**scottish**athletics **Hill Running Commission**

**Minutes of Commission Meeting held at Caledonia House on 23 June 2009**

## 1 Attendance

*Present*: David Armitage (Chair), Emma Birnie (West Regional Co-ordinator), Mark Johnston (Secretary), Mike Johnston (**scottish**athletics' National Endurance Manager), Linda MacEwan (North Regional Co-ordinator; by video link), Ian Nimmo (minutes), Malcolm Patterson (Scottish Hill Runners), Mike Pearson (Finance)
*Apologies*: Alasdair Anthony, Hugh Buchanan (Central Regional Co-ordinator), Jamie Thin (East Regional Co-ordinator), Geoff Wightman (**scottish**athletics' Chief Executive)

**2 Minutes of meeting of 5 May 2009** (previously circulated) Approved (after two minor amendments had been made).

## 3 Matters arising (not covered elsewhere)

- Age limits will be included in future **scottish**athletics' Fixture Lists. *Action*: Mike Johnston, John McDonald
- Spread-sheet for Championship organisers (item 7.1, third bullet point): carried over. *Action*: Hugh Buchanan

## 4 Reports

4.1 Convenor's update (David Armitage)

- The Commission endorsed the report on hill running the Convenor had written for the **scottish**athletics Annual Report.
- Scott MacDonald, Alexander Hendry and Robbie Simpson have been selected for the Great Britain Junior Men's team to compete in the European Mountain Running Championships.

4.2 Scottish Hill Runners (Malcolm Patterson)

- The competitions organised by Scottish Hill Runners (Championship, Long Classics, Bog and Burn) are progressing well.
- The safety note for competitors and spectators discussed at the last meeting of the Commission (item 6.3) has been published on the Scottish Hill Runners' web site and incorporated into its pack for race organisers.
- Scottish Hill Runners is aiming to strengthen the process for planning its Championship.
- The number of members is slightly down on last year's and the number of races insured is slightly up.

4.3 Endurance Squads (Mike Johnston)

- Malcolm Patterson has been appointed the National Development Coach for Mountain Running.
- There was a meeting of the National Squad on 20/21 June at Tebay, in conjunction with the British Championship race there.
- Squads in Highland and Grampian continue to operate.

## 5 **Finance** (Mike Pearson)

- The position with regard to 2008/09 and 2009/10 is 'comfortable', although **scottish**athletics has still formally to approve the budget for 2009/10.
- The budget for 2009/10 now includes an item for the World Long Distance Mountain Running Challenge.

## 6 Policy and Technical Issues

6.1 UKA Mountain Running Advisory Group (Mark Johnston)

- The Group is finalising its fixture list for 2010.
- The Mountain Running Grand Prix is likely have a 2-from-3 format, the three races being the Inter-Counties, the European Trial and the World Championship Trial.
- The Group is discussing formats for the new Home International and the current Junior Home International. The Commission favours a combined event held two weeks after the World Championship, either rotating round the Home Countries or at a fixed central venue.

6.2 Review of UKA Rules of Competition

The Commission agreed to propose that:

- Overall: UKA considers adopting the IAAF's Rules of Competition wherever appropriate, instead of producing its own as well.
- Rule 400: the definitions of the A/B/C and short/medium/long categories be metricated; and category D be scrapped.
- Rule 405: UKA formally adopts the FRA's Safety Guidelines.
- Rule 410: the reference to paired Mountain Marathon style orienteering events be deleted.

*Action*: David Armitage

6.3 Composition and Management of Commission

- Linda MacEwan (Lochaber) has now joined the Commission as the North Regional Co-ordinator.
- The Convenor wishes to stand down at the AGM of **scottish**athletics (12 September) but as no nominations for a successor have been received to date he would be prepared to continue in an interim capacity until one has emerged. Commission members to suggest in confidence possible candidates to the Convenor as a matter of urgency. *Action*: All
- Mark Johnston is prepared to stand again as Secretary. Bellahouston Road Runners should be sounded out about nominating him. *Action*: Emma Birnie
- Mike Pearson wishes to stand down as Finance Officer. An individual who has expressed an interest in succeeding him should be contacted. *Action*: David Armitage, Mike Pearson

6.4 **scottish**athletics race permits

- The Commission agreed it should promote the benefits of the **scottish**athletics race permit, especially to those race organisers who do not take one out. This should be done by the Regional Co-ordinators' contacting the organisers in their Region. Time-scale: soon after the next meeting of the Commission
- Suitable letters for Regional Co-ordinators to send the their race organisers should be drafted and circulated. *Action*: Mike Pearson
- A hill running-specific version of the application form, which would simplify the process for race organisers, should be drafted and circulated. *Action*: Emma Birnie
- A list of known hill races should be compiled, including those that have not (yet) taken out a permit this year. *Action*: Ian Nimmo

6.5 Team competition The Commission agreed it wants each member of **scottish**athletics to be able to nominate one Scottish club as first claim for hill races in Scotland, regardless of any other allegiance for other disciplines or other home countries. *Action*: David Armitage

**7 Domestic competition**.

7.1 Junior Championships, Ben Lomond (9 May): satisfactory.

7.2 Inter-counties Championship, Kendal (23 May): satisfactory. The Commission noted the report on the event from Hugh Buchanan and Emma Birnie.

7.3 World Masters Trial (Glas Tulaichean, 6 June). Next year the Commission should publicise more vigorously both the World Masters and the Trial for it. *Action*: Mark Johnston, Malcolm Patterson

**8 International Fixtures**

8.1 Team Managers for this year's international programme are: WMRA Junior Challenge – David Armitage, Sonia Armitage; Snowdon International – Mike Pearson; Commonwealth Championships – Mark Johnston, Sonia Armitage; Junior Home International – Hugh Buchanan, Emma Birnie.

8.2 The Commonwealth Championships are assumed to be going ahead.

8.3 Snowdon International The organisers are considering holding a junior race. The Commission agreed that, assuming the junior race take place: (a) there is insufficient time to organise a team for it; and (b) suitable juniors should instead be informed about the race. *Action*: Mark Johnston

8.4 Long Distance Challenge

- Scotland can nominate three male and three female athletes, who will get some financial assistance from the organisers for their accommodation; and two male and two female reserves, who will not. The organisers will also give some financial assistance to Jethro Lennox, as defending champion,
- The Commission agreed to support nominated athletes with the sum of £100 each. *Action*: Mike Pearson
- The Commission agreed not to send team managers and that athletes should be responsible for making their own travel arrangements. *Action*: Mark Johnston

**9. Development activities** Development weekend at Wanlockhead, 9-10 January 2010: in hand. *Action*: Malcolm Patterson

**10 Dates of next meeting:** Thursday 20 August.

**Action points**

Alasdair Anthony 6.3
David Armitage 6.2, 6.3 (×2), 6.5
Emma Birnie 6.3 (×2), 6.4
Hugh Buchanan 3, 6.3
Mark Johnston 6.3, 7.3, 8.3, 8.4
Mike Johnston 3, 6.3
Linda MacEwan 6.3
Ian Nimmo 6.3, 6.4
Malcolm Patterson 6.3, 7.3, 9
Mike Pearson 6.3 (×2), 6.4, 8.4
Jamie Thin 6.3
Geoff Wightman 6.3