

SCOTTISH ATHLETICS OFFICIALS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting Held at Caledonia House On 12th May 2011

Present

Vic Hockley (Chair)
Pat Hockley (Officials' Co-ordinator)
Marjory Cook (RR&CC)
Margaret McInally
Mike Forrest
Angus Cameron (UKA Peer Group)
Dave Biggin

Bob Carter
Brenda Stephen (Secretary)
Margaret Ann MacLachlan
Liz Wilder
Shona Malcolm
Kenny Marshall (Track and Field Commission)

1. Apologies: Ann Carter

2. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Vic told Commission that condolence cards had been sent to the widow's of Jack Harper-Tarr and Roy Rogers. Adele Walker was introduced to the Commission and intends to be at the next Commission Meeting. She will be replacing Anne Stewart. It was also intimated that Jim Goldie would like to attend the next meeting in his role as Coaching and Training manager.

3. Matters Arising from minutes of meeting of 17th February 2011.

- Page 1 –misspelling Alex Naylor
- Page 2 –Vic confirmed that no progress has been made on the rationalisation of the different databases as yet. He confirmed that booklets for officials had been produced and was keen to have orders made for the numbers required as soon as possible. **Shona would check this on and after the Training Day on Saturday 14th May.**
Kenny brought up a couple of problems he had had with his profile and asked if others had experienced the same situation. He had been able to change the profile but with some difficulty. **Shona was asked to check if Anne Stewart had managed to send requested emails to officials confirming their recorded grading to check. She could pass the situation to Anne's replacement.**
- Page 3- Spelling - Kate Whigham.
- Replace know with now (in Track Report)

4. Chairman's Report.

Vic was able to report on a very successful meeting of the Commonwealth Games subcommittee who met at a rearranged meeting in April after the cancellation of the meeting on the 9th March. The group will have responsibility for the recommendation of NTOs and volunteers for the event and criteria for selection will be theirs to set. Vic is keen that as many Scottish officials as possible gain the necessary experience and grading to fulfil the majority of roles at the Games. Some numbers were discussed – there will be 190 NTOs and sports specific volunteers needed. At present Scotland have 72 NTOs and a further 76 officials currently at Level 2c. A number of officials currently at 2b and 2a may still be able to play a part and a plea was made for Discipline Heads to look at ways of allowing experience and advancement within their discipline while retaining the Scottish reputation for a very high standard of performance. Partly due to the withdrawal of Fast Track who had blocked the idea in the past, UKA have agreed to arrange opportunities for Scottish officials to shadow senior officials in their work at International Meetings. The next meeting of the group is on Tuesday 17th May and it is Vic's hope that the good start can be maintained.

Vic congratulated those Scottish officials (believed to be 20-23) who had heard of selection for the Olympics but confirmed that no officials list was available to him at this time.

The joint meeting with the Track and Field Commission on 17th March was discussed. Timetabling for all summer meetings had been discussed at that meeting and Margaret Ann had felt it was a useful meeting. Unfortunately no coaches were present (possibly warm weather training). Input from them on things like height progression in High Jump /Pole Vault were received later.

Vic said that the introduction of the Meet Manager System over the winter and into summer had been a success albeit with the usual teething problems. Accepting entries on the day at championships was agreed to be an area where processes needed tightening (Suggested solution was brought up by Margaret McNally in her feedback)

Vic expressed some disquiet over the introduction of hurdle specifications associated with the new age groups. He asked if officials were happy with the specifications and also wondered why the Commission had not been directly involved in ensuring that no anomalies appeared. The absence of “topple weights” from notified specifications and the fact that athletes will be expected to use different specifications at championships and leagues were areas of some concern. The weights for throws also appeared to allow the possibility of under 12s throwing hammer, discus and javelin and the Discipline head and others certainly wanted some input in these decisions. **An urgent meeting with Nigel Holl for Margaret Ann and Bob to discuss these matters would be sought.**

Vic had raised the issue of travel expenses with the CEO and Chairman and had been met by the expected budget restraint explanations. It was suggested that some imaginative ways to support and recognise the expenses of officials could be investigated from sponsor of kit to supply of some of the “tools of the trade”.

Shona was asked and agreed to get a printout/record of levels sent out by UK and which now appear on licences and to check against the Database.

5. Education and Training

60 candidates were to attend the training day organised for Saturday 14th May. A discussion on the cost effectiveness of bringing training together at 2 specific dates and venues in the year took place. However some training had been carried out further afield. Mike Forrest had visited Stornoway and had delivered level 2 Timekeeping and Photo Finish Courses and a Level 1 course. Orkney intend to hold a Level 2 course for 15 Timekeepers and a Level 2 Photofinish course is to take place in Inverness. A level 1 course was offered to S5 and S6 pupils at Grangemouth. The number of level 3 approved Tutors was discussed. Shona shared the fact that the cost of the Training Day at Grangemouth was put at £1600. Shona personally introduced Adele Walker, but also intimated a number of new appointments to Scottish Athletics. It was suggested that, where possible, meetings between employees of Scottish Athletics and the Commission members should be arranged. **Names of all involved are available on the website, but I will send an attachment of all names and positions along with these minutes.**

6. Track & Field Officials' Coordinator's Report

Pat is continuing to coordinate the list of those officiating at UK meetings and Scottish Championships. She requested again that allocations made by Discipline Heads are sent as soon as possible to allow her to allocate officials to Administration in good time.

7. Officials Recruitment Sub Group Report

Recruitment Retention and rewards Sub group update 12 May 2011.

1. The minutes of the meeting of 15th February have been circulated.
2. One of our existing strands 'Targeting retirees' matches a project close to Frank Dick's heart of targeting hopelessness. Dave discussed this co-incidence and Frank intends to ask for an application form from the EEC to pursue a grant to do this.
3. DB informed Nigel of this, at Frank's request, and also mentioned that we had wished to have a presence at the Retirement Show in the SECC last November but the cost was prohibitive. Nigel asked to have info supplied on this and this I've done as he intends to 'negotiate' an appropriate cost.
4. Our posters are slightly out of date now as courses have a cost, but we will explain the new cost when we have enquiries. Ian has not been able to put posters into Job Centres consequently but this obstacle will be discussed at the next meeting.
5. Shona's delivery of level 1 courses, Ian's position as Secretary of SUAC and Jim's awareness raising with club secretaries, all hopefully will progress this project.
6. Additionally, a presence in the Volunteering website, a link in the Scottish Schools website to SAL, targeting retirees, programme advertising, stadia posters and posters available for existing officials to use, will also hopefully assist.
7. The potentially lucrative strand of a 'personal approach' to spectators is one we will try to develop.

D. Biggin

12/5/11

8. Discipline Heads' Reports.

Track –

- Margaret Anne raised the issue of expenses.
- She had received a request that officials could have some practical experience of the Meet Manager system prior to using it at a championship. It was confirmed that there would be an opportunity at the Training day and that a Demo version could be accessed through the internet. www.hy-tek ltd.com should get you started, but it is not easy to get up and running and needs a fair bit of work.
- 3 people were potential candidates for Level 3 this year and 5 more for next.
- Out of area reports were discussed and it was established that different areas of Scotland could be considered. Submission of information through Vic was also discussed.

Field –

- 8 potential level 3 candidates had been given the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to construct a duty sheet for the 7th or 8th May meetings. Bob will be able to put these together with experience as Referee at League meetings to build a profile of the candidates. This initiative was praised by Vic and others on the Commission.

Timekeepers –

- Mike made the commission aware of the retirement from Timekeeping of Alistair Shaw due to failing eyesight. A Quaich was accepted as an appropriate move and **perhaps Shona could arrange this for the commission.**
- Dougie McDonald was taken ill at the weekend and the commission wish him a speedy recovery.
- Mike was aware of a recent course run by Chris Lockley to train tutors to run Level 3 Photofinish courses.
- Mike was aware of some safety issues at Stornoway, and it was suggested that Julie Wyatt be made aware of the possible need to address some Health and Safety issues
- Mike also wanted to notify the Commission of the distress of a Timekeeper (non- Scottish) who received a D mark recently at a meeting in England and the need to temper the advancement of officials with a realistic assessment of readiness and experience.

Administration. –

- Margaret was determined to be positive and wanted to suggest that the successful use of the Meet Manager System could be enhanced by forming a dedicated team of IT specialists to get together to familiarise themselves with all aspects and possible problems to be encountered in the system. This would allow an “expert” to be available at all meetings to troubleshoot. **Margaret had a number of people in mind and was willing to contact them and to try to get this up and running.** The Commission were only too happy to go with this suggestion. This group could also be well placed to produce an “idiot’s guide” which could be available to new practitioners.
- Margaret is keen to have a list of people willing to commit to at least one meeting in admin in a season and that a request is sent out.
- Shona made the Commission aware of an approach by John Robertson (involved in a youth group who may be able to assist with IT). He is planning to attend AGM

Starter / Marksman –

Commission report from Dave Biggin 17th February 2011

- I have made arrangements with the management at Scotstoun to store the fse there and I will move it there very soon. There is agreement to also store the Starter’s speaker system there also once we have it and for the Stadium staff to be trained to set up the fse, as another option for us.
- I spoke with Nigel (Holl) at the weekend and he said he hoped to have the starter’s speaker system available for the Seniors in July although he has asked Ross to investigate a cheaper quote!
- The level 2 grading information received recently from Paula Gowing, (i.e. evidence of 6 events to go from “2a to 2b) was not exactly my understanding of it and I’ve asked Paula for clarification. I’m concerned that officials can be credited with both a Starter’s and ‘markspersons’ experience at one event. This is impractical as other officials would need to swap and half an event seems hardly a valid amount of time to gain enough experience.
- I am working on my version of a possible UK start rule refinement. i.e. To have conduct warnings for delaying the race start. This I’ll pass to peer group members for consideration and then Brenda (?) for sending to UKA once it’s completed and ‘seconded’.

Dave 12/5/11

Vic returned to the issue of assessments and advancement of officials and stressed the need for Discipline Heads to be fully aware of any information pertaining to their progress. **Assessments for all officials at Championships would be appreciated and all Chiefs should be notified of this addition to their Assessment and Report.**

9. Service to Members

Bob passed on the message from Ann that one jacket and waterproof trousers had been handed out. She wanted the group's take on future "nosh ups" and it was decided to wait until winter for another get together. Vic expressed the view that conferences may be needed more frequently with the approach of the Commonwealth Games and that we should be thinking of ideas and plans as soon as possible.

10. Facilities

Liz let the group know of the illness of Joe Cameron and it was suggested that through Neil Donnachie some information might be sought and passed to the Commission Members.

- Kilmarnock – on track- for 2012 (track and indoor straight.)
- Ayr – Track OK, New Netting, wheels to add to gates. Final re-measure of Track to go ahead (John Gibbons is involved at Ayr)
- Livingston- progress but some identified problems with cage and shot circle etc
- Shetland-problem with cage but progress in other areas

11. Health & Safety Report

Training Day will include a course.

12. Rules

The Commission received notification of a process to submit suggested rule changes for 2012 – 2014. It was established that I (acting as secretary) should be sent details of any suggestions, which commission members would like to propose. **(This is still available but there is a deadline of 29th July 2011)**

13. Track & Field Representative's Report.

- 16th July will be U14 National Championship (not OPEN)
- From 2012 Superteams will be for U12
- Kenny asked that any problems (with change of age, specifications etc.) at the weekend(7th 8th May) and future meetings be brought to the attention of Track and Field Commission

14. Road Running & Cross Country.

- Both Jim Young and Bob Reid were delighted to receive their Quaich.

15. Covered previously. The Secretary accepted the apologies of Kenny and Janette Marshall and Marjory Cook who will be unable to attend the AGM.

16. Again this matter was raised during the meeting

17. The issue of alternative uniform had been raised at the AGM of the SAOA and **Bob agreed to work on a possible Referendum question on the issue which Pat on behalf of the Commission would circulate to all officials.** This would give the Commission feedback to consider at the next meeting.

AOCB

- Kenny asked if anyone knew about expenses paid to an official travelling up to Scotland from the south of England. No one was aware of this situation.
- It was felt that a review of the present written remit of Discipline Heads is due. This will be looked at for inclusion at next meeting.
- The withdrawal of names from the UK Active List was discussed and the need and procedure to reapply.
- Shona wanted to establish a possible date for the next Training day and future regulation of the timings of these dates. The next possible date was suggested as the 15th October.
- **Vic asked for peer group recommendations for awards and also asked Shona for list of those who had received awards in the past.**

THE NEXT MEETING COMMISSION MEETING - Thursday 25th August 2011

Brenda Stephen

Secretary

May 2011