

Scottish Athletics Limited
Road Running and Cross Country Commission

Minutes of Meeting of Wednesday 12 August 2015 held at 6.30pm
at the Scottish Athletics Offices, South Gyle, Edinburgh

Present: John Rodger, Alex Jackson, Mark Pollard, Julia Henderson, Dave Cairns, Ian Hislop, Tom Ferrington, Alasdair Love, Alan Potts, Margaret Daly, Ron Morrison and Nigel Holl.

Apologies: Clare Barr, Graham Sword, Lesley Roy, Marjory Cook and Sophie Dunnett

1. Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks

- 1.1 JR welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Commission members to identify any additional items they wished to discuss.
- 1.2 JR commemorated the work and contribution to athletics of Sandy Robertson and noted his recent death with sadness.
- 1.3 JR introduced Alasdair Love to his first Commission meeting. Alasdair, a member of Aberdeen AC and a regular competitor in athletic events, has recently been appointed National Events Manager for Scottish Athletics.

2. Commission Minute of 18th May 2015

- 2.1 The Commission minutes of 18th May 2015 were noted and approved.

3. Finance

- 3.1 No report, however copies of the Annual Report and Accounts were provided to the meeting.

4. District Reports

- 4.1 No reports.

5. Fixtures/Championships

- 5.1 **National Relays:** AJ, AL and JR met with representatives of North Lanarkshire Council and agreed course layouts. Toilets and parking would be available at the school, with declarations at the course. The shortfalls in the chip timing system for relays was discussed and it was agreed that AL/RM would produce a short report on what the requirements are to be presented to the Chip Timing Company for discussion. Once concluded, a decision would be taken on whether chip timing would be used for this event. A slight adjustment to race times was agreed with the first race commencing at 12.15 p.m.
- 5.2 **National Short Course Championships:** AL to check venue booking. AP appointed as Convenor; JR as Course Setter. Palace of Art to be venue for declarations. It was noted this would be a Saturday event in 2015.
- 5.3 **Championships Convenors:**
 - (a) Masters Cross Country Championships: Alex Jackson
 - (b) National Cross Country Championships: Alex Jackson
 - (c) Young Athletes Road Races: Clare Barr
 - (d) National Road Relay Championships: Alex Jackson
 - (e) National Short Course Championships: Alan Potts
- 5.4 **National Inter District Cross Country Championships:** AJ reported that NOVA has been rebranded as the Great Run Company with Mark Hollinshead appointed as Chief Executive Officer. MH keen to work with Scottish Athletics on the issues raised regarding this event. It was noted the company is in discussion with Glasgow Life on a Glasgow Marathon event.

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The company is also keen to move into a mass market cross country event with the potential for Hamilton Racecourse as the venue. It was noted the event targeted the JogScotland and beginner runners rather than elite athletes. Scheduled date of 13th December proposed.

6. Cross Country Grand Prix

6.1 MP addressed a previously circulated paper highlighting the incentive focus of the addition of the Liverpool Cross Country event and Inter Counties Cross Country Championships with finishing positions in the context of Scottish athletes to be the determining factor in these two events. District Championships to be included in the Grand Prix.

7. National Mid Trail Championships

7.1 It was noted that only 30 entries had been received for this event which threatened its viability.

8. Officials Commission/Endurance Course

8.1 DC reported that a meeting is to be held with Graham Jessop regarding provision of a Level 2 Endurance Course which may then lead to a couple of training courses being organised.

9. Strategy Issues

9.1 **U20 Men in District Championships:** Following extensive discussion it was agreed to retain U17/U20s racing together with an attempt being made to maximise the potential for both groups to be on the same course for as long as possible, noting that this was course dependent.

9.2 **Athletes with a Disability:** NH reported on an approach made to the Tom Scott Road Race organisers requesting permission for a wheelchair entry. The course was assessed as unsuitable for wheelchair athletes due to the steep hill descent and open road elements of the course. The Commission noted that current events open to athletes with a disability included the Women's 10k; Great Scottish Run 10k and Half Marathon and the Aberdeen 10k. Noting that the focus and emphasis may require to be on closed road races, it was agreed to involve Disability Sport Scotland in discussions on the matter. A sub group of the Commission to be established with a view to determining a strategy by the end of the year.

9.3 **Senior Women's Distances in Cross Country/Numbers comprising teams:** Following discussion, it was agreed that 4 to count would apply to both male and female teams in the National Short Course Championships as a test event, the results of which will be reviewed by the Commission.

9.4 **IAAF Age Groups:** The Commission noted that proposals on this topic would be presented to the UKA Board in September for inclusion in the rule book for 2016.

10. AOCB

10.1 **Scottish Athletics AGM:** this would take place on 26th September 2015 in Glasgow.

11. Date of Next Meeting

11.1 The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 21st October 2015 at the Emirates Arena, Glasgow.

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