



ROAD RUNNERS CLUB

AN ASSOCIATION OF AMATEUR ROAD RUNNERS AFFILIATED TO THE
AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, N.C.A.A., M.C.A.A.A., S.C.A.A.A.,
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Dear

1/6/83

Following your offer to become one of our course measurers, I sent you the IAAF instructions for course measurement, when I answered your letter.

I am now able to send you the counter to mount on an ordinary cycle, together with the instructions for doing this.

There was an excellent response to my appeal in the RRC Newsletter, and in the athletic press for course measurers. Nearly fifty people replied. The RRC Council had agreed to buy another ten counters; there will therefore be a number of disappointed people, at any rate for the time being, who cannot be supplied with counters.

In deciding who should have the counters in this early stage of setting up a measuring scheme to cover the country as a whole, it appeared important to cover as wide an area as possible, with emphasis on those parts of the country where road races are most popular.

With this in mind, distribution of counters has not been restricted to RRC members, although most of you are members, and naturally we would like all our course measurers to be RRC members.

This letter will reach some of you, who have been measuring road courses for some years, and may have bought your own counters, and hence are experienced in the operation, whereas to some of you road measurement is new.

The initial list of RRC course measurers was published in the January 1983 Newsletter, with additions in May 1983, and I anticipate a complete up to date list will appear in the August 1983 issue, giving the names and addresses of not less than twenty course measurers. I expect this list will also be published in the athletic magazines.

(i) What we are now doing does not remove the responsibility of the race organiser to ensure that his course is the correct length. It will make it easier for him to do so, by using this new facility.

The RRC will continue to provide race organisers with information on how to measure road courses, when asked, and may help out by the loan of a counter. As our course measurers become established, you will be the people to approach.

(ii) Probably in most cases you will be asked by the race organiser to measure his course. There could be cases when the accuracy of an established race has been questioned, and this may mean a tactful approach to the organiser. People don't like being told that their courses are inaccurate, although a more enlightened attitude may be developing. I think you will understand what I am getting at, if you have read the letters on road distances which have appeared in 'Athletics Weekly' and elsewhere over the past year or two.

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(iii) Expenses. Amateur Athletics is run by thousands of volunteers and will continue to depend on them. Nevertheless travelling to road race venues could produce some appreciable petrol bills. Road measurers are entitled to ask the race organiser for expenses if they so wish, and they should negotiate direct with him beforehand so that misunderstandings cannot arise. Otherwise there should be no charge for measuring courses. The work for clubs, within the fraternity of road running, should present no problems and will be on the friendly basis which characterises the sport of road running.

However, a new situation has arisen with the boom in mass road events organised other than by clubs - commercial concerns etc. - with ample financial backing.

Although the concern of us in road running is simply that courses should be accurately measured, there is no reason why our experience and services should be made use of without recompense. Some race organisers have donated to the RRC for our help.

It has been agreed by the RRC Council that Charity events should not be expected to pay, although here again commercial concerns may be involved. This is left to the discretion of the course measurer concerned.

(iv) Documentation. This is important. When you have measured a course for a new race, or a course which has been altered, please let me know without delay, and not later than the end of September, so that the race may be considered for RRC standards.

Any field figures, maps, description of the course and gradients are important and will be added to our information of road races accumulated over the years. I refer here to races of not less than 10 miles. You will be free to measure shorter races of course, and should confirm that all races are held under A.A.A. or W.C.C.A. rules.

(v) Those of you with counters may like to contact other potential measurers in your area. I can send you addresses and in this way help could be at hand if you are hard pressed, and road measurement knowledge would be spread.

(vi) You are responsible for the safekeeping of this counter for which the RRC is making no charge.

Please let me know you have received it, and how you have measured your standard distance.

The continued reputation of the RRC for accurate course measurement will depend on you, please take every care.

Wishing you enjoyment in this interesting exercise, which is of considerable value to our sport.

Yours sincerely,

John Jewell

May 1983.