

runbritain and AUKCM Meeting Notes

17th August 2011

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Apologies – Hugh Jones, Phil Holland.

- 1 Total runbritain spend on course measurement in 2010/11 was approximately £3,500.
- 2 Stock of Jones Counters sufficient for current financial year but plan for 20 in April 2012 at £100 each.
- 3 Agreed that Race Adjudicators role will incorporate the responsibility for verifying that the course to be used is identical to the measured course.
- 4 The licence application system is being revised to allow a provisional licence without confirmed measurement but the licence will be withdrawn if the course is not subsequently measured.
- 5 Gavin will provide Mike with regular reports from the licence system showing all available information that Mike can edit as required.
- 6 Mike will provide access to Course Measurement reports as required.
- 7 Recruitment of new measurers is moving slowly. The initiative in 2011 was not successful, 3 volunteers from 11 in Wales are now Grade 2 but none of 11 in England has stayed the course.
- 8 Geoff expressed serious concerns over the measurement of courses used for unlicensed races. Course Measurers charge a standard rate of £30 to cover expenses unless working with a commercial race promoter. It was suggested that differential fee should be charged and Mike will take this to colleagues. Unlicensed races should pay a reasonable fee rather than benefit from runbritain investment and undermine the benefits to licensed races.
- 9 The Shakespeare Marathon / Half Marathon measurement issue relating to a significant section of the course being on an unsealed path was discussed in detail. Mike agreed to determine the nature of the path and see if it could be classed as a road race but in the interim it was agreed that a lower standard of measurement would be applied and a statement of measurement be issued to the race.
- 10 John will prepare a bullet point summary of expectations in respect of the measurement of multi-terrain courses.

Multi Terrain Races and Course Measurement

Over the years County Licence Officers in England responsible for road race licensing have taken on the duties of licensing multi-terrain races with the consequence that the licensing process for both has been conducted through the same application process. Whilst in most cases that has not created any significant issues, occasionally we do encounter specific problems as illustrated currently by the Shakespeare Marathon which incorporates a significant length of pathway that does not meet the criteria for a road race.

The following notes outline the issues and suggest possible solutions for discussion.

- Off road distances allowed in a road race:
 - Up to 10k: 10% off-road allowed
 - Over 10k: 5% off-roadwhich equates to:
 - 1k in a 10k race
 - 1.6k in a half marathon
 - 2.6k in a marathon
- Any races that accept they are multi-terrain aren't an issue; they will receive a statement of measurement and not a certificate
- Issues arise where the race is deemed by its organisers to be a road race but it doesn't meet the criteria above, e.g. the Shakespeare Marathon, and these may require resolution case by case to determine whether the above criteria can be varied
- Where a distance is mentioned in the race title we require measurement; Licence Standards say that should be a "Certificate of Accuracy"
- 1 metre per kilometre is added to ensure that the distance is achieved for the certificate of accuracy; the statement of accuracy may have an additional error factor but if not why not set it at (say) 2 meters per kilometre?
- Ultimately our objective is that runners can be confident that they are running the distance they expect to be covering
- If the statement of measurement incorporates adjustments to guarantee that potential discrepancies caused by an uneven surface are eliminated, then are we concerned if the end result is a "certificate" or "statement"?
- I suspect that race organisers and runners wouldn't be too concerned or even aware of the distinction
- We should maintain the requirement for a certificate of accuracy for road races that fulfil the course measurement definition above
- We shouldn't put ourselves in a position that conflicts with the AUKCM

John Temperton
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