

# Road and Cross Country Commission

Convenor: Mike Johnston



## Minutes

Name: Scottish Athletics Road and Cross Country Commission Meeting

Type of Meeting: Update Meeting  
Date and Time: Monday 6 December 2021 at 1730 via Zoom  
Location: Via Conference call  
Minutes taken by: Michael Wright  
Date Minutes Issued: Monday 20 December 2021

Attendees: Name  
Mike Johnston  
Colin Hutchison  
Dave Cairns  
Ted Finch  
Sandra Hardacre  
Alex Jackson MBE  
Ron Morrison  
Mark Pollard  
Ross Cairns  
John McKay  
Alasdhair Love  
Dawn Armit  
Michael Wright

Apologies: Julia McAfee  
John Rodger  
Caitlin Watt

Next Meeting: Monday 7 February 2022 at 1730hrs.

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<b>Minute No.</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	
	Apologies were received from Julia McAfee, John Rodger and Caitlin Watt.	Noted
<b>2.0</b>	<b>CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME</b>	
2.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.	Noted
2.2	The meeting congratulated the following athletes who have been selected by British Athletics to run in the European Cross Country Championships: Senior Men: Andrew Butchart and Jamie Crowe (both Central AC); Stuart McCallum (Winchester) U23 Women: Eloise Walker (Edinburgh AC/Glasgow Uni) U20 Women: Megan Keith (Inverness Harriers/Edinburgh Uni Hare and Hounds) U20 Men: Hamish Armit (Giffnock North) and Lewis Hannigan (Kilbarchan AAC)	Noted
<b>3.0</b>	<b>PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES</b>	
3.1	It was agreed that the previous meeting minutes form an accurate record of the past meeting. The minutes were proposed by Dave Cairns.	Noted
<b>4.0</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>	
4.1	Ally Love noted, in respect of the Young Athletes Road Races, that he is still seeking to confirm whether East Fortune will be available as a venue for this competition.	Ally Love
4.2	Mike Johnston noted that out-of-pocket expenses were proposed to be paid for officials in the future. Dave Cairns is still progressing.	Dave Cairns
<b>5.0</b>	<b>ROAD RACE CHAMPIONSHIPS</b>	
5.1	Mike Johnston introduced the Sub Group recording proposals for the Road Race Championships for 2022. This recorded the following recommendations: 5K – should be offered to Silverknowes – potential date of 6 May 10K – should be offered to Kilmarnock Roon the Toon – date 12 June 10 Mile – already offered to Tom Scott - April Half Marathon – should be offered to Glasgow – date 2 October Marathon – should be offered to Stirling – date 15th May	Noted
5.2	John McKay noted concerns as to transparency and fairness as to the allocation of 10K road races, following the decision to award the 10K to Kilmarnock 10K rather than Babcock 10K. Mike noted that the Commission has never gone away from issuing races in the calendar year. Road Races and Grand Prix events have gone hand-in-hand in the past since around 2010. Mike also noted that the 10K is proposed to go to Kilmarnock because of the ambition to host a para-10K at the same event.	Noted
5.3	Michael Wright noted that he has highlighted to the new Stirling 10K Race Director that it is proposed that Kilmarnock 10K be given the Scottish Athletic Championship status, and that if there are any strong feelings in respect of this, someone from Central AC would get in touch.	Noted

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5.4	Ted Finch asked for clarification on the pros and cons of a Scottish Athletics organised 10K. Ron noted the importance of ensuring that races are supported that put money back into the sport. Ron also noted the requirement for a support network behind Ally Love to successfully stage big road race	Noted
5.5	Mark Pollard noted the long term ambition of SA to support their own road races. Ron noted the marathon surge of the 1990s where the road racing influence was lost, and it got factored out to big corporates.	Noted
5.6	Colin Hutchison noted the ambition of Scottish Athletics to host more of their own road racing events. Mike Johnston noted that 2023 to 2024 is the realistic timescale for this, at this juncture. Colin noted that he is working with Ally Love to bring some proposals to the Commission.	Colin Hutchison / Ally Love
5.7	In respect of road events running to calendar years, Ally Love noted that we need to look at the year book, which is not clear as to us running to calendar years, and that the repercussions of going to calendar years should be looked at. For instance, are Districts going to fall into calendar years or competition years?	Noted
5.8	Ross Cairns noted that there are instances out there whereby the age on the day of the race, would affect an U17 going into U20, or an U20 going into U23.	Noted
<b>6.0</b>	<b>COVID UPDATE</b>	
6.1	Colin Hutchison advised that there are no changes to sport anytime soon and Sport Scotland are not aware of any changes to proposed guidance. There is a need to remain vigilant. Colin noted that there is one Club which is suffering multiple cases of COVID.	Noted
<b>7.0</b>	<b>EVENTS LAST WEEKEND – DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS</b>	
7.1	Dawn Armitth advised that the West District Cross Country Championships was successful and that good feedback had been received. It was noted that Open Track were used, and generally worked fine aside from some minor issues, and that the team results were issued quickly.	Noted
7.2	John McKay noted that one club athlete fell and broke his shoulder. Contact had been made to himself asking how to claim through insurance. Ally Love asked John to advise the athlete in question to write to the Events email address. Someone at Scottish Athletics will collate the relevant paperwork, and that will then be sent to UK Athletics.	John McKay / Ally Love

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7.3	<p>Sandra Hardacre noted that the East District Cross Country Championships went ahead in wet conditions. Sandra noted that there was a lot of hard work from Central AC to host. Like the Wests, Open Track was used to process results. There were a couple of minor glitches encountered which led to incorrect Team Results.</p> <p>In respect of the event, there were a couple of problems on the day. Whilst the catering van did turn up, it did not start serving until quite late due to staff issues. The other more serious issue was that first aid didn't turn up. As a result, an announcement went out asking for medical trained personnel to come forward, and assist if required. Relevant persons did do this, and so some first aid was available if required. Ally Love agreed that this was the right course of action in the circumstances.</p>	Noted
7.4	Ross Cairns noted that the North District Cross Country Championships took place successfully following some heavy rain the night before. The race took place at Gordonstoun School in Elgin who were very supportive. Due to the heavy rain, there were a small number of changes to the course due to flooding. Open Track worked brilliantly aside from one small issue.	Noted
7.5	Alex Jackson noted that it was very encouraging that over 2,400 entries were received across all three venues, and that around 1,700 finished ultimately. Thanks to Peter Jardine for promoting so effectively.	Noted
<b>8.0</b>	<b>THE INTER DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS</b>	
8.1	Ally Love advised that he is working with Mark Preston at North Ayrshire Council to facilitate everything at Irvine. One of the few outstanding items required is a catering van, which they are working on.	Noted
8.2	Ally Love advised, in respect of the above, that he would like team lists to him during the first week back in January.	Noted
<b>9.0</b>	<b>THE MASTERS CROSS COUNTRY</b>	
9.1	Ally Love advised that the entries for the Masters Cross Country Championships opened today, and that he is working with Metro Aberdeen on delivering this event.	Noted
<b>10.0</b>	<b>THE NATIONAL CROSS COUNTRY</b>	
10.1	Ally Love advised that the entries for the Scottish Cross Country Championships opened today, and that he is walking the course this coming Thursday. He is also looking into getting quotes obtained for drone footage of the event.	Noted
<b>11.0</b>	<b>THE CELTIC PLATE</b>	
11.1	Ally Love advised that there is no particular update on this one, and that progress continues.	Noted
<b>12.0</b>	<b>NATIONAL 4 &amp; 6 STAGE ROAD RELAYS</b>	
12.1	Ally Love advised that he has been in contact with the school at Livingston, and that they have confirmed that they will take the booking on.	Noted
<b>13.0</b>	<b>ENDURANCE OFFICIALS</b>	

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13.1	Dave Cairns advised that he is seeking permission to purchase starter box units, one for each of the three districts, each costing £220 per box. Ally Love confirmed that he had included costs in his budget to cover these.	Noted
13.2	Ron Morrison queried whether more cost effective devices could be used. Ally Love noted the importance of these units, not only for cross-country, but also for track and field.	Noted
13.3	The Commission recorded their approval to the purchase of the three starting box units.	Noted
13.4	Ally Love noted the preference for this purchase to be made this financial year.	Noted
<b>14.0</b>	<b>GRAND PRIX CROSS COUNTRY EVENT</b>	
14.1	It was noted that it is proposed that a Grand Prix Cross Country event take place in Scotland on 17 December 2022. This is one week after the Europeans, and one week before Christmas.	Noted
14.2	The Commission noted their enthusiasm to do this, but only if it is at the right time.	Noted
14.3	It was agreed that the Commission should revert to UKA, and seek another more appropriate date for the fixture.	Mike Johnston
<b>15.0</b>	<b>ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS</b>	
15.1	It was agreed to make some changes for the entry process for Masters teams at relay events. Following Scone Palace, it was agreed that Clubs should enter Masters teams at the point of entry, so 'V's and 'X's can be added to numbers before they are collected, rather than relying on Clubs to add them.	Noted
15.2	Ron Morrison noted the success of Scone Palace, and the course that is provided there. It should be considered for the future, whether Scone Palace and Cumbernauld run on alternate years for hosting purposes.	Noted
15.3	Ron Morrison noted recent issues with racing chips that there can be truncation errors, and that we should open discussion with chip providers to ensure risks associated with this are mitigated.	Noted
15.4	In respect of the Short Course at Lanark, Ron noted that the course distance could not have been 4K based on the course layout. Also, there were a few issues with chips on the day identified, which were clarified with Ally Love ultimately.	Noted
<b>16.0</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>	
16.1	The date of the next meeting was agreed for 1730 hrs on Monday 7 February 2022.	Noted