

Minutes of Course Measurement Working Party 17 November 2012

Held at London Marathon Offices, Southwark Street, London, SE1 0JF

Attending:

Hugh Jones (Chairman), Phil Holland (Secretary & acting Area Secretary - Wales)
Mike Sandford (South), Kym Wheeler (Midlands), Brian Porter (North), Paul Hodgson,
Phil Cook (Area Secretary designate - Wales).

Apologies:

John Glover (N Ireland), Alan Young (Scotland).
John Temperton , Gavin Lightwood (RunBritain)

Attending as observers: Doug Hyde, Mark Jefford, Colin Tether, Dene Townend, John Webber.

1. Welcome

Hugh Jones welcomed the measurers attending as observers, and invited them to contribute to the discussion.

2. Review of Actions from 2011 meeting

Outstanding from 2010 meeting

ACTION - Phil Holland to pursue correction of Rule 205.4 (ii) re accuracy of measurement.

Phil Holland reported that the figure had been corrected in the re-numbered Rule 210 - Course, and other small improvements had been made.

Paul Hodgson questioned the meaning of Rule 210.1 (ii) - *Promoter...must adequately signpost the course*. Did this mean for the race, for the route to race HQ or for motorists? All agreed that this could do with clarification, and we will raise this with **runbritain** at our meeting on 11 December.

Paul also queried Rule 210.3 re use of level crossings. He felt that use of level crossings should be discouraged. Phil Holland said that he understood that the Railway Track Authority would only issue the required written undertaking if no services and no maintenance were planned for the day of the race.

*NEW ACTION - Mike Sandford/Phil Holland to raise with **runbritain**.*

It was noted that the revised Road Race Handbook had been improved considerably in respect of setting out the course. Phil Holland expressed thanks to Colin Tether for his work in pursuing this, and Colin confirmed that a good part of the improved requirements used wording he had proposed. CMWP agreed that the requirements were an improvement - although they still did not impose a duty on the Race Referee to check the course, the Race Director was now required to make a copy of the measurement report available to the Referee.

ACTION - All members - Copy all expenses claims to Treasurer. - DONE

ACTION - Mike Sandford - Add warning note to website re road races organised by some triathlon clubs and promoters. - DONE

New Actions (2011)

ACTION - Hugh Jones to write to Alan Ritchie - DONE

ACTION - Mike Sandford/Dene Townend - Develop standard form of report for Area Secretaries statistics - DONE

Mike Sandford said that statistics for measurements and certificates were now available via the ACMS pages on the website. These figures are live and also include figures from previous years.

ACTION - Mike Sandford / Dene Townend to collaborate on implementing a questionnaire to identify reasons for failure to complete theory lessons - DONE

Dene had produced a flowchart, based on which Mike had sent a set of email questions to recent trainees. He had received a few useful responses.

*ACTION - Phil Holland to write to **run**britain with our views on fees for measurement - DONE* This had been dealt with by an email with the extract from the CMWP minutes.

ACTION - Phil Holland & Mike Sandford to draft some proposals for format of certificates, wording and logo for gravel courses, and circulate for comment - DONE

Extensive discussion had resulted in an agreed form of certificate, a number of which had been issued during the year.

ACTION - Mike Sandford to request funding from John Temperton for Jones Counters and hi-viz bibs - DONE

ACTION - Phil Holland - Update Guidelines for Charges and circulate - DONE
A further update to be discussed at Item 6.

ACTION - Phil Holland / Mike Sandford to liaise on Welsh Area map production for website - No action - to be deferred.

*ACTION - Mike Sandford / Phil Holland to list on the website some courses laid out wrongly, and pursue confirmation on race day with **run**britain - DONE*

ACTION - Mike Sandford to inform Dougie Roxburgh of decisions - DONE

ACTION - Phil Holland to produce suggestions for alternative logo for iPad, etc use.
Phil said he had found the task beyond his graphic skills. Dougie Roxburgh had used the standard logo for his iPhone app.

3. Area Secretaries Reports

The following reports from the 6 area measurement secretaries were taken as read.

SOUTH AREA SECRETARY'S REPORT - Mike Sandford

One new measurer was accredited this year - Mark Jefford in London. Mark did the online tutorial then joined Hugh Jones for several measurements to complete his practical work.

Mistakes by organisers in laying out courses exactly as measured continue to be a problem. The following four post race investigations generated a lot of work.

Following a query by a runner about the Brighton Half Marathon held on 19 Feb 2012, I investigated the GPS tracks from the Garmin Connect website. These revealed that the cones marking the East turn around had been placed too long increasing the course length by about 500m.

The Winchester 10k held on 26 Feb 2012 had to revert following objections from the local authorities from a new course measured for the 2012 event to a course previously measured in 2008. Unfortunately the organiser changed the finish location from that measured in 2008 with the result that the course was probably about 130m short.

The route of Newham Classic 10k held on 15 April 2012 was investigated after questions were raised about its distance. It was found that the race organisation had incorrectly laid out a turn round point reducing the distance to about 9.6km.

The Brooks Brighton 10k has apparently been held since 2002 without an annual renewal of its course measurement certificate. The original certificate was marked to the effect that a measurement check was required in 2004 under the 10 year rule. UKA had been notified of this following the 2010 event, but no action was taken until following a recent query by a runner, I wrote to the race director. He promptly arranged a remeasurement by Bob Cripps who found that the course being used was about 40m short. The turn rounds and start/finish were incorrect. Based on the new measurement a certificate has been issued for the November 2012 event. The correct turn round locations have been written on the certificate.

This year I had an unusually long holiday so I was away from my home computer for 4 weeks. I had a small notebook computer with intermittent connection to the internet, and only partial access to my files and software tools. I managed to maintain a satisfactory level service but it would have been much easier if had I been able to pass responsibility to a deputy during this period away. For the last two years I have published in my report a call for expressions of interest for the post of Deputy Area Measurement Secretary. I repeat the job spec here for a third year:

Deputy Area Measurement Secretary Job Spec

Provide general back up for the Area Measurement Sec whose duties are listed in the AUKCM constitution.

In particular, during absences of the Area Measurement Secretary the deputy will be responsible for ensuring continuity in:

1. Processing of measurement reports
2. Issue certificates for new courses and renewals
3. Attend CMWP

Knowledge/Experience required:

1. Grade 1 Course measuring
2. Creating .pdf files
3. Using dynamic websites

Mike highlighted the problem of wrongly-located turnaround points as a common reason for incorrect courses. He now tried to include a very brief description of turnaround locations in the 'Any Other Information' box of the Summary sheet.

MIDLAND AREA SECRETARY'S REPORT - Kym Wheeler

This is the report covering the issue of Certificates of Accuracy from 1st November 2011 to the end of October 2012. One hundred and sixty five certificates of course accuracy were issued for the Midlands area. Of these, 16 were for ARC races and 149 for UKA races. One hundred and fifty five were road races, with just 7 multi-terrain. There 3 races on the new Registration of Distance certificate which is for races where over 10% of the route is on a hard surface that is not sealed. The certificates issued were for a new 10k event which uses the Stratford Greenway for part of the route, and for the Shakespeare half and full marathons.

Parkruns seem to be gaining in popularity and several of the new races measured have been for Parkruns which wish to be more accurately measured and certificated than just 'GPS accurate'. Twenty one existing races have been re-measured for changes, usually when Race Directors have had to change parts of the route due to police advice or, in two cases, where major road works have meant temporary changes for just this year. Only ten races were re-measured having reached the 10 year anniversary. Several more races will reach the 10 year mark next year.

Gloucestershire has been the most active county with the greatest number of races issued certificates. I have also issued several certificates for races to be held in 2013 to organised

Race Directors. The number of last minute applications for certificates has reduced and more Directors are now applying on line. There have been several races not taking place this year, or at least, not applying for certificates. The East Carlton 5 race run by my own Club (Corby AC) did not take place in September this year due to a busy race calendar and lack of volunteers to help.

We have had no new measurers in the Midlands area, and one measurer has temporarily retired due to ill health (pulmonary embolism). He hopes to be recovered by spring 2013 and re-start measuring when fit. If anyone has any ideas how we can recruit volunteer measurers, please let me know as we really do need more as our current people are not growing younger.

Facts and Figures for interest:

<p>Total number of races: 165 16 ARC permits 19 UKA permits</p>	<p>Certificates issued: 44 new races 90 existing races 21 amendments to existing courses 10 x 10-year re-measures</p>	<p>Types of races 157 road races 7 multi-terrain (i.e. more than 10% is unsealed surface such as grass) 3 unsealed surface, i.e. hard packed gravel</p>
<p>Race Distances 21 x 5k 17x 5miles 5 x 6 miles 57 x 10k 9 x 10 miles 21 x 1/2 marathon 5 x full marathon 30 others, including 4 road relays</p>	<p>County figures of certificates issued Avon - 19 (8 x ARC) Shropshire - 7 Staffordshire - 21 (1 x ARC) Worcestershire - 11 Notts - 13 Northants. -17 Gloucestershire -28 (4 x ARC) Warwickshire - 26 including road relays Herefordshire - 6 Leicestershire - 17 (3 x ARC)</p>	

Kym noted a number of events not applying for renewal certificates,

NORTH AREA SECRETARY'S REPORT - Brian Porter

This has been a year of consolidation really, with not much to report upon that hasn't already been dealt with. I wish to thank the course measurers across The North for their continued support and diligence in their measuring and hope they will continue to do so. And of course my thanks go to the CMWP for their support too.

There was a major problem with the Hull Marathon and my thanks go to Neil Pattison for his assistance with verifying the errors made by the organiser in laying out what has now been shown to be a significantly short course. Interestingly BBC Humberside wanted an interview with me on TV at the time. I declined, saying the person they should be speaking to was the race organiser. The fact he had vanished speaks volumes!

More recently the Preston Guild Half Marathon on October 28th was laid out incorrectly at a turn point and was subsequently confirmed by myself as being 804 feet long. I have long advocated Race adjudicators or referees (or better still, the measurer) being the person responsible for confirming the correct route is laid out, rather than the race organiser. However until such times as UKA and ARC place sufficient importance on the course accuracy we will be stuck with the current system of the organiser confirming the route.

No new measurers have been recruited this year so recruitment and training remains an issue for attention. The online tutorials are very useful in my opinion as they help to filter out those who are perhaps not motivated or accurate enough to become measurers.

It has been a busy year for me away from Course Measurement. My illness along with being

an Olympic Torchbearer and Olympics Volunteer, have meant time to address the priorities I identified this time last year remain the same. My priorities for the coming year remain the same as for 2012: the recruitment of measurers where we are short, online renewal of certificates (a big job to contact all the race organisers, though renewal as a licence condition may help this process). Perhaps I may introduce a measurement roadshow for clubs, particularly in areas where recruitment is an issue.

Brian highlighted the problems with the Hull Marathon. (Discussed further at Item 8c.)

WALES AREA SECRETARY'S REPORT - Phil Holland

Progress

I continue to act temporarily as ACMS for Wales, but Phil Cook has agreed to assist with a view to taking the role. He will be attending the meeting. I have issued 61 certificates this year and there have been 31 measurements, 17 for new events.

Measurers

We now have only 5 measurers in the Newport/Cardiff area, Mike Burns having finally moved to Shetland. I upgraded Phil Cook to Grade 1 in the summer. To the west, I have removed Tim Gasser (Llanelli) from the active list, leaving Martin Dyde (Pembroke, Grade 1) with limited availability. The rest of Wales is covered by Lyn Rees (Lampeter) and Dafydd Ellis (Caernarfon), both Grade 2. I have still been unable to arrange upgrading for these two. We are also helped by North measurers in the northeast, and Midlands measurers in the east.

Future

The problem of races licensed without a measurement certificate is much reduced, and the system now works fairly well. The Welsh licence system operates separately from England.

We need to recruit additional measurers in West, Mid and North Wales. One candidate has been identified in the North, but has yet to start the training.

SCOTLAND AREA SECRETARY'S REPORT - Alan Young

Measurements

Still only 2 "active" measurers.

Vast majority measured by the Scottish Area Secretary

1	10 Mile
6	Half Marathon
8	10K
1	Misc (17.46miles)
16	TOTAL

Certificates

Certificates are now being issued.

Role with Scottish Athletics

Scottish Athletics continue to issue Road Race Permits, without the need to have a course measured. They presently just ask if has, and if not suggest they have it measured. One 10k race found to short by a considerable distance, resulting in complaints via "Power of Ten".

ARC

Still no approach from them in Scotland.

Training

No new measurers have been trained, but Scottish Athletics have indicated that they are still very supportive and it looks likely that a course will be held in February 2013 in Aberdeen.

Web Development

The Scottish Athletics Road Running & Cross Country Commission have developed a Web

Site, and are keen to include on this site a Course Measurement section. Development work has started and a "trial" has been ongoing, and it is hoped during 2013 to commence adding measurement reports and certificates.

Mike Sandford said that the website appeared to be a work still in progress - a number of the links are not effective.

NORTHERN IRELAND AREA SECRETARY'S REPORT - John Glover

Sorry I can't get over this year and this report is very late. This year has been a bit quieter although as you can see I have done two marathons and two Halfs which is not bad for a wee country the size of Yorkshire. As you will have noticed the Belfast Marathon was measured for AIMS recognition and I did this with Tommy McCormick from the Republic and this has led to Hugh recommending me for upgrading which is very useful especially in relation to Belfast Marathon which requires a few minor changes and a major Half Marathon planned by the same organisation next September.

I attach a list of this year measurements. In view of discussion re. Parkruns you will note that I have measured six of the seven NI Parkruns. The seventh is all on sand so I think I will allow them to use GPS!

NI/12/1	JIMMY'S 10K (new start)
NI/12/2	Russell GAA 10K
NI/12/3	KENNEDY KANE HALF MARATHON
NI/12/4	KENNEDY KANE MARATHON
NI/12/5	KENNEDY KANE 10K
NI/12/6	CITY AIRPORT 5 MILE
NI/12/7	TITANIC 10K (new course)
NI/12/8	BELFAST CITY MARATHON 2012 AIMS
NI/12/9	QUEENS 5K
NI/12/10	CITY PARKRUN CRAIGAVON
NI/12/11	FALLS PARKRUN
NI/12/12	ECOS PARKRUN
NI/12/13	SPOOKTACULAR 5k (New Course)
NI/12/14	DECATHLON 10K
NI/12/15	DECATHLON HALF MARATHON
NI/12/16	BALLYMENA 5 MILE
NI/12/17	QUEEN'S PARKRUN

4. Membership, Training & Upgrading

Phil Holland said that our constitution required the CMWP to confirm the accreditation of new and regraded measurers. The following were confirmed:

Grade 2 Measurers: Mark Jefford (South)

Grade 1 Measurers: Phil Cook (Wales)

The need for an upgrading seminar was identified. Measurers from the Midlands & Wales could possibly attend a seminar in one location.

5. International Measurement Matters - Hugh Jones.

Measurers to be accredited in 2012

At the IAAF-AIMS measurement meeting on 6 October I recommended the following to be accredited as IAAF-AIMS 'B' measurers:

John Cannon (IRL)
John Glover (GBR)
Mark Jefford (GBR)

These names should be ratified by IAAF Council and the AIMS Board of Directors during November. This is a once-a-year procedure for the international accreditation of measurers, from UK or elsewhere.

John Cannon (IRL) came recommended from Tom McCormack. He was experienced and submitted several measurement reports. Tom McCormack had also measured the Belfast Marathon with John Glover, and I passed on this recommendation to the meeting.

I recommended Mark Jefford on the strength of having measured with him several times, even though he is a relatively new measurer.

I received an approach from Max Coleby about the possibility of getting Doug Hyde accredited, but this came a little late to gather the documentation for a recommendation.

Phil Cook had enquired about IAAF-AIMS accreditation and Hugh identified that he would need to observe a measurement and confirm the quality of measurement reports. This could possibly be done as the measurement of the Cardiff Half Marathon 2013. Doug Hyde mentioned that Max Coleby was prepared to observe him on a future measurement.

6. Guidelines for Charges

Mike Sandford proposed that the maximum daily charge for affiliated clubs be increased from £30 to £35. This was agreed. Minor changes to the wording for charges to other organisers were also agreed.

ACTION - Phil Holland - Update Guidelines for Charges and circulate.

7. Budget/Finance

Kym Wheeler presented a summary of expenditure for the year, amounting to £850. This did not include the cost of Jones Counters (purchased direct by **runbritain**) and there had been no training courses during the year. All expenditure is covered by reimbursement of expenses by **runbritain**.

It was agreed that no more Jones Counters were required in the next year, but that at least one upgrading course would be needed. We also have very few hi-viz bibs, mostly in extreme sizes, and a further supply is required.

ACTION - Mike Sandford to request funding for bibs from John Temperton.

8. Other Items

a) Park Runs - Report by Colin Tether

The Parkrun organisation offers locally based 5K runs at a variety of locations throughout the British Isles. There are now 151 Park Runs every Saturday morning of the year with more planned. Around 60 are road courses, the remaining are multi terrain.

Parkruns are organised efficiently, are free and are open to all. The results are open to scrutiny and are generally available on the Saturday afternoon and comparison may be made with all the other Parkruns taking place on that day and throughout the history

of the events.

With regard to Parkrun Course Measurement, the website states the following:

All of our runs are 5km (just over 3 miles) - we measure them all as accurately as possible with professional surveyors' wheels. We do not use GPS devices to measure our courses (they are simply not accurate enough). Some of our events have had their distances officially certified (see the course pages of the event websites for details), but most of our events are considered multi-terrain for which such certifications are not given.

Athletes are keen on looking at their times and gaining PBs. Many running clubs keep records of their runners and present awards for the best times. Parkruns are included in the Power of 10 Rankings. Within the profile table for an athlete, a Parkrun course on a road surface which has not been measured by a course measurer, is shown as 5KNAD, the NAD standing for "Near as Dammit".

I have measured one course in the Midlands which is almost entirely on a good tarmac surface. I found it to be 45 metres short. I understand that a nearby similar course was also measured and found to be short. It is possible that other courses are short.

If courses are short, then athletes are being misled about their times. As Course Measurers, we should be concerned.

I suggest the following:

- We certainly should support Parkruns.
- We should approach some of our local Park Runs on road surfaces, to see if they would like their courses measured, so we may gain more information.
- We should discuss the matter with Parkrun.
- We should discuss the matter with Power of 10.

Phil Cook, who organises the Cardiff Parkrun, clarified the relationship between **run**britain and Parkrun. The events are supported by **run**britain and insured under the UKA policy, but the events are not administered through the licensing system.

Other measurers reported on measurement of Parkruns, and a number of courses were noted to be short before measurement. John Glover's report that he had measured 6 out of the 7 Parkruns in Northern Ireland was also noted.

CMWP agreed that our present practice continue - we would encourage Parkruns with tarmac surfaces to be measured, and would continue to issue certificates. We will also seek clarification from **run**britain on the status of Parkruns to resolve the conflict with our policy that we only certify courses for events which have a licence or permit from the governing body.

*ACTION - Mike Sandford/Phil Holland to raise with **run**britain.*

b) Revoked Certificates

The Hull Marathon was quoted as an example. Brian Porter said that the course as run was so different from the measured course in many places that he had, in consultation with Mike Sandford, revoked the measurement certificate. The entry on the website had been amended so that the Course Name was shown as 'Revoked'.

Paul Hodgson said that for international events a 'Statement of Invalidity' was issued in similar circumstances. After discussion, CMWP agreed to use the 'Revoked' marking for serious failure to lay out the course in accordance with the measurement report. Mike Sandford pointed out that for these, and also for less serious errors, the 'Short Courses' page on the website would give full details of the situation.

Dene Townend suggested a flag when a course was 'under investigation'. Mike

Sandford thought that this might unfairly stigmatise races where no fault was found. He suggested that some mark be used only when a fault had been identified, but needed further investigation before a conclusion could be reached.

c) Measurer ID Card

A suggestion had been made that all measurers be issued with an ID card for use when their activities are queried. Phil Holland showed a simple business card carrying the AUKCM logo which he carried and could use for this purpose (although he hadn't yet needed it). He also suggested that we clarify to measurers the circumstances in which they could use the AUKCM logo - he used it on headed paper and invoices for his measurement work.

CMWP agreed that a robust card similar to the UKA 'Officials Card' would be be very useful.

ACTION - Phil Holland to investigate suitable ID cards.

9. Course Measurement Website - by Mike Sandford

This year there has been little development of new facilities. Updates & maintenance has required continual attention.

Some time was spent investigating delays of the automatic emails sent out by the website server in connection with the issuing and renewal of certificates of course accuracy. The host company has us on a shared SMTP server which was overloaded and warned that we might need to rent a dedicated email transmitter. However they have managed to overcome the overloading which was caused by shared users generating mass mailings, and normal service has been resumed with delays to our server's emails of less than 10 minutes.

The growth in usage of the website continues

Year	Pages served
2009	354,000
2010	464,000
2011	Full year data lost in server upgrade
2012 up to 10 Nov	582,574 Projection for full year: >650,000

On the following page I give statistical data for the period 1 December 2011 to 10 November 2012.

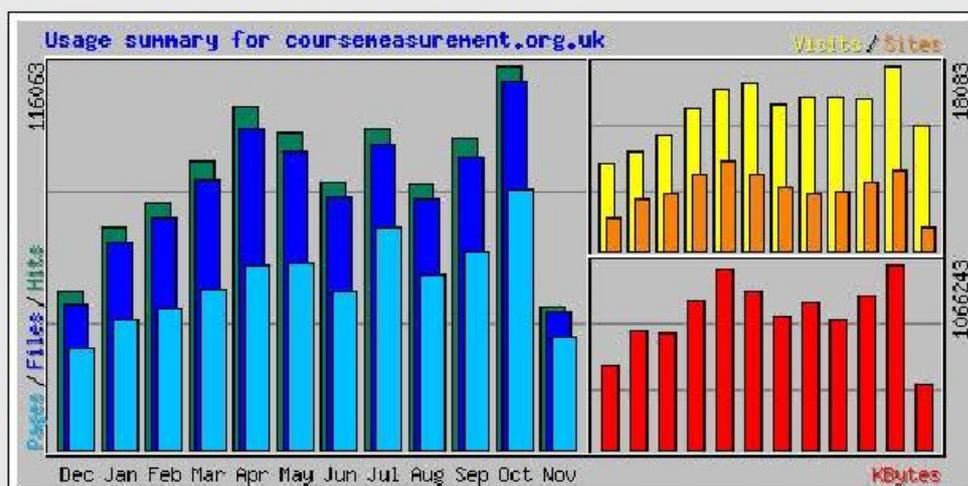
It will be noted that during busy months we average over 500 visitors per day.

I also note that on entering the search term course measurement into Google the top listed site continues to be coursemeasurement.org.uk

Mike also produced a statistical summary of measurements and renewals for 1/12/11 to 8/11/12.

Usage Statistics for coursemeasurement.org.uk

Summary Period: Last 12 Months
Generated 11-Nov-2012 05:13 GMT



Summary by Month										
Month	Daily Avg				Monthly Totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	kBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
Nov 2012	3939	3778	3067	1120	2371	374329	12326	33746	41562	43338
Oct 2012	3743	3592	2528	583	7796	1066243	18083	78388	111353	116063
Sep 2012	3126	2948	1990	493	6727	890378	14801	59708	88467	93789
Aug 2012	2585	2443	1714	482	5740	745962	14956	53147	75735	80138
Jul 2012	3124	2976	2167	485	5665	848285	15048	67178	92270	96868
Jun 2012	2704	2548	1600	478	6207	769235	14359	48012	76448	81136
May 2012	3085	2905	1811	526	7479	908489	16311	56158	90071	95638
Apr 2012	3452	3227	1863	525	8832	1038976	15771	55896	96810	103565
Mar 2012	2807	2627	1552	450	7433	857164	13977	48139	81463	87031
Feb 2012	2575	2407	1478	393	5631	674035	11411	42862	69816	74679
Jan 2012	2158	2017	1269	314	4984	683388	9753	39340	62528	66926
Dec 2011	1546	1411	985	273	3204	483623	8491	30551	43759	47942
Totals						9340107	165287	613125	930282	987113

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10. Any other business

- a) Doug Hyde asked about the minimum length for a calibration course. Hugh Jones said that 400m was preferred, but 300m was acceptable. Mike Sandford said that he now used his Bosch rangefinder to establish course just under 250m, and used 6 rides to calibrate.

The meeting closed at 14:30

List of Actions

ACTIONS OUTSTANDING from last meeting

None

NEW ACTIONS

*NEW ACTION - Mike Sandford/Phil Holland to raise Rule 210 details with **run**britain.*

ACTION - Phil Holland - Update Guidelines for Charges and circulate.

ACTION - Mike Sandford to request funding for bibs from John Temperton.

*ACTION - Mike Sandford/Phil Holland to raise the status of Parkruns with **run**britain.*

ACTION - Phil Holland to investigate suitable ID cards