
in Scottish Athletics Office, South Gyle, Edinburgh

Present:

Ron Morrison, Convener
Alex Jackson, Secretary
Margaret Daly, Assistant Secretary
Marjory Cook
Ian Hislop
Jim Young
Mike Johnston, SAL Endurance Manager

Apologies:

Graham Sword, Alan Potts, Lindsay MacNeill

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Ron welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended congratulations to everyone involved in the National Cross Country Championships at Falkirk which had been a very successful event. He also extended congratulations to the World Cross Country Local Organising Committee on winning the Sunday Mail/Sportscotland Event of the Year Award on 4th December.

The Commission noted with sadness the recent death of John Innes.

Additional agenda items were starred for discussion.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minute of the meeting held on 3rd December 2008 was agreed as a true record, subject to noting that 5(b) did not accurately reflect discussions on under 13s participation in cross country championships.

2.1 Actions Cleared

The actions cleared from the previous meeting were noted as:-

- Action RRCC2008-4: AJ – Officials Lists
- Action RRCC2008-6: AJ - Young Athletes Road Races
- Action RRCC2008-7: AJ – Ultra Highland Fling (this has been given UK Championship status therefore no further action required)
- Action RRCC2008-8: AJ – European Clubs Trial (£100 awarded to each club traveling to the event)
- Action RRCC2008-10: RM/AJ – Meeting Procedures
- Action RRCC2008-11: AJ /JY – National Start/Finish
- Action RRCC2008-13: AJ – Course Building at Falkirk
- Action RRCC2008-16: RM – RR Grand Prix and Commission's role
- Action RRCC2008-18: RM/AJ – SAL Competition Review
- Action RRCC2008-19: GS – Trophies

2.2 Actions Outstanding

The actions outstanding from the previous meeting were noted as:-

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Action RRCC2008-1: AJ – UK Risk Assessment
Action RRCC2008-2: AJ /JY – yearbook checklist
Action RRCC2008-5: RM – Eligibility rules*
Action RRCC2008-12: RM/AJ - Women's team race at National*
Action RRCC2008-14: AP – Sponsorship and Course Building
Action RRCC2008-15: RM/AJ – Championship Hosting by larger clubs
Action RRCC2008-17: AJ – Race Referees not being club members

2.3 Matters Arising

- Action RRCC2008-13 – Discussion on payments made to clubs for course building following agreement to pay £250 to FVH to assist with National CC Course. It was agreed Jim would set up a small short-life sub-committee to consider this and bring back recommendations to the Commission. **Action: RRCC2009-1: JY**
- Action RRCC2008-6 – Alex confirmed all arrangements were in place for the Young Athletes Road Races at East Kilbride. Jim Goldie would take entries, with Ron Hunter doing results. Alex had a detailed minute of everything that had been agreed. Jim and Margaret to liaise on picking up on any actions from now, with Alex withdrawing from arrangements. **Action RRCC2009-2: MD/JY**

3. UKA Cross Country Event Organisation Guide

This was discussed. It was noted that Jim Young had a shorter, more relevant version. It was agreed Jim's version would be reviewed to incorporate elements from the UKA Guide, i.e. insurance. Jim to pass disc to Ron for circulation. **Action: RRCC2009-3: JY/RM**

4. Scottish Athletics Six Year Plan

The approval mechanisms for this were discussed. It was noted that only the regional/district comments submitted by the Commission had been reflected in the final document. Discussions to be arranged between Ron and Geoff Wightman on under 13 age groups being excluded. Ron would also draft a letter and circulate for comment. The Commission strongly supported the view that what works best for each part of the sport should prevail.

Action: RRCC2009-4: RM

5. Officials Commission

Marjory had recently delivered training for level 2 officials for cross country events. She had been promised feedback on this from the Officials Commission but none received as yet.

Action: RRCC2009-5: MC

6. Commonwealth Games Ultra Challenge

Official invites had now been received and the Commonwealth Games Committee had passed responsibility for selection to Scottish Athletics. Criteria have been set for qualification. There is a slight funding gap which won't affect SAL but may impact on other Commonwealth countries. Event scheduled for 17 – 20 September 2009 in Keswick. It was noted that Mike was leading a fell and ultra squad meeting this weekend.

Action: RRCC2009-6: MJ

7. Medallist Archive

Ron was keen to create an archive of all medalists in championship events and had been leading on this for 15 years. The intention is that this will ultimately be carried on the SAL website. To complete records, Ron asked everyone to check on their own/others information

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store to gather record data from 1993. Once the period 1993 to date was completed, it may be possible to consider taking this further back.

Action: RRCC2009-7: All

8. 10K Inter District Road Race

Andy Caine had raised the possibility of this and Mike reported interest from athletes. Proposal was to incorporate the event within the Great Edinburgh Run scheduled for 3rd May 2009, possibly using the road relays as a selection race. Mike advised that District selectors would need to highlight any particular selection races. Results would be on placings. It was agreed Districts would take this forward.

Action: RRCC2009-8: IH/MD

9. SAL Marathon Championships

The issue of the outstanding levies due from Edinburgh was noted. It was further noted that the Edinburgh course was unsuitable for Commonwealth Games qualification due to gradient. It was agreed that if SAL Championships not to be at Edinburgh for 2009, then Loch Ness should be invited to host. It was agreed Mike should liaise with Geoff on this and advise Alex if further action required regarding Loch Ness Marathon.

Action: RRCC2009-9: MJ/AJ

10. Eligibility Rules

When Scotland moved to using the UK Rule Book in (about 2002) it swept away a number of rules that were put there specifically to promote high quality team competition in Scotland. This affects cross-country running more than the other parts of the sport. Indeed the effect is so detrimental that the rule change is largely ignored with the result that many of the athletes running for clubs in championships and open races are not eligible. Worst of all, there are so many historical inconsistencies that the event organisers and referees are left with unsatisfactory, arbitrary decisions to make.

The RR & CC Eligibility Working Party presented its proposals to define eligibility in the manner that most people think that it works while still remaining within the UK rules. This will be run past Peter Eager for comment.

Action: RRCC2009-10: RM

11. Team Counters

It was agreed, following discussion, to raise the team numbers for women's teams at national competition to four. All other age groups to remain as currently stand. This would need to be raised at District meetings to seek agreement to introduce this at District level for consistency.

Action: RRCC2009-11: AJ/IH/MD

12. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 6th May 2009.

Margaret to check possibility of Strathclyde University Sports Centre as a meeting venue for Glasgow.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.