

SCOTTISH ATHLETICS OFFICIALS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

14th May 2011- Grangemouth

Vic Hockley, Convenor of the Officials Commission was in the Chair.

1 The Chairman opened the meeting by thanking everyone present for attending. There was a good turnout, with 58 names signed in. He announced that the training courses arranged for today would take place following the AGM. Emergency evacuation procedures were explained.

Vic wished to record the sad deaths of five of our officials since the last AGM.

Rod Rutherford
George McEwan

Walter Banks
Alex Naylor

Kenny MacDonald

2 **APOLOGIES:-** Bill Watson, Kenny Marshall, Janette Marshall, Marjory Cooke, Brian Nesbit, Sylvia Wilson, Freda Silver, Val Murdoch, Andy Law, Phyllis Law, Steve Murdoch, Margaret Anne McLachlan, Joyce Rammell

3 **MINUTES OF MEETING FOR 2010 AGM:** Minutes accepted. It was noted that the position of Vice Convenor is still vacant.

4 **CONVENOR'S REPORT:** Vic started by thanking all our officials both technical and administrative for their hard work throughout the past year. He went on to add...

This year, like previous years, has been extremely busy and like other years the basic statistics are very similar. The Commission held four meetings; there were two Allocation and Upgrading subcommittee meetings and a number of Service to Members and Recruitment and Retention meetings. A number of our members served on UKA Committees and I represented us at UKA Officials Allocation and Upgrading (Territorial Secretaries) meetings. As always these are only the meetings, behind them an awful lot of work goes on and I would like to thank all the members of the Commission for giving up their time and for the work they have done over the past year.

I take this opportunity to congratulate those 20+ or so officials, who have been provisionally selected as technical officials at the Olympic Games next year, to Mike and Sandy Forrest and Pat Hockley who were this year appointed to the New Level 4 grade and to Shona Malcolm who won the Officials Official award from UKA.

However, many of you will be more concerned with our own Commonwealth Games in 2014, and I am pleased to assure you that we have been successful in setting up a group chaired by myself which includes the Head of Sport of 2014 Greg Warnecke, the CEO of scottishathletics, Nigel Holl, a UKA representative, Malcolm Rogers, Hilary Templeton from Sport Scotland and two other officials, Liz Wilder and Sandy Forrest. This group's Terms of Reference covers a number of points with the key one being to Identify and nominate National Technical Officials and volunteers for Glasgow 2014 from within Scotland, the UK and the Commonwealth.

This group had their first meeting last month.

While talking about the Commonwealth Games, for Delhi there were no officials from outside India except those appointed by IAAF. Fortunately, due to a drop out, I had the opportunity to serve on the Jury of Appeal, and one thing I can be absolutely sure of is that Glasgow will be infinitely better than Delhi.

This year has finally seen the realignment of the UKA education systems and in January, provided you met the criteria, the old Level 5 was transferred to the New Level 3 with the corresponding change of old Level 2, 3 and 4 to new Level 2a, 2b and 2c. This year has also seen recognition by the IAAF of the UKA Education System such that officials at the New Level 3 equate to the IAAF National Technical Official (NTO). During 2010, we have seen some 206 officials taking a variety of courses (this figure includes the officials who have taken more than one course). This 206 includes 48 who have taken the Level 1 course.

Over the past few years, we have been very successful in introducing Meeting Managers, call Rooms and generally raising the level of our championships. As many of you know this is continuing with the trialling of the Hy-Tek Meet manager programme during the winter. Given the problems that inevitably occur when operating a new system, we were all surprised how effective the system was. It was in use this past weekend at Scotstoun and will be operating at scottishathletics championships throughout the summer and as we all get familiar with it will become - for those of you interested the system is being demonstrated today.

Congratulations must go to the Service to members subcommittee for the successful organising of our conference in October. The conference was supported by the Association who had successfully applied for funding. Some 83 officials attended with by far the majority thinking it relevant and enjoyable. Well done to this committee for organising a couple of excellent “nosh ups” too.

5 ELECTION OF COMMISSION’S REPRESENTATIVES: As there were no nominations, no election was held. All existing representatives had agreed to continue in their present posts.

The Vice Convenor position remains vacant.

Convenor	Vic Hockley
Vice Convenor	Vacant
Secretary	Brenda Stephen
Officials Co-Ordinator	Pat Hockley
Track	Margaret Ann MacLachlan
Starter/Marksman	Dave Biggin
Field	Bob Carter
Timekeeper	Mike Forrest
Administration	Margaret McInally
Service to members representative	Ann Carter

Co-Opted members

Facilities Committee representative	Liz Wilder
Health & Safety Group representative	Margaret Ann MacLachlan
Road and Cross Country representative	
Track & Field representative	

6 OPEN DISCUSSION:

- **Vic opened with the current position on expenses.** He told the meeting that he had made unofficial representations to both the CEO and Chairman on this subject. They promised to look into the subject of expenses but did raise the problem of budget restraints at this time. If nothing is forthcoming Vic intends to make a more formal representation and has asked that they look at gestures of good faith and imagination in addressing this issue.
- **Magnus Ross raised the issue of uniform.** He added that the recent wet weekend had brought the “white trouser” issue to the fore. Vic was able to confirm that, after the SAOA AGM, where this issue was raised, it had been brought to the attention of the Commission. It had been agreed at the 12th May meeting of the Commission to ask the SAOA through Bob Carter to come up with a Referendum Question on the subject, which would be circulated to all officials and the Commission would act on the feedback. It was stressed the issue of uniform would not be resolved in time for a change during this summer.
- **John Purvis raised the problem of receiving information by email.** He had experienced difficulties this season. A number of theories were voiced. It was stressed that email details with Pat Hockley and scottishathletics had to be regularly checked and any changes notified. It

was also pointed out that because of the nature of the emails, containing numerous files, that some computers may have a problem with this. Individual computers may class the emails as Spam and it was important to check if this was happening. As some computers may be set up to clear Spam regularly it is important to get this resolved. Emailing Pat Hockley with your contact email details so that she can check against the officials name may help.

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With no further questions from the floor Vic gave some further information on the Commonwealth Games.

He explained that though there was a commitment to use overseas/commonwealth officials (50%) he was hopeful that Athletics could have a greater percentage of Scottish NTOs and Sports Specific Volunteers. In all Athletics areas there would be a need for 190 NTOs. At present there are 72 NTOs. It is clear there is a way to go. Areas to cover at the Games will include 2 Call Rooms, 2 TIC, Warm Up as well as on the Track and on the Field. We have 76 current Level 2c and it is hope a sizable percentage will be able to move to Level 3. The criteria and process for selection will be as transparent as possible. Vic was pleased to report an undertaking by UKA to allow Senior Scottish Officials to shadow at the highest level at International meetings in the UK and possibly abroad.

It is important that the current Training involves younger officials to leave a legacy after 2014.

Criteria for selection would most likely include a willingness to support Scottish Athletics and there will be a need to diversify – opportunities for areas such as Photofinish may be limited.

Vic asked if everyone was clear about Levels and Licences. Any discrepancy should in the first instance be brought to the attention of the Scottishathletics office. Level 3's were able to access the TRINITY database to check their information. Scotland still has its own system and it would be a major expenditure to change over. It was important that assessments and report details were available to Discipline Heads to help in upgrading decisions. Referees were asked to give an assessed level to all officials and there was a suggestion that, in Field and Track particularly, added personnel may be required here. Again the need to know the Levels of all officials in the team was stressed by Pam Ross.

- A commendation from the floor was given to the mentoring by Hamish Fleming which the official had found most helpful. It was noted the importance of all mentoring experiences.

The area of legacy was brought up by Angus Cameron and was passed to Dave Biggin (subcommittee-Recruitment and Retention) who outlined many strands to attract future officials – older and retired/ school and parent helpers were all being pursued. Announcements had been made at Championships, but it was accepted that the best method was a personal approach. All officials would be involved in finding and recruiting officials (bring a friend!!). A group of young people had been identified as wishing to be involved, particularly in IT and at the Children's Games. Unfortunately communication between scottishathletics and the group had not been as good as it should have been and this was brought up by **Cathie Robertson** at the AGM. It was hoped that this could be rectified as soon as possible and contact with John Robertson and his group re-established. Shona apologised for this oversight, but she had brought it to the attention of the Commission and, as her work load seems to be huge at the moment, a need to delegate this task would seem a priority. As an additional point it was established that level 2 and above officials needed to be >18.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10:15 am.

Brenda Stephen
Secretary.
May 2011