

**Scottish Athletics Limited**  
**Road Running and Cross Country Commission**

**Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2012 held at 6.30 p.m.**  
**in SAL Offices, Caledonia House, South Gyle, Edinburgh**

**Present:** Ron Morrison, (Convener); Alex Jackson, (Secretary); Marjory Cook; Alan Potts; Graham Sword; Ian Hislop; Mark Pollard; Leslie Roy; Sophie Dunnett (via Skype) and Margaret Daly

**Apologies:** Tom Ferrington; Mike Johnston

**1. Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks**

1.1 Ron welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the successful running of the National Cross Country Championships at Falkirk the previous weekend. The stability of the event taking place at this venue for the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year and its popularity with athletes could be measured by the increased entry fields and finishers. Entries were at their highest for 15 years, although a lower entry in the under 13 age group had been noted. Conversely, this age group had a higher number of finishers than in previous years.

1.2 Ron outlined proposed topics for discussion at the meeting and asked for any items on the agenda not already started to be highlighted.

**2. Papers previously circulated**

2.1 Commission Minute of 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011

**3. Papers Circulated with the Agenda**

3.1 Selection Committees

3.2 East Minute 8/2/12

3.3 R and XC Competition Calendar 2012+

**4. Congratulations**

4.1 Congratulations were extended to the following:-

- ◆ Kerry-Liam Wilson (Ronhill Cambuslang H) and Melissa Whyte (Inverness H) for their wins in the Men's and Women's Masters Individual Championships respectively.
- ◆ Ronhill Cambuslang H and Edinburgh AC for their wins in the Men's and Women's Masters Team Championships respectively.
- ◆ Ronhill Cambuslang H for winning in the Men's 50+ Masters Team Championships
- ◆ Central AC and Edinburgh AC for their wins in the Men's and Women's CC Team Championships respectively.
- ◆ Derek Hawkins (Kilbarchan AAC) and Freya Murray (Edinburgh AC) for their wins in the Men's and Women's CC Individual Championships respectively

**5. Minutes of previous meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

5.1 Noted

**5.2 Actions Cleared**

Action: RRCC2011-39: RM/AJ: Eligibility for Championship Medals – On the Archive

Action: RRCC2011-42: RC/AJ: National Championships

Action: RRCC2011-48: SD/RM – North XC Championships – Referred to North District

Action: RRCC2011-45: AJ/RM: GGH on entry procedures for Championships (subsumed into RRCC2012-3)

Action: RRCC2011-48: SD/RM – North XC Championships

**5.3 Actions Outstanding**

Action: RRCC2010-21: NH – Non-SAL athletes in Championships

Action: RRCC2011-1: AJ/RM/MJ/RC/AS - World 24 hour event 2013

Action: RRCC2011-12: NH: Publicity at National events

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Action: RRCC2011-13: AJ: Refreshing the Commission Membership - Alex raised the query of a West representative having been discussed previously and requested that this be on the agenda of the next West District RR&CC meeting. **Action: RRCC2012-1: MD/GS**

Action: RRCC2011-33: NH: Officials List

Action: RRCC2011-41: AJ: Inter-District Timetable

Action: RRCC2011-43: AP/GS: Home International Championships

Action: RRCC2011-44: AJ/RM: Masters Awards at District Championships (10 year Bands)

Action: RRCC2011-46: NH: Grand Prix Events

Action: RRCC2011-47: MJ: European Team Competition – Result EAC disqualified by Referee. The Commission agreed that it was important that teams being sent to this event in future must meet the relevant 1<sup>st</sup> claim membership criteria to avoid problems.

**Action: RRCC2012-2: MJ/MP**

**6. Finance**

6.1 Graham reported that up until end December, the budget for the Commission was ahead by £500. It was noted that income expectations had not been realised and that as a consequence, budgets for 2012/13 may be under pressure. The Commission discussed the current level of race entry fees and agreed that this would be a matter for discussion at a future meeting on the basis of an impact assessment to be undertaken by Alex. The impact of the proposal from Greenock Glenpark Harriers discussed at the previous meeting would be incorporated within this paper. **Action: RRCC2012-3: AJ**

**7. Fixtures / Championships**

7.1 Home Countries International: Arrangements are progressing well and a useful site meeting took place recently. Noted requirement for matting due to number of paths on cross country course. Alex advised Billy Glasgow can source from Kelvin Hall. **Action: RRCC2012-4: AJ**

**8. Officials Commission**

8.1 Marjory reported on recent discussions and in particular that the training course for endurance officials has not been progressed by Commission. Agreed this will be co-ordinated by Alex in conjunction with Shona Malcolm, Dave Cairns and Ann Stewart.

**Action: RRCC2012-5: AJ**

8.2 The Commission discussed the needs of endurance elements of the sport and whether these need to be addressed differently. No endurance officials have been trained in recent years, nor are UKA reporting mechanisms being followed. Agreed this to be explored in context of ensuring endurance needs are met for the benefit of the sport.

**Action: RRCC2012-6: LR/RM**

**9. Inter District Championships**

9.1 Event took place at Holyrood Park in January. Shortcomings of revised format and timetabling noted. A meeting with NOVA on debrief has taken place alongside an informal discussion with Andy Caine. Noted event on calendar for 2013.

9.2 Options for meeting the needs of the SAL Cross Country season were discussed by the Commission including reviewing Scottish Athletics' involvement in this event on a continuing basis. Matter to be discussed with Chief Executive to ascertain what leverage SAL has or whether alternative competition arrangements need to be made. Initial discussions to take place with the Endurance Executive. **Action: RRCC2012-7: RM/AJ→MJ/MP**

**10. Masters Awards at District Championships**

10.1 Age eligibility for the Masters age group changes to 35 from 1<sup>st</sup> April as agreed previously by the Commission and in accordance with the IAAF Ruling. Once competition has settled

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down, a review of the medals awarded in cross country events will take place.

**Action: RRCC2012-8: RM/AJ**

**11. 2012/2013 Competition Year**

11.1 Mark introduced discussion on the impact on the winter calendar arising from the first weekend technically falling in late September. UKA operate on week 40 (29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> September 2012) however the competition year (for age groups) starts on 1<sup>st</sup> October each year. This had an impact on a number of events up until end December although no issues had been noted from January 2013 onwards. Following discussion, the Commission agreed that its competition year would flow as follows:-

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ◆ District Cross Country Relay Championships                   | 13 <sup>th</sup> /14 <sup>th</sup> October |
| ◆ National Cross Country Relay Championships                   | 27 <sup>th</sup> /28 <sup>th</sup> October |
| ◆ 4k Cross Country Championships                               | 10 <sup>th</sup> November                  |
| ◆ District Cross Country Championships (North to be confirmed) | 8 <sup>th</sup> December                   |

11.2 The positioning of the North District Championships has yet to be confirmed and Sophie agreed to take this up with colleagues in the North. **Action: RRCC2012-9: SD**

**12. District Cross Country Championship Medals**

12.1 The issue of medals at District CC Championships has been discussed by the Commission and District Commissions on a number of occasions without resolution. It was agreed that a consistent approach was important. Ron to prepare proposal for confirmation by Commission members that would aim to finally resolve this. **Action: RRCC2012-10: RM**

**13. Road Running Grand Prix Programme**

13.1 Despite loss of sponsorship, the programme will run in 2012. A press release is ready for issue pending the Commission's agreement of relevant competition events. The Dunfermline Half Marathon will not operate in 2012. It was agreed that an approach be made to the Glasgow Half Marathon. In addition, it was agreed that athletes competing in all GP events would be awarded an additional 5 points. **Action: RRCC2012-11: MP**

**14. Home International**

14.1 There is a desire to continue this approach with one race taking place in each of the home countries. England, Wales and Ireland have agreed their races. It was agreed to approach the Stirling 10k as potential hosts for the Scotland event. **Action: RRCC2012-12: MP**

**15. Selection Procedures**

15.1 A paper confirming selection procedures was agreed. Noted the increase in trail running events taking place and it was agreed clarity was required on the Commission's role in responsibility for these events. Hill Running Commission to consider, however noted likelihood that this will fall to the Road & Cross Commission. Revised paper agreed by the Commission to be circulated to members for final agreement prior to it being uploaded to the website. **Action: RRCC2012-13: RM**

15.2 Currently reference is made to the SAL Selection Committee, however this is relevant only to Track & Field selection. Agreed a revised title is required to avoid confusion for athletes and coaches. **Action: RRCC2012-14: LR**

**16. UK Representation Lists on the Archive**

16.1 Currently the lists only include actual medal winners and it was agreed this should be extended to those athletes who had represented UK in events. **Action: RRCC2012-15: MP**

**17. District Road Running Championship Medals**

17.1 These were confirmed as 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> for each of the seniors and masters; male and female. No team awards.

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**18. Eligibility at Masters National CC Championships**

- 18.1 The position with 'unattached' runners was discussed and noted that UKA rules indicate that unattached status is only permitted for an athlete's first year of competition. Thereafter runners in championships are required to be members of athletic clubs registered with the governing body or they cannot run. RM to draft form of wording to include on website and entry forms. **Action: RRCC2012-16: RM**

**19. Strategic Thinking**

- 19.1 For consideration at next Commission meeting:-
- ◆ Where are we going with the sport in terms of road, cross and trail
  - ◆ Should targets be set for the sport? For performance athletes?
  - ◆ Should there be targets for the next stage of development of the sport?
  - ◆ With the possibility of Scotland as a separate team in the Euro Cross, what would an appropriate trial race be? Is there a need for a long race in November?

**20. Gunstone Millenium Trophy**

- 20.1 Efforts to be made to retrieve this trophy from the most recent holder. Relevant athletes to be contacted. **Action: RRCC2012-17: AJ/MP**

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

**Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2012 at 6.30 p.m. in Edinburgh