

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

**Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 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; Tom Ferrington; Ian Beattie; Leslie Roy; Nigel Holl; Mike Johnston; Mark Pollard; Leslie Roy; Sophie Dunnett (via Skype) and Margaret Daly

**Apologies:** None

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

- 1.1 Ron welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended a particular welcome to the new Chair of Scottish Athletics, Ian Beattie, and invited him to address the Commission members.
- 1.2 Ian summarised his background in road and cross country running, his key priorities and what he viewed as his role as Chair of Scottish Athletics. In particular he would like to see improved representation levels of Scottish athletes in the sport at UK level and on the participation side, those who don't necessarily see themselves as part of SAL, brought into the athletics fold. In his view, this needed better linkages with mass participation events and forging better connections with these athletes through clubs.
- 1.3 Ron outlined proposed topics for discussion at the meeting and asked for any items on the agenda not already starred to be highlighted. Two additional items were agreed.

**2. Congratulations**

- 2.1 Congratulations were noted to the following:-
- ◆ Euan Gilham (Kilbarchan AAC) for his win in the U15 boys UK Inter-Counties Championships on 10/3/2012.
  - ◆ Derek Hawkins (Kilbarchan AAC) for his win in the Home International Championships on 18/3/2012.
  - ◆ The Scottish team of Derek Hawkins (Kilbarchan AAC), Ross Houston (Central AC) and Alex Hendry (Central AC) for their win in the Home International Team Championships on 18/3/2012.
  - ◆ Teweldeberhan Mengisteab (Shettleston H) and Gemma Rankin (Kilbarchan AAC) for their wins in the Men's and Women's 10 mile Road Race Individual Championships respectively on 8/4/2012.
  - ◆ Kerry-Liam Wilson (Ronhill Cambuslang H) and Jennifer MacLean (Edinburgh AC) for their wins in the Men's and Women's Masters 10 mile Road Race Individual Championships respectively on 8/4/2012.
  - ◆ Shettleston H and Edinburgh AC for their wins in the Men's and Women's 10 miles Road Race Team Championships respectively on 8/4/2012.
  - ◆ Central AC for winning both the Men's and Women's 6 and 4 stage Road Relay Championships respectively on 31/3/2012.
  - ◆ Ronhill Cambuslang H and Fife AC for their wins in the Men's and Women's Masters 6 and 4 stage Road Relay Championships respectively on 31/3/2012.
  - ◆ Scott Bradley (Carnegie H) for winning the Senior and Masters Men's National Trail Running Championship on 28/4/2012.
  - ◆ Sharon Trimble (Edinburgh AC) and Sharon Law (Garscube H) for winning the Senior and Masters Women's National Trail Running Championship respectively on 28/4/2012.
  - ◆ Hayley Haining for winning the Lillebaelt Half Marathon in Denmark representing Scotland and combining with Ross Houston, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Andrew Douglas, 3<sup>rd</sup> in the men's race to win the International Team race for Scotland ahead of England, Denmark, and Norway

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**3. Minutes of previous meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2012**

3.1 Noted

**3.2 Actions Cleared**

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

Action: RRCC2011-13: AJ – Refreshing the Commission Membership – superseded by RRCC2012-1

Action: RRCC2011-33: NH – Officials List – superseded by RRCC2012-5

Action: RRCC2011-41: AJ – Inter-District Timetable superseded by RRCC2012-7

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

Action: RRCC2011-46: NH – Grand Prix Events

Action: RRCC2011-48: SD/RM – North XC Championships – superseded by RRCC2012-9

Action: RRCC2011-47: MJ – European Team Competition – superseded by RRCC2012-2

Action: RRCC2012-4: AJ – Home International Championships

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

Action: RRCC2011-45: AJ/RM – GGH on entry procedures for Championships\*

Action: RRCC2012-1: MD/GS – Refreshing the Commission Membership\*

Action: RRCC2012-2: MJ/MP – European Team Competition\*

Action: RRCC2012-3: AJ – Championship Entry Fees (inc Action: RRCC2011-45)\*

Action: RRCC2012-5: AJ – Officials Training & Lists

Action: RRCC2012-6: LR/RM – Endurance Officials and the Officials Commission

Action: RRCC2012-7: RM/AJ→MJ/MP: Inter-District Championships and Nova\*

Action: RRCC2012-8: RM/AJ – Masters Awards at District Championships

Action: RRCC2012-9: SD – The positioning of the North District Championships

Action: RRCC2012-10: RM – District Cross Country Championship Medals\*

Action: RRCC2012-11: MP – Road Running Grand Prix Programme

Action: RRCC2012-12: MP – Stirling 10K as International Race\*

Action: RRCC2012-13: RM – Selection Procedures\*

Action: RRCC2012-14: LR – Name of SAL Selection Committee

Action: RRCC2012-15: MP – UK Representation Lists on the Archive

Action: RRCC2012-16: RM – Eligibility at Masters National CC Championships\*

Action: RRCC2012-17: AJ/MP – Missing Gunstone Millennium Trophy

**4. Officials Training**

4.1 Alex advised that John Templeton (UKA) had contacted him regarding a Level 3 Endurance Officials Training Course which is taking place on 26<sup>th</sup> June. Alex suggested that the three officials who had completed the level 2 tutoring course – namely himself, Dave Cairns and Ann Stewart – should be nominated to attend. Agreed, with the addition of Ron Morrison.

**Action: RRCC2012-5: AJ**

4.2 To encourage recruitment and participation in subsequent training courses delivered in Scotland by the tutors, it was agreed Level 2 and 3 Endurance Officials Training would be included in the Education Programme.

**Action: RRCC2012-18: AJ to contact JG**

**5. Gunstone Millennium Trophy**

5.1 Alex and Mark updated the Commission on progress with tracking down the missing trophy. The initial recipient in 2000 advised the trophy had been passed on via her parent but neither of the successive two winners recalled being presented with it. It was agreed to try and obtain a photograph of the trophy from Eleanor Gunstone and post a news item on the SAL website. The possibility of a replacement being required was noted.

**Action: RRCC2012-17: RM**

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**6. Entries, Programmes and Results**

- 6.1 The Commission noted the decision of Peter Jackson to retire from his role in providing a results service at championships over the past 17 years and expressed sincere thanks for the work he has done in this regard. Agreed a letter be sent from the Chair acknowledging Peter's substantial contribution to events over the years of his involvement.

**Action: RRCC2012-18: RM**

- 6.2 As a result of Peter's retirement and building on the need to review an entries/results collaborative system for Road & Cross Country events, Ron advised that Nigel was exploring options subject to suitable funding being identified. Ron is preparing a specification for a system which would be circulated to Commission members for comment once complete. A number of existing systems in operation were discussed and the urgency of the matter noted as it required to be in place for the start of the 2012/13 Winter Season in October. Progressing this item would also incorporate actions RRCC2010-21: NH – Non-SAL athletes in Championships and RRCC2011-45: AJ/RM – GGH on entry procedures for Championships.

**Action: RRCC2012-19: NH/RM**

- 6.3 In particular, the issue of the East District's predicament was noted and it was agreed that Ron would contact Gary Condie regarding the system currently used in the West District.

**Action: RRCC2012-20: RM**

**7. Refreshing Commission Membership**

- 7.1 To progress representation from the West District, it was agreed all West clubs would be emailed on this with the offer of a nominated individual, who, if no objections were received by a given date, would be approved and invited to the next meeting.

**Action: RRCC2012-1: MD**

**8. European Team Competition**

- 8.1 Ron outlined a proposal that would result in the National Cross Country Relays being the selection race for the European Team Trial race on basis of only eligible athletes under UKA rules being fielded. This would bring SAL in line with selection processes for English Athletics. Agreed this would be implemented from the start of the 2012/13 Winter Season. Letters to be sent to Edinburgh AC and Central AC advising of the change in selection procedures and thereafter the policy would be publicised widely to all clubs.

**Action: RRCC2012-21: AJ**

**9. Championship Entry Fees**

- 9.1 Discussion on this item incorporated Action: RRCC2011-45. Alex spoke to the paper circulated previously and the Commission discussed the merits of a 50 pence increase on Cross Country Championship entry fees. This was agreed along with an increase to £200 of the host fee to clubs. It was also agreed to have an annual review of both fees and host fees as a standing agenda item for the Commission.

**Action: RRCC2012-22: AJ**

- 9.2 The inclusion of the Grand Prix and Team Challenge in the Road & Cross Country budget was also agreed.

**Action: RRCC2012-23: GS/AJ**

**10. Inter District Championships**

- 10.1 Following discussion at the previous meeting, Nigel reported on a recent meeting held with NOVA on a range of matters relating to their programme of events in Scotland and the opportunity for improved linkages with Scottish Athletics. Strong representation was made as part of this meeting on the revised format for the Great Edinburgh Cross Country not being suitable for continued inclusion of the Inter District Championships and the view was that positive discussions had ensued. Written follow-up to the meeting from NOVA was awaited which would indicate if SAL's points had been taken on board.

**Noted**

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10.2 As part of the discussion on this event, race distances had been reviewed and it emerged that the distances athletes race over the cross country season were not aligned appropriately. As a result of discussions, the Commission agreed to expand the paper previously circulated to include Inter Counties and international competition distances. The Commission also agreed to a revised programme for cross country championships to apply from the 2012/13 Winter season which would have under 17 and under 20 women running together rather than the current arrangement of under 15/under 17 and under 20/senior women's races. It was noted this would mean an earlier start to the programme to incorporate the additional race required. **Action: RRCC2012-24: AJ/RM/MD/GS/SD**

**11. Selection Procedures**

11.1 Ron spoke to the paper which had been previously circulated and as it was subsequently agreed for implementation, advised this would now be posted on the SAL website.

**Action: RRCC2012-25: RM/AJ**

**12. Stirling 10K**

12.1 Central AC has confirmed they are willing to host an international/Home Countries 10K event within this race. The Commission noted the efforts of Mark on securing this and extended their thanks.

**Action: RRCC2012-26: MP**

**13. Eligibility at Masters National Championships**

13.1 The Commission noted the UKA rule which permitted athletes to run unattached for one year only and the impact on Masters participation where a number of senior athletes are not members of clubs. It was agreed that unattached O65s would be eligible for medals at Masters Championships subject to their membership of SAL being confirmed.

**Action: RRCC2012-27: AJ**

**14. Competition Calendar**

14.1 Following discussion at the previous meeting which had approved the competition calendar to end December 2012, Mark presented a revised calendar incorporating events into the second half of the season which was approved.

**Noted**

**15. Lumley Trophy**

15.1 The background to this was explained and the process of securing its return to Scotland noted.

**Action: RRCC2012-28: NH**

**16. Strategic Thinking**

16.1 In view of the number of matters which the Commission required to deliberate and form a view on, Ron suggested an additional meeting in early September with a restricted agenda. It was agreed this meeting would consider (a) Trail Running Championships; (b) International Competition for Road & Cross Country Running; (c) Performance and Participation Targets, and (d) Unattached Runners. The date would be notified and confirmed by email.

**Action: RRCC2012-29: RM/AJ**

**17. Fixtures / Championships**

17.1 Alex reported on arrangements for the cross country season as follows:-

National CC Relay Championships	Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> October 2012	Cumbernauld
National Masters CC Championships	Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2013	Venue required
National CC Championships	Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2013	Falkirk
Young Athletes' Road Races	Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2013	Venue required
National 4-6 Stage Relays	Weekend 30 <sup>th</sup> /31 <sup>st</sup> March 2013	Livingston
District Championship Venues: East	Dundee and Cupar	
West	Kilmarnock and (tbc)	
North	Nairn and Moray	

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**18. Championship Medals**

- 18.1 The fact that medals were not available for the Road Championships which had taken place to date was discussed. Agreed that arrangements would be made for the T&F order to be brought forward to incorporate the medal requirements for Road Championships.

**Action: RRCC2012-30: AJ/JMacD**

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

**Date of Next Ordinary Meeting**

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at 6.30 p.m. in Edinburgh