

Scottish Athletics Limited
Road Running and Cross Country Commission

Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday 22nd August 2012 held at 6.30 p.m.
in SAL Offices, Caledonia House, South Gyle, Edinburgh

Present: Ron Morrison, (Convener); Alex Jackson, (Secretary); Marjory Cook; Graham Sword; Ian Hislop; Tom Ferrington; Nigel Holl; Mike Johnston; Ross Cunningham and Margaret Daly

Apologies: None

1. Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks

1.1 Ron welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the focus of the meeting was discussion on key areas for incorporation into a strategy document. He advised that at this meeting, there were no starred items as all matters on the limited agenda would be discussed and relevant papers had previously been circulated to Commission members.

2. Entries, Programmes and Results

2.1 With the retirement of Peter Jackson from this role after 15 years, the time was right to review the processes used for entries, programmes and results for cross country events. The long-term aim is that the SAL office will be responsible for this role in relation to national championships however interim arrangements were required pending development of appropriate IT programs. Ron demonstrated a prototype system which could meet requirements of an automated entry system. The target is to trial a fully automated entry, programme and chip based results system at the National Cross Country Championships with a back up manual system running in tandem. The meeting agreed.

Action: RRCC2012-31 : RM/NH/AJ

3. Increasing Participation Levels at National and District Championships

3.1 Discussion on how the Commission could deliver championships in trail events led to agreement that Fife AC would be asked to organise a pilot event, possibly on Lomond Hills over 15k. Subject to evaluation of this event, consideration would be given to organising trail championships at 5k, 10 miles and beyond. **Action: RRCC2012-32 : RM/AJ/Fife AC**

3.2 The importance of competition for the U20 age group was discussed. To keep the distance progression for this age group it was agreed that U20 men would run in the same race as U17 men in the District Championships with the distances for each age group adjusted accordingly, resulting in the U17 men peeling off early in the event.

Action: RRCC2012-33 : AJ/RC

3.3 Following realignment of the masters qualifying age to 35, the medals awarded at championships was reviewed. Following discussion, it was agreed to introduce Supervet team gold medals for the National Cross Country Relay Championships and the National Road Relay Championships on a trial basis. In the Cross Country event the over 50 team would be 3 legs and in the Road Relays 3 legs for women and 4 for men.

Action: RRCC2012-34 : AJ

4. Refreshing the Commission Membership

4.1 This matter remained outstanding and it was agreed to consider additional representation on the Commission alongside West District representation discussed previously. Margaret agreed to action the West District as previously requested. Further consideration to be given to additional representation with the possibility of including Charlie Haskett to be explored.

Action: RRCC 2012-1 : MD / Action: RRCC 2012-35 : RM

5. Season Structure

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- 5.1 The Commission discussed the structure of the road and cross country season, particularly in relation to the Grand Prix events and the relay structure feeding into the English National 6/12 Stage Relays. It was agreed that the Grand Prix events would continue subject to suitable funding being identified and consideration given to appropriate dates for relays that may provide opportunities for a structured event. **Action: RRCC 2012-36 : NH/MJ/RM**
- 6. International Competition**
- 6.1 The possibility of expanding / improving current opportunities for international competition was discussed subject to availability of appropriate funding. The challenges related to invitations being secured for competition that covered the cost of athletes' participation were noted. A number of possible opportunities were discussed and it was agreed that Mike would produce a programme in September and that he and Nigel would have a discussion on budgets. **Action: RRCC 2012-37 : NH/MJ**
- 7. Performance and Participation Targets**
- 7.1 Discussion on this item was deferred until the next meeting of the Commission. **Action: RRCC 2012-38 : AJ**
- 8. The Future of Grand Prix Events**
- 8.1 The current grand prix events were reviewed and discussed. Tom outlined this year's innovation whereby bonus points were awarded for competing in all five Grand Prix events. The GP series funding was agreed by Nigel for season 2012-3 and a review will take place for the Road events at the end of the 2011-2 season.
- 8.2 It was felt that the alignment of the Grand Prix with national championships needs to be considered in relation to impact on performance and participation. **Action: RRCC2012-39 : TF/RM/AJ/MP/MJ**
- 9. Marshalling at Championships**
- 9.1 Alex raised the issue of the provision of marshals at championship events, particularly where these consistently took place at the same venue. Currently the burden to cover this fell on the same clubs which was beginning to present some challenges. Following discussion, it was agreed that Alex would produce a document which would be issued with the championship entry forms. **Action: RRCC2012-40 : AJ**
- 10. 4K Championship**
- 10.1 Due to a clash of fixtures, it was agreed to move this event from the original date of 4th November to Sunday 11th November, 2012. **Action: RRCC2012-41 : AJ**
- 11. Chairman's Concluding Remarks**
- 11.1 Ron thanked everyone for their involvement in the meeting and suggested that the format and discussions had been helpful. He proposed an annual meeting with a focused agenda in this vein and this was agreed. **Action: RRCC2012-42 : RM/AJ**

The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.