

**MINUTES OF THE BAF COURSE MEASUREMENT WORKING PARTY MEETING**  
Kennedy Hotel, Cardington Street, London NW1; 3rd April 1993

**PRESENT**

Max COLEBY	Member BAF Course Measurement Working Party
John DISLEY	Chairman, BAF Course Measurement Working Party
Dave DODWELL	Welsh AA Course Measurement Sec
Roger GIBBONS	SCAA Course Measurement Sec
Paul HODGSON	NCAA Course Measurement Sec
Stuart HOLDSWORTH	MCAA Course Measurement Sec
Jack SELBY	Member BAF Course Measurement Working Party
Mike TOMLINS	BAF Course Measurement Sec

**OPENING REMARKS**

Representatives of the Northern Ireland and Scottish AAs had been invited to attend but were unable to do so because of prior commitments.

JD opened this meeting of the BAFCMWP by thanking MT for his continued efforts as BAF Course Measurement Sec and for organising the present meeting. He also commented that as a consequence of the efforts of Working Party members and the measurers since 1985, course measurement was now here to stay.

**MATTERS ARISING**

At the last meeting (16.2.91), the AAACMWP (now BAFCMWP) agreed to support the proposed IAAF rules for road race world records. JD reported that there had been no further progress with the implementation of these rules. The proposals had not been discussed by the IAAF at their meeting in Tokyo. Road running was not at the top of the IAAF agenda.

In spite of this situation, there was still visible IAAF support for course measurement and this was reflected by the minutes of a meeting held in Nice on 27.2.93 (Attachment I). JD referred to Appendices A and B of these minutes to illustrate how course measurement was now becoming well established worldwide.

The recommendations for UK road race records had been accepted by the AAARRC (now BAFRRRC) in their entirety but had been put on hold until the IAAF situation was resolved. MC reiterated his views concerning the 'decreasing elevation' and '30%' rules relating to A to B courses and the associated criteria for elevation changes and prevailing winds. There was clearly scope for further study but no positive action was implemented.

**BAF ROAD RACE PERMIT SCHEME AND THE PROPER MEASUREMENT OF COURSES**

The new BAF permit application forms now include the wording to make it clear that permits will only be issued to event organisers with courses which are certified accurately measured if the race title specifically refers to the distance. Feedback indicated that in the English Areas and in Wales, there was now a much greater commitment to course measurement and consequently most race organisers were keen to get their courses accurately measured. Nevertheless, it was recommended that BAF should send a letter to those directly responsible for issuing permits to encourage them to stick rigorously to the guidelines.

**ACTION: MT to contact BAF**

The consensus view was that Scotland and Northern Ireland should be encouraged to adopt the same approach within the next two years.

**ACTION: MT**

There were fewer inaccuracies in the Fixture List now that the Area Measurement Secretaries were proof reading the entries for their Areas. However, it was suggested that the situation could be improved even further by proof reading being conducted (a) on the data after it had been input into the computer and (b) on a quarter by quarter basis to ensure that the Listing represented the latest position with respect to measurement status, rather than that at the end of the previous year.

**ACTION:** SRH to contact Dave Cocksedge

#### **TRAINING/UPGRADING OF MEASURERS**

There were difficulties in filling Measurement Courses in certain Areas and it was agreed to arrange future Seminars on a National basis. The location would be alternated between the South, the Midlands and the North. The Area Measurement Secretaries would take it in turn to organise the Seminars.

It was recognised that the demand for measurers had probably passed its peak now that a large proportion of existing races were accurately measured. As a consequence, care was needed in recruitment strategy or else existing experienced measurers would be so lightly loaded that they would lose interest. Consequently, in recruiting measurers, priority should be given to those regions where there was a shortage of measurers.

MC reported on some measurement statistics from the NCAA Measurement Seminar at Lancaster on 27.3.93. He and PH had been evaluating six Grade 2 measurers for upgrading. In the measurement exercise, there had been a spread of 11.4m on a 2510m course, which they found very disturbing from a sample of six measurers whose past measurement records had suggested that they were Grade 1 material. In up-grading, the main criterion must be that a Grade 1 would be capable of conducting a reliable BAF measurement job.

Those not meeting the required standard would have to be deferred but it was important they were deferred lightly or they would be lost altogether and that was not desirable.

#### **PUBLICITY FOR BAF MEASUREMENT SCHEME**

MC suggested that the Course Measurement Seminars would be much better attended if they were advertised more effectively. In future, greater thought should be put to the advertisement of Seminars. SRH felt that it was not simply a matter of advertising in the athletics press. The MCAA seminar had been publicised via the athletics press, the measurers and the County road race secretaries, and still the message did not appear to be getting through. There were only 7 new measurers registered for the course and contact with these had been established prior to the publicity campaign which had started 3 months previously.

The Measurement Scheme should also be publicised more effectively. MT had already prepared the text of an advert and this was to be published later in the year in a full page advert in the National Athletics press.

**ACTION:** MT

#### **REPORTS FROM:**

##### **IAAF/AIMS**

JD reiterated that the IAAF/AIMS course measurement organisation was now in good shape and referred once more to the minutes of the Nice meeting (Attachment I).

## BAF Measurement Secretary

MT reported that this was a transition year. The BAF Measurement Secretary's responsibilities would be shared by MT and SRH during 1993 and the plan was for SRH to take over in 1994. MT's main task this year would be to issue an up-to-date Listing of BAF Accredited Course Measurers. This was to be published when the results of the MCAA Course Measurement Seminar were known at the end of April. A big effort was being made to make sure that the new Listing only contained the names of those measurers who were still active.

A supply of the new 6 digit Jones/Oerth counters had been acquired and MT passed one on to each of the Area Measurement Secs for evaluation. The price of the new counter is \$60.

On the subject of insurance, it was confirmed that bicycles were covered by the policy. DD noted that in the event of a claim, a helpful contact was the Office Manager at the BAF Birmingham office.

## Area Measurement Secretaries

MCAA. SRH reported that all was progressing well in the Midlands Area. There were 36 measurers covering the Midlands Area of which 10 were Grade 1. Of this total, 10% were inactive by choice and another 50% were relatively inactive due to the current work load. The remainder were busy throughout the year.

To increase awareness of the MCAA measurement scheme, a MCAA List of Certified Courses was circulated 4 or 5 times a year to all County Road Race Secs, all measurers and others. A current listing accompanied every Certificate.

There was to be a measurement seminar during the weekend of 24/25.4.93. Seven new measurers and two existing Grade 2 measurers (for upgrading to Grade 1) had registered to attend.

NCAA. PH reported that there were now 40 measurers in the Northern Area, of which 13 were Grade 1 accredited. This situation was as a consequence of the Measurement Seminar which had just been held at Lancaster University.

One comment made at the NCAA seminar was that there were inconsistencies in the measurement package forms used in different areas. MT undertook to review the format of the forms from all Areas and to rationalise them where necessary.

ACTION: MT

The subject of expenses was raised by PH (echoed by RG). It was some time since the situation had been reviewed and MT/SRH agreed to circulate a proposal for revised guidelines for comment.

ACTION: MT/SRH

SCAA. RG reported that all matters were in hand in the South. A SCAA course measurement seminar was planned for later in the year.

RG was concerned that a small number of races were not run on the routes as-measured by the measurer and that this fact should be widely publicised if discovered in order to deter the practice.

WALES. DD reported that all matters were in hand in Wales.