

BRITISH ATHLETIC FEDERATION

Course Measurement Working Party

Saturday 28th October 1995

Those Present

John Disley -	AIMS/IAAF Course Measurement Co-ordinator (Chairman)
Paul Hodgson -	BAF Course Measurement Secretary
Max Coleby -	Course Measurement Working Party
Mike Tomlins -	Course Measurement Working Party
Jack Selby -	Course Measurement Working Party
Alan Ritchie -	Northern Measurement Secretary
Roger Gibbons -	Southern Measurement Secretary

1. Apologies For Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Stuart Holdsworth (Midland Counties Secretary), and Dave Dodwell (Welsh Secretary). Both delegates have expressed their desire to relinquish their duties once suitable replacements have been nominated by their respective Area Committees.

2. AIMS/IAAF Matters

John Disley reported that two additional British Measurers had received international status. Stuart Holdsworth and Roger Gibbons being awarded 'B' grades.

AIMS / IAAF measurement principles have still to receive universal recognition, and some AIMS members were not adhering to the certification procedures. It was agreed that course measurement would only be credible if world road race records were recognised and the IAAF should be encouraged to pursue this objective.

If world records were recognised it would encourage more National Federations to train measurers to international standards, those countries adhering to the certification process should be encouraged to lobby the IAAF on this matter.

The draft criteria examined previously for the recognition of world records whilst being accepted in principle should be amended to include more precise instruction on the validation of world record courses.

Action :

- 1) John Disley to write to B.A.F. President requesting a submission to be made to the IAAF detailing the criteria for the recognition of road race world records.**
- 2) Procedures of the certification and validation of international events are to be re-examined.**

3. Report BAF Secretary

Paul Hodgson took over the duties of BAF course measurement secretary in April 1995. He reported that 5 BAF Certificates of Course Accuracy had been issued during the current year as follows :-

02/04/95	London Marathon
19/03/95	AAoE Wilmslow Half Marathon
30/07/95	100k British Championships
17/09/95	Great North Run (incorp. BAF Half Marathon Champs.)
04/09/95	BAF 10k Championships - Cardiff

Paul had attended a meeting of the BAF RRC in September and as a result of a number of course measurement related issues being raised the working party meeting was convened.

4. Reports From Area Secretaries

i) Northern Region

Alan Ritchie took over the duties of Northern Secretary in January 1995, he has all previous correspondence and measurement reports in his possession. He has recently produced an updated list of accurately measured courses, which he is keeping up to date in an effort to assist Permit Secretaries.

Seventy new or revised courses have been certified in the year to date which is a reduction on the previous year. Alan reported that he only had three Jones Counters left in stock, but this would probably be sufficient for the quiet winter months.

Action:

1) It was agreed that the BAF Secretary co-ordinate a national order for Jones Counters through Pete Reigel six weeks prior to the date of next years London Marathon.

ii) Southern Counties

Roger reported that there had been no decline in the number of courses certified in the South.

A training seminar had been held during the week end 14-15th October 1995, twelve new Grade II measurers had been accredited, and two existing measurers elevated to Grade I status. The Southern Counties now have 57 Grade II, and 14 Grade I officials.

Roger pointed out that there was a discrepancy in the rules regarding multi-terrain events. BAF rules state that more than 1% of the course should be off-road, whilst BARR rules state 5%. In addition it was noted that the BARR fixture list included races that were not permitted. The delegates agreed that BARR should be informed of these anomalies, and it was felt that if non-permitted events were excluded from the fixtures then race organisers would be encouraged to seek a permit.

5. Outstanding Matters

i) Procedures For Upgrading Grade II Measurers

Upgrading procedures had long been the subject of much debate, but recently the argument for a revision to the process had become increasingly vociferous. It was claimed that many Grade II measurers were inactive having lost interest in performing their duties due to lack of any recognition of their services.

In addition, one Northern measurer had failed an upgrading test and as a result expressed his dissatisfaction with the upgrading procedures to the BAF President.

The working party agreed that a "career structure" for measurement officials should be implemented. Once a Grade II measurer had measured twenty courses and submitted the relevant paperwork to the area measurement secretary, he would automatically be considered for upgrading. The elevated status of the measurer would only be confirmed when a Grade I measurer had randomly carried out a check measurement of one of the twenty courses. Any expenditure incurred by the Grade I validator being reimbursed by the Area Association.

ii) Measurement Fees

A resolution to the committee for the payment of a set fee for measurement services based on the distance to be measured was deemed to be inappropriate. However it was agreed that the existing arrangements for the payment of "out of pocket expenses" were modest and outdated. The working party therefore agreed that approval be given for the following increases :-

Breakfast	£2.50	increased to	£5.00
Lunch/Dinner	£3.50	increased to	£7.00
Tea	£2.00	increased to	£4.00
Administration	£5.00	increased to	£10.00

makeup 30p *Jan 200*

iii) Ranking Lists

On several occasions in the past it had been noted that ranking lists had included times which had been performed over uncertified courses. Most ranking lists are published in "Athletics Weekly", and following discussions with Max Coleby, the compiler of the lists Bob Frank, had agreed to send a copy of the lists to the Area Measurement Secretaries for their verification.

Roger reported that he automatically sends copies of his updated list of accurate courses to statisticians throughout the country. Other area secretaries are to follow his lead, and the names and addresses of ranking list compilers are to be circulated.

The working party recognised that it would be advantageous if someone could undertake the role of National Co-ordinator for the verification of ranking lists. Dave Walsh had prepared many excellent publications on rankings and road races over recent years, and he was to be encouraged to take on the aforementioned role.

iv) Issue Of Permits To Uncertified Courses

Many course measurers have expressed their concerns that many permitted events are being staged without a valid certificate of course accuracy. This is in

contravention of the rules, although it was pointed out that providing the distance was not specified in the race title a certificate of course accuracy was not mandatory.

The working party discussed this matter at length, and it appeared that only in the Southern Counties were the rules being strictly applied. It was stated that in some districts certificates were not being issued due to the fact that certain officials were not submitting measurement reports to Area Secretaries.

The problem was best illustrated by a Midland Counties Championship event which had been measured by a Grade I measurer who had not submitted his paperwork, a certificate of course accuracy, and therefore a permit had not been issued. This could have dire consequences, as the participants of the race would not have insurance cover.

Action :

1) The working party agreed that any official who provides measuring services to a race organiser and then fails to submit a report for certification should be deleted from the list of accredited course measurers.

2) The Secretary of the BAF Road Running Commission is to be requested to communicate to all permit secretaries via the area and county associations to reiterate the requirement for the accuracy of permitted to be certified.

v) Measurement Reporting Procedures

Due to the stringent conditions now being imposed by the police on the routes of road races, it was considered that the course measurement reporting system be revised to include a section on the safety of the event. It was suggested that this could include details of the number of road junctions, and an estimate of the number of police / stewards required en-route to handle traffic management.

The working party unanimously agreed that the course details included in the present Course Measurement Summary Sheet were sufficient, and the control of traffic should remain the responsibility of the Course Director and the Local Constabulary. No changes to the current reporting procedures were considered necessary.

vi) Officials Booklet

An updated re-print of the Accredited Course Measurers Booklet has been requested by the BAF Road Running Commission. All Area Secretaries have been requested to provide the relevant information, the preparatory work for the publication had commenced but was held in abeyance to facilitate the inclusion of the recently recruited Southern Counties officials.

Members of the working party were asked if any new sections should be included in the latest booklet, but it was generally agreed that the present format was acceptable. The new booklet is scheduled for completion at the end of November.

v) Training Video

Earlier this year with assistance from Andy Milroy copies of a course measurement training video were composed. The original film being produced by the acclaimed French measurer John Francoise Pascal, and Tom McBrayer from the USA, whilst the picture quality could be better and much of the commentary is in French it will still be a useful training aid at future seminars.

Copies of the video were offered to those members of the working party who had seen it, ways of "dubbing" of the French commentary are to be examined.

Distribution :

Those Present :

Colin Gostelow - Secretary BAF Road Running Commission

Stuart Holdsworth - Midlands Area Secretary

Dave Dodwell - Welsh Measurement Secretary

Dave Walsh - Editor BAF Road Race Handbook