

**Scottish Athletics Limited**  
**Road Running and Cross Country Commission**  
**Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2013 held at 6.30 p.m.**  
**in SAL Offices, Caledonia House, South Gyle, Edinburgh**

**Present:** Ron Morrison, (Convener); Alex Jackson, (Secretary); Alan Potts; Marjory Cook; Mike Johnston; Julia Henderson; Graham Sword; Clare Barr; Lesley Roy; Ian Hislop; Mark Pollard; Nigel Holl; Sophie Dunnett (part, via Skype) 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 this meeting was strategic planning and discussion on key areas for development or review within the Commission's remit. All items on the agenda would be discussed and relevant papers had previously been circulated to Commission members. Any additional agenda items were advised and noted.
- 1.2 The Commission noted with sadness the recent death of Bill Scally of Shettleston Harriers. Bill, an Honorary Life Member of Scottish Athletics and previous holder of the Betty Clapperton award for services to coaching, passed away after a long illness.
- 1.3 Ron advised that a recent meeting of the SAL Board confirmed Trail Running would be incorporated in the revised Articles of Association to be presented to the Annual General Meeting Trail Running would be assigned initially to the Road Running & Cross Country Commission.
- 1.4

**2. Entries, Programmes and Results**

- 2.1 Discussion took place on progress with development of a comprehensive system for taking entries, producing programmes and other race day administration, producing results and post-race reports.
- 2.2 Progress: Pre- and post-race information on the website had improved thanks to the work of Peter Jardine. The use of chip timing at the National Cross Country Championships in February 2013 had been successful. The office has assumed responsibility for race entries being listed on a spreadsheet.
- 2.3 Noted: introduction of chip timing at other races was not yet practical although further consideration for the 4k may be useful in view of the intense finish; entry system and membership system not yet integrated; a comprehensive results system and on-line entry system not yet in place; web archive results remain a manual exercise.

**3. Cross Country Review**

- 3.1 Clare raised a request from EKAAC to revert to under 20 males running with senior athletes. It was agreed that as this had been introduced for the first time in season 2012/13 as part of athlete development, that the trial be continued into season 2013/2014. **Action: RRCC2013-12: CB**
- 3.2 The continued hosting of championships at the same venues for several years was discussed. It was agreed the document on championship course requirements would be updated and issued to clubs with a view to identifying possible new locations. **Action: RRCC2013-13: RM/AJ**
- 3.3 Consideration was given to the effectiveness of the current race programme in supporting aspirations of elite athletes. A contingency plan is required for the Inter District should the Great Edinburgh Cross Country event cease to be held. A sub group was agreed and a discussion paper will be prepared for the Commission's next meeting.

**Action: RRCC2013-14: RM/AJ/MJ/MP**

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- 3.4 Representations had been made by athletes regarding the Masters age eligibility reverting to 40 despite IAAF determination that 35 is the eligible starting age. A consultation paper for clubs would be prepared and circulated to enable responses to be considered at the next meeting.  
**Action: RRCC2013-15: MD/RM/AJ**
- 3.5 The potential to extend the 4k Championships to include 2 and 3k events for U15 and U17 athletes was explored. It was agreed that a new Short Course Championships incorporating young athletes' races would be trialled in 2013/14 winter season alongside a shift to the event taking place on a Saturday.  
**Action: RRCC2013-16: MP/AJ**
- 3.6 A programme of championship dates and locations for 2014/2015 season to be initiated with a view to accelerating the venue booking processes.  
**Action: RRCC2013-17: MP**
- 3.7 Medals for O50 teams would be extended to the first 3 teams at the National Cross Country and Road Relays.  
**Action: RRCC2013-18: NH/AJ**
- 4. Trail Running Review**
- 4.1 A review of dates is required for the stand alone mid-trail race; additional feeding stations to be considered subject to comparison with the Karrimor event; the potential for an age groups event to be incorporated was discussed. A strategy paper to be prepared for the next meeting.  
**Action: RRCC2013-19: RM**
- 5. Road Running Review**
- 5.1 A small sub-group to consider the Commission's potential to have input to road championships that are outwith our organizational structure.  
**Action: RRCC2013-20: RM/AJ/MP/MJ**
- 5.2 Consideration to be given on the ability of the Grand Prix event structure to meet the Commission's planned outcomes.  
**Action: RRCC2013-21: RM/AJ/MP/MJ**
- 6. Performance and Participation**
- 6.1 Statistics collated as agreed at the last Strategic Review meeting and are now available and regularly updated on the website.
- 7. Year Book**
- 7.1 A document is currently in preparation and progress to date was noted.
- 8. Refreshing Commission Membership**
- 8.1 Discussion took place on the collation of information on cross country officials activity and training. The potential to contact all SAL officials to gauge their interest in participation at road and cross country championships would be explored. A small sub-group will be set up and David Cairns invited to participate. In view of this, Dave to be invited onto the Commission.  
**Action: RRCC2013-22: AJ**
- 9. Season Structure**
- 9.1 Comments were invited on the paper produced on endurance.  
**Action: RRCC2013-23: All**
- 10. Rules**
- 10.1 The Commission use the UKA Rules for Competition subject to an amendment for Scottish eligibility in team races. Consideration on the potential to increase the number of counters in women's teams to 6 was proposed. The possible impact on participation and competition would be explored and information presented to the next meeting of the Commission for consideration.  
**Action: RRCC2013-24: AJ**
- 11. Date of Next Meeting**

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11.1 Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at 6.30 p.m. in Scottish Athletics' Offices, South Gyle, Edinburgh.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.