

## Minutes

### Scottish Athletics Track and Field Commission Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16 February 2009 at 6.30 pm in Scottish Athletics Offices, Edinburgh

**Present:** Leslie Roy (Chair)  
Kenny Marshall  
Barry Craighead  
Gary Condie  
Margaret Daly (Secretary)  
Geoff Wightman, SAL Chief Executive  
Ross Cunningham, SAL Events & Competitions Manager

#### 1. Welcome and opening remarks

Leslie welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance and in particular, to agreeing to the venue change from Glasgow for this meeting.

The Commission noted with sadness, the recent deaths of Toni Ireland and John Innes.

#### 2. Apologies

Apologies were noted from Arnold Black, Alan Pettigrew, Graham Sword, Elspeth Allan and Alasdair Strange.

#### 3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 19 November 2008 were agreed as a true record.

#### Matters arising

##### 3.1 Results Team Update

A query was raised on the action noted from the previous minute regarding discrepancy issues that had arisen from the Championship at Pitreavie. Margaret agreed to check the notes from the previous meeting and attempt to clarify this item. **Action: MD**

#### 4. Financial Report

No report.

#### 5. Delegate Reports

##### 5.1 Management Committee

Concern was noted about the reduction in the number of athletes participating in Track and Field events and it was agreed to look at reasons behind this, including discussions with coaches. It was agreed future agendas should include discussion on how events could be improved to encourage more athletes to participate. The following suggestions were noted to inform future discussions:-

- a) Outdoor season: what can be changed in the short term? What changes should be put in place for 2010?
- b) What might influence entry? Would higher entry fees with portion returned on actual participation in the competition be an option? What about higher fees for routes other than on-line entry?
- c) How can the balance between the administration requirements and revised entry deadlines be managed? It was noted that in 2010, there are 3 events in six weeks.
- d) Does the current structure and format meet athletes' needs? Should the Golden League be the climax of the season?

Head coaches were now in place for jumps squads, with Peter Lomax, Sandy Robertson and Ian Stanley being confirmed.

The North District is considering a regional qualification event to select teams for the inter-regional event in May.

### **5.2 Officials Commission**

Barry's report from the meeting had been circulated previously and was noted. Proposals for the recruitment of officials were discussed. Gary asked that the results team be included in the allocation of officials for events in future. **Action: BC**

### **5.3 Athlete's Report**

No report.

### **5.4 Highland Games Report**

Leslie advised that Alan Pettigrew was keen to propose dates for Highland Games. Leslie agreed to liaise with Alan and check previous minutes for discussions on this. **Action: LR**

### **5.5 Open Graded Improvement Meetings**

Gary reported on the Grand Prix format which, in his view, hadn't really worked. One issue had been the difficulty in getting all open-graded meeting organisers together ahead of running their events. Geoff referred to the tiered approach taken in cycling events that met the needs of different levels of competitors. It was noted a 10K will be included in future events.

### **5.6 Timetabling Group**

A number of meetings have taken place though some concerns noted about attendance. Leslie suggested that Kenny's co-ordinating role should be strengthened by Vic providing details of the season's meeting managers and referees. Kenny would then ensure all were aware of their responsibilities in supporting timetabling. It was also agreed that Kenny would note comments about events just competed and pass these to Ross for circulation. **Action: KM**

### **5.7 Results Team Update**

Gary pointed out that the numbers in the team were dwindling. He was also concerned that information from declarations was not being passed to the results team.

## **6. Business**

### **6.1 Scottish Athletics Six Year Plan**

The Plan had previously been circulated to all present. Geoff spoke briefly on the contents and summarised the arrangements that had been made to gauge views on the proposed six year plan for Scottish Athletics. Barry reported that concerns had been noted following the Edinburgh event that younger age groups were being 'punished' with the introduction of the new inter-regional format. Other implications arising from this were also discussed. Geoff advised that he had received 250 comments or responses on the plan, with most recognising that the sport did need to change. Some concern noted that not everyone had the right information with the younger athletes issue being a case in point. Geoff advised that the U13 age groups would have a 'super teams' format; U15/U17s would be the same, although a different name was required. The aim was for a better level of competition if 2014 objectives were to be met. Geoff pointed out that the Track & Field Commission would be expected to be amongst the drivers for the new format. Selection would be carried out by groups in each region, with SAL membership being amongst key criteria.

Geoff referred to the format in cross country where they had already adopted a series approach through league, district, inter-regional, nation, UK, world sequence.

### **6.2 Joint Commission Meeting**

Next meeting scheduled for 29 April 2009. Anyone wishing any points to be raised should pass these to Leslie. **Action: All**

### **6.3 Indoor Championships 2009**

A new call room system had been introduced and Vic was awaiting reports from Chiefs / Team Managers to identify any problems. Some good points had been noted though officials were

effectively 'learning on the job' on the day through lack of training on the new arrangements. Once procedures bedded in for track athletes, similar arrangements may be considered for field events. Some discussion on whether call room procedure should be included in coaching courses to alleviate problems. Other issues noted were related to a breakdown in the electronics; different approaches taken by different meeting managers and stadia facilities.

#### **6.4 Outdoor Championships 2009**

All event dates were as previously agreed.

### **7. Sub Committee Reports**

#### **7.1 East**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 February had previously been circulated and were noted.

#### **7.2 West**

Meeting scheduled for Monday 23 February 2009.

#### **7.3 Selection**

Selection for Loughborough would be based on current performance information and take place after the new inter-regional event in May. The Cardiff Indoor Team has been selected with details on the SAL website. Leslie was hopeful of 4 additional guest spots for this event. Travel and accommodation arrangements were noted. Dates for the outdoor season were also agreed, to include the Celtic Games, Celtic Indoor Cup and a 'Scotland' trip to an event yet to be decided, which would be aimed at the Commonwealth Games Squad.

### **8. AOCB**

#### **8.1 Competition Winners**

It was agreed a letter should be sent to all four medal winners from the weekend event on behalf of the Track and Field Commission. **Action: LR**

#### **8.2 Photo Finish Equipment**

A query was raised on whether new equipment would be in place at the planned new arena as the photo finish equipment at Kelvin Hall was nearing the end of its natural life.

#### **8.3 Media**

A query was raised on whether there was a role for a SAL media representative to be at championships. Matter to be raised with Katy Anderson. **Action: RC**

### **9. Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 20 May 2009 at the Scottish Athletics Offices, South Gyle, Edinburgh. **Action: LR**

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.