

Minutes of Course Measurement Working Party 21 November 2020

Held on Zoom at 11:00 am.

1. Attending:

Phil Holland (Secretary), Ken Kaiser (Treasurer), Colin Tether (Midlands), Phil Cook (Wales), Mike Burns (Scotland), Dene Townend (North), Ian Isaacs (South), Paul Hodgson, Brian Porter, Charmian Heaton.

Apologies:

Hugh Jones.

Course Measurers attending as observers:

Tony King, Paul Dodd, Doug Hyde, John Glover, Geoff Sandford. Apologies received from 2 measurers.

2. Review of Actions from 2019 meeting

Phil Holland reported that there were three outstanding actions not on agenda:

ACTION - Phil Holland to produce layout and liaise with Dene for purchase of ID cards.

ACTION - Phil Holland to contact parkrun to confirm and arrange deletion of the list.

These two were carried forward.

ACTION - Phil Holland to obtain details of cloud storage. ACMSs to agree details.

Phil Holland had circulated a report suggesting the use of HiDrive (from IONOS). ACMSs had made a number of alternative suggestions. Mike Burns said that all Scottish measurements were duplicated on the Scottish Athletics system, which met the requirement for off-site backup.

NEW ACTION - Brian Porter / ACMSs to agree backup details for reports.

3. Membership, Training & Upgrading

Grade 2 Measurers: Mark Evans, Andrew Clough (South), Paul Dodd (Midlands)

Grade 1 Measurers: Ian Isaacs (South)

We also have 3 trainees awaiting suitable dates for practical days.

Phil Holland reported that there are currently 90 active measurers, 13 inactive. We have 40 Members and 63 Associates..

4. Accounts (Ken Kaiser) (Company accounts now require CMWP approval)

Firstly, a big thanks once again to Charmian Heaton for her help on checking and preparing the accounts for the meeting and throughout the year. You should have copies of the balance sheet and bank account entries. If anyone has any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

As you are all aware, the current crisis has affected running significantly with the number of races going ahead, and therefore being measured, being much reduced. As our income is dependant on the number of measurements done, our cash flow has suffered. At 30th Sept 2019 our bank balance was £7333.57. This year it was £6045.02. In July 2019 we received payments from the various athletic governing bodies totalling £1699. This year

it was £12 .

Measurements have started to pick up again, but it will be quite some time before we are back to normal. We are saving nearly £600 on this year's AGM and reserves are good enough to last for quite some time. Because we have made a loss this year, I am reliably informed that there will be no corporation tax due. (compared to £316 this year) We can only hope that racing restarts to some degree in 2021.

CMWP approved the accounts unanimously.

5. Course Measurement Website

Phil Holland reported that Sandford Arts had spent the same number of hours maintaining the website as last year. There had been a number of upgrades to the software to be implemented, otherwise it was routine updating.

6. Data Protection

Phil Holland had circulated a draft data protection policy, requiring removal of old contact details of measurers and race directors after 10 years. CMWP agreed the principles.

Mike Burns said that the race director's contact details on the summary sheet of reports should not be disclosed to others. The details would need to be removed or obscured before transmission of the report.

ACTION - Brian Porter / Mike Burns to finalise data protection policy and circulate.

7. International Measurement Matters (Hugh Jones)

Apologies for absenting myself from the meeting at late notice. This is to travel to Delhi for an elite half marathon event with which I am involved long-term but which I am surprised is still actually going to take place this year (as at 17 November)

1. International activity has slumped as much as that in UK but my 2020 certifications have to date reached 126 compared to 243 in 2019
2. In my sector (Anglophone Europe and Africa) seven measurers were accredited at a long-delayed virtual meeting held on 2 September, among whom was Mike Burns. John Glover remains listed although he is trying hard to retire. Declan Curtin (IRL) was another of the seven accreditations and may be a useful asset to measurement on the island of Ireland who could be called upon for specific (international) measurements such as that done by John this year for the P&O Ferries North Antrim Half Marathon on 12 September, at which very fast times were run.
3. Other races within UK which were internationally certified in 2020* were: Manchester Marathon (later amended and re-certified), BIG Half (London), Manchester Half Marathon, London Marathon (Elite lap course), Fast 10km (Wigan)

Note: * If there are no course changes then certificates issued from 2015 on remained valid. Although validity would usually be only for 5 race editions an extension was made to address covid conditions.

4. World Athletics still appears as IAAF on measurement certificates because they have yet to propose a re-branded version which acknowledges that the measurement system is run "in co-operation with" AIMS.

Paul Hodgson stressed that the World Athletics re-branding should continue to recognise the AIMS role in Course Measurement procedures.

Also, the relaxation of the 5-year rule for re-measurement of Certified Courses as a result

of the Pandemic is appreciated. Perhaps a similar relaxation should be considered for National Events in the current circumstances.

8. Certification of 'Virtual' Races

Mike Burns reported that he had received a renewal notification for a road race (which has been officially measured) in Fife. On checking the details it transpires that, because of Covid-19 restrictions, it will be a virtual race, with participants running the course in their own time, over the period of a week from 30 November to 6 December.

Clearly this is outside the usual parameters for certification, but it is something that is likely to become more common as there is an increasing move towards virtual races as the pandemic continues.

CMWP agreed that certificates for such races could be issued with a suitable note on the certificate. Phil Holland noted that, while times for these races appeared on the Power of 10 website, they were not carried into ranking tables.

Paul Dodd reported that he had organised a 10k race on a time-trial basis, with 700 starters over a couple of hours. Individual start time were allocated on entry and runners were required to arrive at the start line at the correct time. He felt that such events may be the only option over the next six months.

9. Guidelines for Content of Reports

Colin Tether introduced his paper detailing the content of reports. He made the point that Measurement Reports should be capable of being used by someone unfamiliar with the race course, to set out the race accurately. The paper was generally welcomed but Phil Holland said that he thought it was far too detailed to be issued to experienced measurers. He thought a 1 or 2 page summary of essential items should be extracted and the full paper used for training purposes.

ACTION - Brian Porter / ACMSSs to progress Guidelines for Content of Reports.

10. Visibility of Measurers

[Report by Colin Tether not discussed because of lack of time. To be progressed outside meeting.]

11. Future of Course Measurement

Paul Hodgson raised this issue following comments made by Hugh Brasher in a BBC interview the London Marathon (04/10/20). When asked "How did you measure the Course?" he responded:

"3D Lasers, so we can get it incredibly accurate, and actually we get it more accurate than the normal course measurers are able to do it."

....., we know for example that this course is 34m over distance, and virtually every course is over distance, they just don't normally know by how much"

"But because we have been so accurate, under the rules we have to measure it in an inaccurate way, which sounds bizarre, but that's the way the rules at the moment suggest. Technology allows us to do it differently, hopefully in the future the rules will change."

Whilst I don't think the Interviewers Questions helped, the whole interview regarding the Measurement was very vexatious and did nothing to help the status of our much maligned profession. The final comment suggested that the days for the Jones Counter are numbered.

Perhaps all “big city” Marathons will soon be measured using Point Cloud Technology, we might need to consider two separate set of records. One for 3D measured lapped courses with Laser guided Athletes, and another for conventional Jones Counter measured with the SCCF applied.

Paul will provide a transcript of Hugh’s complete interview, and some interesting Q&A on Point Cloud Survey Procedures. *[Circulated to attendees – copies available from Secretary on request.]*

12. Area Secretaries Reports

Statistics (2020 figures to 5 November, 2019 full year in brackets)

Area	Measurements				Certificates (new + renew)		
	Road	Unsealed	MT	Total	UKA	ARC	Total
South	73	3	4	80 (202)	455	17	472 (904)
North	70	24	6	78 (187)	264	3	267 (604)
Midlands	18	2	1	21 (84)	86	7	93 (282)
Wales	7	-	-	7 (36)	19	1	20 (108)
Scotland	15	-	1	16 (105)	119	-	119 (232)
TOTAL				202 (614)			971 (2130)

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

South (Phil Holland)

I have gained 3 new measurers this year and have 2 temporarily inactive. The Covid-19 restrictions have resulted in less than half the usual number of measurements, although I have had a number of small adjustments to start/finish areas to facilitate social distancing.

Many thanks to Ian Isaacs for volunteering to take over as ACMS South. He assumed responsibility for most matters during October. I am still filing reports while I tidy up some of the files but hope to hand this to Ian by the time of the meeting.

Midlands (Colin Tether)

I took over from Kym Wheeler from November 2019 with no idea how things would change from March 2020. I have to thank Kym for leaving things in very good order and for properly briefing me about the Area Secretary’s duties.

From November 2019 and through to March 2020 the Midlands area was affected by severe flooding. This resulted in some races being cancelled and the call from Race Organisers for Course Measurements on modified courses away from flooded areas. Otherwise duties remained as normal until the countrywide lockdown on March 23rd 2020. The last Midlands Race was the Shrewsbury 10K on March 22nd. In early autumn of 2020 there was a small amount of activity as Race Organisers planned

'Socially Distanced' races.

We have eight measurers in the region with one new measurer this year, Paul Dodd. The Midlands Area is fortunate as a number of measurers from Cambridgeshire, Oxfordshire and Cheshire are close to the border and frequently carry out measurements within the region. The 33 Measurements carried out in 2020 compares to the 81 carried out in the previous 12 months.

There were 79 routine renewals for 12 months ending 31/10/2020. This compares to 210 in the 10 month period from 1/1/2019 to 31/10/2019. This reflects the cancellation of races after Lockdown commenced in late March.

North (Dene Townend)

This report covers the period from 1st January 2020 to 30th October 2020.

Naturally Covid has meant a huge reduction on both new and renewal activity, but Run Through have had considerable success in ensuring their events are Covid Compliant with numerous races taking place over the last 2 months.

Active measurers currently total 30 and whilst the intention was to observe both Steve Green and Simon Walker with a view to upgrading to Grade 1, this has not been possible due to the reduced number of new measurements taking place. One potential measurer had been identified but this has not resulted in training.

I have been in discussion with Phil Holland as to how we might ensure organisers undertake annual renewals, as there have been a number of events where it has become apparent that this has not been the case, I do feel the onus should be on Run Britain rather than AUKCM and progress to this end is ongoing.

78 new courses have been measured during the period 1st Jan to 31st Oct and 186 renewals submitted.

Scotland (Mike Burns)

Measurers:

An additional measurer has been added to our strength, with the move of Jason Blagden from Lancashire to Orkney. The current list of measurers is:

- Mike Burns (Grade 1): Shetland;
- Alan Young (Grade 1): Dundee;
- Adrian Tarit Stott (Grade 1): Edinburgh;
- Jason Blagden (Grade 2): Orkney;
- Les Hill (Grade 2): Dumfries;
- Paul Hughes (Grade 2): Forres;
- Campbell Joss (Grade 2): Glasgow;
- Peter Rudzinski (Grade 2): Clydebank.

John Dryburgh, based in Kirkcaldy, has recently completed the theory element of the training course. Hopefully, Covid-19 restrictions allowing, I hope to arrange his practical assessment before the end of the year.

Course Measurement and Certification: The total number of Certificates issued, 1 January to 31 October 2020, is:

2020			2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	
New	Renewals	Total						
For UKA	15	103	118	205	131	15	5	15
For ARC	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Multi Terrain	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	1

The total number of races certified and scheduled to be run during 2020 so far is 146, including 29 certified in 2019. Because of Covid-19 restrictions, the vast majority have been cancelled or postponed. In addition, a further 2 certificates (both renewals) have been issued for races in 2021.

Covid-19 has had a significant impact upon the level of measurement activity. Since March 2020 there have been only 2 new measurements undertaken.

Wales (Phil Cook)

Measurers:

There are now 6 measurers showing on the website

- 🏠 Phil Cook (Grade 1) : South Wales
- 🏠 Dafydd Ellis (Grade 2) : North Wales
- 🏠 Lyn Rees (Grade 2) : West Wales
- 🏠 Graham Finlayson (Grade 2) : South Wales
- 🏠 Ian McDonald (Grade 2) : South Wales

Due to the Covid-19 situation there were only 8 measurements submitted during 2020, 6 in North Wales (2 alternate courses and 4 new/re-measurements), one of these was for the Wrexham Marathon which was being staged as an “elite” alternative to all the marathons that were being cancelled. There were no measurements in the West, the East had 1 measurement which was for the Severn Bridge 10K which was having to be rerouted, and it was further rerouted in the week leading up to the event due to Welsh Government Restrictions. There was also 1 measurement in the South which was for a Welsh Athletics pilot event. The pilot event held in September was the only non stadium race to take place in Wales since March, with the Welsh Government restrictions of max groups of 30 meaning no events took place. There have been a significant number of Virtual Races on offer. There were 14 renewal applications, most of which didn't take place due to Covid-19.

Northern Ireland John Glover

Thank you for sending me the notice of the AGM and I would like to register to be present at the meeting. I see you are retiring at the end of the year and I wish you all the best. I hope you have more luck with 'retirement' than I have. Despite several attempts at finding a successor and having had quite a number of expressions of interest no-one has stepped up to the mark. It appears that once they have a look at the on-line test and realise there is no money in it their interest wanes. Sadly there is still the idea that it is just a case of getting on a bike with GPS and going round a course.

Despite Covid 19 I have remained fairly busy this year with quite a few measurements for Championship Ireland Series races over 5K/10K/10Miles/Half and Marathon in various venues including the Ambulance track around Down Royal horse racing course. The Annual Les Jones Memorial 10K had to reduce to a new 5K and I also measured the Antrim Coast half Marathon which featured an elite only field including Sir Mo. I am currently involved in designing and measuring a new

course for the planned 2021 Belfast City Half marathon. So much for retirement. The problem is that in what is a fairly small running community I know most of the race directors and the runners and find it hard to say no which would mean their performances getting a NAD on Power of 10.

13. Any Other Business

Paul Hodgson said that Brian's appointment as Secretary means that the CMWP is now a member short, and efforts should be made to recruit a "grass roots" measurer. He proposed that Paul Dodd who was in attendance and had earlier contributed to the debate, be nominated for this position. CMWP agreed.

The meeting closed at 12:30 pm.

List of Actions

ACTION - Phil Holland to produce layout and liaise with Dene for purchase of ID cards.

ACTION - Phil Holland to contact parkrun to confirm and arrange deletion of the list.

ACTION - Brian Porter / ACMSs to agree backup details for reports.

ACTION - Brian Porter / Mike Burns to finalise data protection policy and circulate.

ACTION - Brian Porter / ACMSs to progress Guidelines for Content of Reports.
