

Minutes of Course Measurement Working Party

30 November 2013

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

Attending:

Hugh Jones (Chairman), Phil Holland (Secretary), Kym Wheeler (Midlands & Treasurer)
Mike Sandford (South), Brian Porter (North), Phil Cook (Wales), Alan Young (Scotland),
John Glover (N Ireland), Paul Hodgson, Colin Tether.

Apologies:

Gavin Lightwood (RunBritain)

Course Measurers Attending as observers:

Bob Cripps (South), Doug Hyde (Midlands), Mark Jefford (South), Tony King(South), Bob Statham (Midlands), Dene Townend (North)

1. Welcome

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

2. Review of Actions from 2012 meeting

1. ACTION - *Mike Sandford/Phil Holland to raise Rule 210 details with runbritain.*

Paul Hodgson had 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? Phil Holland reported that Geoff Wightman said that it could cover all three, depending on the needs of the event.

1. ACTION - *Phil Holland – Update Guidelines for Charges and circulate.* - DONE
2. ACTION - *Mike Sandford to request funding for bibs from runbritain.* - INCOMPLETE
3. ACTION - *Mike Sandford/Phil Holland to raise the status of Parkruns with runbritain.*
This had been superseded by Colin Tether's report – see Item 8.
4. ACTION - *Phil Holland to investigate suitable ID cards*
No affordable solution found. Phil had now acquired a small laminator and was testing that.

3. Area Secretaries Reports

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

NORTH AREA SECRETARY'S REPORT - Brian Porter

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. My thanks also go to the CMWP for their support.

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.

Electronic submission of reports is now the norm with only a handful of measurements now being received by post. There has been a slight increase in the number of races being renewed online.

There are currently 2 people looking at the online tutorials but recruitment remains an issue. One person has completed the online tutorials and I am doing a practical with him on a half marathon measurement in January.

Any ideas to attract and retain new measurers will be most welcome. We are especially short on Merseyside because Brian Grice has been taken ill. In Northumberland Dave Bendy retired. In Cheshire Malcolm Fowler has indicated his intention to retire and Russell Bennett resigned due to his work commitments. In Cumbria Alan Ritchie also hung up his bike. I wish to thank Dave, Malcolm and Alan for their contribution to course measurement over many years.

I currently have 4 Jones Counters and 1 hi-vis jacket in stock.

Brian noted that Brian Grice, usually a very active measurer, was temporarily out of action.

SCOTLAND AREA SECRETARY'S REPORT - Alan Young

Measurements - Still only 2 "active" measurers. Vast majority measured by the Scottish Area Secretary

Marathon	1
Half Marathon	7
10k	6
5k	4
1 mile	1
Another (17.46 mile)	1
TOTAL	20

Certificates - Now being issued.

Role with Scottish Athletics - Scottish Athletics still continue to issue Road Race Permits, without the need to have a course measured. They presently just ask if it has been measured, and if not suggest they have it measured.

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 if sufficient numbers were to come forward.

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 continued and a "trial" was started, although little copies of Certificates etc.

Phil Holland said that he had sent information to Jim Goldie (Coaching & Training Manager) regarding course measurer training in response to an enquiry via **runbritain**.

MIDLAND AREA SECRETARY'S REPORT - Kym Wheeler

It seems to have been a busy year this year, however, the figures show that there were less races run in the Midlands Area compared to last year. The retirement from race organising in Gloucestershire by Norman and Anne Wilson has had quite an impact on that area, but some other areas have increased the number of races.

Only 2 of the new races measured this year were for Parkruns, one is a multi terrain, the other is a road run. As in previous years, the 10k distance has been the most popular. It has been noticeable this year that there is an increase in the commercial race organisers on the scene, organising both short and longer distance events. Some of these are charities, but many are people doing it for a living. With the increasing costs of closing roads and all the extra red tape involved, organising a road race is now moving out of the hands of volunteers who just don't have the time or inclination to do all the work. With more races being forced off roads and on to paths and cycleways, the unsealed surface Registration of Distance certificate is becoming more popular.

Very few races seem to be making it to 10 years and requiring a re-measure, but there have been 4 this year.

The number of ARC permits issued has remained static, with most of them being in the Avon and Leicestershire areas. A couple of half marathons were measured and run with UKA certificates as part of triathlons.

Due to ill health, several of the Midlands course measurers have been out of action for varying lengths of time, but most of them are now back in the saddle and for their time and expertise I offer my thanks. Without them, we could not provide the excellent service that is available to all race organisers.

Kym noted a number of regular events not applying for renewal certificates, and displaying old certificates. Phil Holland commented that the licensing system did a very limited check - only that there is a currently valid measurement.

NORTHERN IRELAND AREA SECRETARY'S REPORT - John Glover

The last 12 months have remained busy with 27 measurements covering all six counties of Northern Ireland up to the end of October 2013. The measurement of the 2012 Belfast City Marathon course in conjunction with IAAF Measurer Tom McCormick and the subsequent report to Hugh Jones resulted in my being upgraded and the BCM being granted AIMS status.

Events measured this year have included seven Parkruns bringing the total to nine out of 14 in Northern Ireland, one of which is on run totally on a beach. There was one town 5k, five 5 mile events, six 10k's, one 10 mile, four Half Marathon's including a point to point from the Northern Ireland (Newry) into the Republic of Ireland (Dundalk), and two marathons. Of the latter one was an entirely new course in Derry/Londonderry and the other some minor changes at eight and 24 miles which required a full re-measurement.

The very successful Belfast City Half Marathon was a new event run by the Belfast Marathon group which I had the pleasure of designing and measuring. Unfortunately it was a victim of its own success with the three thousand plus runners being twice what was expected and with hopes for even greater numbers the course it deemed not fit for purpose so it is back to the drawing board and the bike.

John said that there were a number of new events, mainly organised by sports clubs rather than running clubs, which were not complying with the system re permits, measurement, etc.

John also reported that he had one potential new measurer.

WALES AREA SECRETARY'S REPORT - Phil Cook

This has been a slightly shorter year for me as I only took on the role in March. The transition hasn't been too bad, although I did fall behind slightly during the summer when I moved house, but I believe everything is now back on track.

What I have noticed is how each of the measurers complete and send in their reports differently, and they aren't always easy to put together to form a course file, so based on the paperwork I was shown I've tried to put together a template that I'm hoping the Welsh measurers will use which I hope will make things a little easier for me. I've also noticed that the measurers seem reluctant to complete the summary sheet on-line, so I hope to encourage them to do this. Following a query I had from one measurer with regards to confirming a course that he measured more than 10 years ago, I've modified the Summary sheet in order to create a Confirmation of Course form.

As part of the Welsh Athletics Licensing forms there is a page which asks if they have arranged for the course to be measured or applied for a new certificate, a lot of organisers are sending that to me for Off Road races and also to renew a Certificate, rather than using the website to apply for a new certificate. I'm hoping to sit down with them in the office to see if we can word the paperwork in order to get the organisers to go on-line.

I've come across 3 "incidents" which I need to look into. The first one was a course that I measured, and then after the race found out that they had moved the Finish and adjusted the Start themselves by adding a loop around a trailer. The second is a race that I took part in gave instruction to the runners to run on the left at all times ~ the course had been reversed to take this into account. But during the race there was no control on the runners and they were taking the shortest line and running on the right through bends and "S" bends. It is unclear from the paperwork what line of measurement was used, and what made me start to question it was the fact that a large percentage of the runners seemed to run quicker than previously. The third issue, which I'm not really sure how to tackle is that one of the measurers is only using a Calibration course of 75.55m.

Following on from a conversation that I had with Phil Holland earlier this year, I plan to ask all the measurers to report details of the calibration courses they use, i.e. location, length, start/finish points etc., that way there is a record of them and if necessary another measurer could use them.

During 2013 there have been 24 measurements submitted, the Regional breakdown :

East	4
South	9
West	3
North	8

There were 33 requests for Certificate renewals.

The website is showing that there are 8 active measurers in Wales, 4 of these didn't submit a measurement file during 2013. We had 1 measurer no longer showing who submitted 3 measurements.

Measurer	Grade	Courses measured
Phil Cook (South)	1	7
Alex Donald (South)	2	0
Graham Finlayson	2	3
Ian McDonald	2	0
Lyn Rees	2	0
Martin Dyde	1	0
Paul Day	2	3
Dafydd Ellis	2	8
<i>Tim Gasser</i>	1	3

Measurements by distance

1 mile	1
5 Km	5
5 miles	1
10 Km	8
8 miles	1
10 miles	1
Half Marathon	4
Marathon	1
parkrun	2

In line with Colin's review of parkrun courses, there are 8 parkrun's in Wales : Cardiff, Newport, Bryn Bach, Aberystwyth, Porthcawl, Llyn Llech Owain, Pontypridd and Pontypool. Of these courses 6 are run on tarmac/paved courses ~ Cardiff, Bryn Bach, Aberystwyth, Porthcawl, Pontypridd and Pontypool. The remaining 2 ~ Newport and Llyn Llech Owain are Off Road. Only 3 are certified ~ Cardiff, Porthcawl and Bryn Bach.

Mike Sandford said that where races did not stick to the measured course, Phil could add a comment to the Race Details on the website.

Regarding the minimum length for a calibration course, we minuted last year that 400m was preferred, but 300m was acceptable. Mike Sandford said that he now used his Bosch rangefinder to establish calibration courses just under 250m, and used 6 rides to calibrate. (See <http://coursemeasurement.org.uk/olympics2012/parkroadcalcourse.htm>)

Other examples of shorter calibration courses were mentioned and Paul Hodgson said that he thought 200m was the absolute minimum. Phil Holland said he would speak to the measurer using the 75m calibration course, which all agreed was much too short.

In response to queries as to whether calibration courses could be certified and used by other measurers, Mike Sandford suggested that calibration course details could be entered on the website. He noted that it had proved possible to add the unsealed surfaces category. Paul Hodgson suggested that a standard format be used, based on that required for International certification. To be of use to other measurers, it is important that fully detailed references for location of the end points are included. There was further discussion of the level of detail required.

ACTION - Mike Sandford to investigate the practicality of developing a system for the recording of calibration courses and their listing them on the website.

SOUTH AREA SECRETARY'S REPORT - Mike Sandford

Retirements: Malcolm Higgins - 23 years service, Paul Felton - 18 years service. Many thanks to both for their many excellent measurement reports.

Presently inactive due to personal circumstances/ill health: Tony Perry
Glen Wood (Cornwall and Devon) was trained and accredited during the year.

During the year there were 48 measurers listed as active in the South. 14 of these did not measure any races. The remaining 34 measurers measured between 1 each (4 measurers) and the most prolific measurers were Darren Wrintmore, 12, and Mark Jefford and John Webber 10 each. We are looking for more measurers in nearly every areas and would like to hear from anyone who might be interested in taking the free training course. In particular

we desperately need measurers who can help in Wiltshire, and Somerset.

So far during 2013 I have certified 143 new measurements of road races, plus 3 registrations of races with unsealed surfaces, and 10 multi-terrain courses. 156 courses in total. I expect that by the end of the calendar year the total will be very close to the 168 measured in 2012.

I also total the number of new certificates plus renewals, again for the part year 2013

For UKA events - 454 (whole of 2012 was 480)

For ARC events - 57 (whole of 2012 was 52)

This year I have had fewer lengthy investigations to do following reports of courses being incorrect. More frequently I am asked by a runner whether a race has a current certificate. Partly these queries arise because the licensing process is more rigorous in checking whether course certification is being kept up to date.

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 Measurer: Glenn Wood (South)

Grade 1 Measurers: (None)

The following retirements were noted: Alan Ritchie, Dave Bendy (North), Derek Poole (Midlands), Malcolm Higgins, Paul Felton (South).

It was agreed that there was need for an upgrading seminar to be held in Spring 2014. Phil Holland had been trying to identify a suitable location near Birmingham. He had previously used roads around Birmingham Business Park, which was convenient for motorways and Birmingham International station, but had failed to find a suitable room. Doug Hyde suggested Stoneleigh, nr Warwick and will also look for other possibilities.

5. International Measurement Matters - Hugh Jones.

Hugh said that Dene Townsend's IAAF-AIMS accreditation was in hand, and that Doug Hyde should now be accredited, although confirmation would probably be in the New Year.

Hugh would liaise with Phil Cook for the measurement of the Cardiff Half Marathon 2014 - the event was confirmed as the World Half Marathon Championship 2015.

Paul Hodgson asked about the number of UK International measurers in comparison with other countries. Hugh said that it compared with most countries with developed schemes of measurement, except USA which was over-represented.

6. Runbritain

Phil Holland and Mike Sandford had represented AUKCM at the annual meeting between runbritain and AUKCM which had been held on 13 Nov 2014. Geoff Wightman and Gavin Lightwood attended for runbritain.

runbritain had reported:

- Already in 2013 (to Nov) licences had been issued for 2090 races.
- Races with online entry currently at 365 up from 325 last year and 60 in 2009.
- Approximately 500- 1,000 races unlicensed in UK.

- 2.2 million race performances will be recorded this year.
- runbritain Grand Prix has further improved times over the first 250 finishers.
- There are now 300 Event Adjudicators with up to 40 more still required. Key Regions still requiring further officials are – London, North West and South West. Geoff Wightman asked for 4 volunteers from among course measurers to act as adjudicators for Run Britain.
- runbritain offered to publish a 500-600 word article in their runbritain newsletter to promote course measurement and recruit new measurers.
- Geoff Wightman confirmed that a £1000 budget was available for AUKCM expenses in 2013/14 and £1500 in 2014/15.
- runbritain found the coursemeasurement.org.uk website very useful for checking whether races had course measurements, and they asked if measured courses in Northern Ireland and Scotland would be added. Mike Sandford had said that John Glover maintained an up to date web page of NI measurements, and these could be transferred to the AUKCM national website. There was Scottish website which showed a few measurements from 2011, but it did not appear to have been updated with more recent measurements.

ACTION - Mike Sandford to publish on the course measurement website, an invitation from runbritain for measurers to volunteer as event adjudicators.

ACTION - Mike Sandford, Kym Wheeler, and Doug Hyde to provide measurement stories for inclusion in article for runbritain.

7. Budget/Finance – Kym Wheeler

The largest expense in the year was the cost of website hosting. I have allowed a modest amount in the budget for each area secretary, the association secretary and the association chairman to cover postage, stationery and telephone calls. The travel and associated costs with the AGM has also been factored into the final figures.

The overall costs for the year 2012/13 are almost £700. Allowing a small percentage for budget increases in the forthcoming year, I believe the budget for the next year will amount to around the £800 mark. All costs at the moment are covered by UKA, ARC and the individual measurers' charges to clients.

I will bring my spreadsheets of the finances with me to the AGM should anyone wish to ask any questions.

Kym Wheeler reported that that expenses claims to be made to Run Britain totalled £680.33 so far this year. With further claims to be submitted for the AGM and other items she expected the total for 2103/2014 would be within the £1000 budget set by Run Britain.

ACTION - CMWP Members were reminded to send copies of all claims submitted to runbritain to Kym Wheeler for entry on her spreadsheets.

Approximate figures were reported for the number of J-R counters purchased by runbritain and held by ACMS ready for new measurers and replacement of failed ones:

Midlands	5 (number checked after the meeting)
NI	1
North	4
South	5 (number checked after the meeting)
Scotland	4
Wales	2 (from Phil Holland)

It was concluded that this number would probably be sufficient through 2014, but that budget for 2015 should include an allowance for purchase of another batch.

There was some discussion on the reliability of the new J-R counter. Hugh said he had an early one for testing and it has remained on his bike for over 5 years with no failure after many thousands of miles of riding. Others have had trouble with the weak tang especially when the front wheel configuration is such that the tang extnder has to be used. The tanf can bend, even break and the large gear wheel can get bent. Hugh Jones said there is an alternative to using the tag extender - a piece of stiff wire passed through the tag hole and the spokes (see the forum thread on fixing a broken tang at <http://measure.infopop.cc/eve/forums/a/tpc/f/2061017023/m/6294019428>

Mike Sandford reported that he had made a brass bodge to overcome a large gap between the spokes and the counter.

It was agreed that at least one upgrading course would be needed in 2014. We also have very few hi-viz bibs, mostly in extreme sizes, and a further supply is required.

Phil Holland reported a request by Neil Patterson (North) for reimbursement of the cost of a RH-mounted Jones Counter (£136.67). Neil had a new bike with LH-mounted disk brakes. **runbritain** would accept this, provided it came within our budget. This was agreed without setting a precedent. It was felt measurers should solve their own problems in fitting counters - a number of others were mentioned.

ACTION - Phil Holland to advise Neil Patterson.

8. parkrun - Report by Colin Tether

Colin's report is posted on the AUKCM website at <http://aukcm.org.uk/CMWP-parkrun-report.pdf>

Colin and Phil Holland met Tom Williams of parkrun on 20 November and Colin's report included provisional actions arising from that meeting. Tom had now proposed changes to the course description on the parkrun website to read as follows

Our courses are measured and laid out to be as close to 5,000 metres as resources and local conditions allow. Due to the nature of parkrun events we do not hold official certification of distance however many of them have been measured by the Association of UK Course Measurers. Where this isn't the case we have measured as accurately as possible ourselves using a surveyor's wheel.

He also emphasised that parkrun considered their events to be informal timed runs, rather than races, and that it was not always possible to meet the exacting standards required for course certification. For this reason, parkrun times were now in a separate category on the Power of 10 rankings site.

Colin said that parkrun were keen to cooperate with AUKCM and would like a listing of parkrun courses which had been measured by AUKCM on the website, but would prefer that they were not certified. Phil Cook said that his parkrun course in Cardiff was accurately measured and was used and certified for other events. Other measurers mentioned similar cases.

Mike Sandford thought that it would be possible to have a separate page on the website listing measured parkrun courses. The entries would be less detailed than those for certified courses, and would be entered directly by the measurer - the ACMS would not need to be involved.

ACTION - Mike Sandford to investigate inclusion of parkrun listing on website.

9. Course Measurement Website - by Mike Sandford

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

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
2013 up to 25 Nov	830,000 Projection for full year ~900,000

On the following page I give statistical data for the period 1 December 2012 to 25 November 2013. We get between 300 and 500 visitors in an typical day. (see Page 11)

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

The measurer's course maps for all courses in the South since 2004 are regularly uploaded to the web, and can be viewed by runners or officials. Because of the large volume of data these have been placed on a second web server at runningcourses.org.uk but they are all linked as pdf files from the individual course details pages at coursemecurement.org.uk. The last page of this report shows that this course map archive has been getting an average of 5 or 6 visitors per day. I plan to examine options available to reduce the cost of having this second web server. In making such plans it would be helpful to know whether other regions intend to make measurers' course maps available to be placed on line.

It would also be helpful to know whether Scotland and NI intend to join the other 4 regions and list their certified courses using the coursemecurement.org.uk website. We get a number of enquires about the measurement status races in Scotland and at present just pass them on to Alan Young. Some NI courses are presently listed on John Glover's NI Tracks Stats website at track-ni.org.

Renewal of certificates of course accuracy for ARC races does not proceed very smoothly at present and involves a special operation to transfer the renewal requests to the appropriate area secretary. The process could be simplified and improved by that used for renewing certificates for UKA races to also work with ARC races.

Mike asked whether other areas were likely to add course maps to the website. North & Midlands thought probably not.

Mike noted that he now produced his course maps using the GoodRunGuide website www.goodrunguide.co.uk Dene Townend also used the site and had negotiated free access for use which would probably be available to other measurers.

ACTION - Mike Sandford to improve transfer of ARC renewal requests to ACMSs by integrating the process with that used for UKA renewals.

10. Any other business

- a) Dene Townend reported some difficulty with our Guidelines for Charges. Some commercial race organisers were expecting to pay the minimum daily charge, and he suggested we have a single figure. The general opinion was that the range was useful and that a firm line should be taken with commercial organisers if necessary.

The meeting closed at 14:30

List of Actions

ACTION - Mike Sandford to investigate the practicality of developing a system for the recording of calibration courses and their listing them on the website.

ACTION - Mike Sandford to publish on the course measurement website, an invitation from runbritain for measurers to volunteer as event adjudicators.

ACTION - Mike Sandford, Kym Wheeler, and Doug Hyde to provide measurement stories for inclusion in article for runbritain.

ACTION - CMWP Members were reminded to send copies of all claims submitted to runbritain to Kym Wheeler for entry on her spreadsheets.

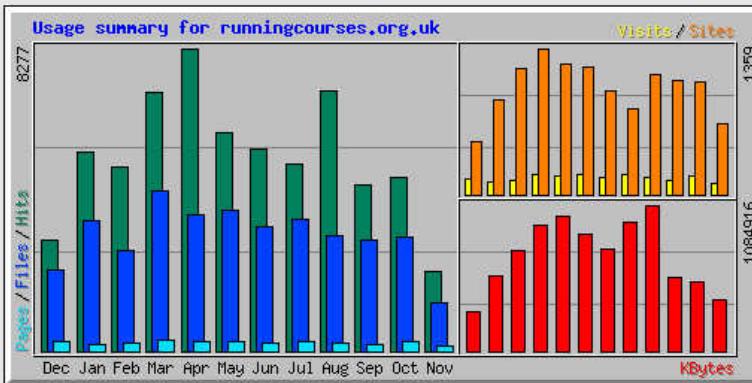
ACTION - Phil Holland to advise Neil Patterson.

ACTION - Mike Sandford to investigate inclusion of parkrun listing on website.

ACTION - Mike Sandford to improve transfer of ARC renewal requests to ACMSs by integrating the process with that used for UKA renewals.

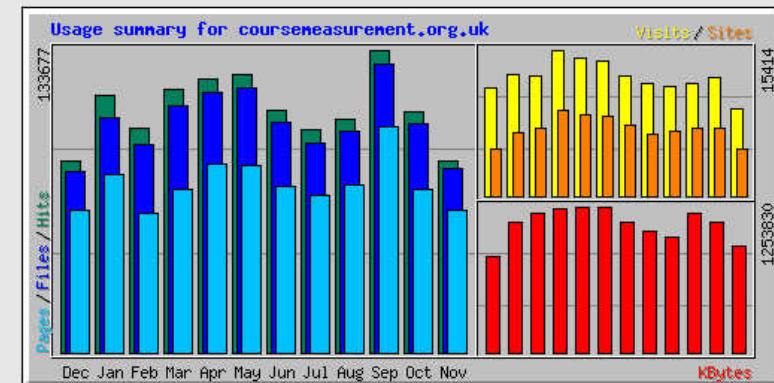
Usage Statistics for runningcourses.org.uk

Summary by Month
Generated 20-Nov-2013 14:01 GMT



Usage Statistics for coursemeasurement.org.uk

Summary Period: Last 12 Months
Generated 26-Nov-2013 04:33 GMT



Summary by Month

Month	Daily Avg				Monthly Totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
Nov 2013	108	66	6	5	660	377400	104	139	1337	2166
Oct 2013	152	100	8	5	1045	519290	177	248	3117	4731
Sep 2013	152	101	6	4	1056	547955	125	200	3055	4565
Aug 2013	229	101	7	5	1117	1084916	156	221	3156	7123
Jul 2013	164	116	8	6	802	955308	189	252	3616	5106
Jun 2013	184	113	8	5	964	758832	160	242	3409	5538
May 2013	192	124	8	6	1184	866785	193	259	3857	5966
Apr 2013	275	124	8	5	1218	1000220	169	260	3740	8277
Mar 2013	228	141	9	6	1359	937575	188	292	4379	7078
Feb 2013	179	98	7	4	1169	741806	133	210	2770	5030
Jan 2013	175	115	6	3	875	560373	122	198	3587	5450
Dec 2012	98	72	8	4	492	297768	152	260	2237	3052
Totals					8648228	1868	2781	38260		64082

Summary by Month

Month	Daily Avg				Monthly Totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
Nov 2013	3258	3122	2407	352	4993	914780	9172	62582	81175	84719
Oct 2013	3423	3262	2328	401	7112	1115559	12435	72185	101132	106118
Sep 2013	4455	4244	3315	396	7190	1201255	11880	99450	127331	133677
Aug 2013	3328	3143	2393	373	6861	997109	11591	74190	97460	103178
Jul 2013	3177	2986	2248	383	6569	1036667	11903	69708	92596	98495
Jun 2013	3558	3383	2441	420	7414	1116475	12626	73236	101504	106758
May 2013	3959	3765	2670	458	8431	1253279	14203	82796	116723	122754
Apr 2013	4034	3827	2778	484	8578	1253830	14520	83363	114825	121035
Mar 2013	3752	3515	2321	497	9062	1236277	15414	71977	108978	116332
Feb 2013	3540	3276	2203	451	7110	1199582	12645	61689	91730	99124
Jan 2013	3656	3337	2541	411	6725	1114402	12770	78788	103476	113363
Dec 2012	2736	2574	2018	367	4945	829320	11393	62571	79824	84817
Totals						13268535	150552	892535	1216754	1290370