



Association of UK Course Measurers

Chairman: Hugh Jones

Secretary: Mike Burns

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Minutes of the Course Measurement Working Party (AUKCM Board of Directors)

1045, on Saturday 25 November 2023

Union Church and Community Centre, Weston Park, London N8 9PX.

Present (CMWP Members):

Phil Cook – Acting Chair
Mike Burns – Secretary
Charmian Heaton – Interim Treasurer
Robin Houghton – Treasurer-elect
Dene Townend
Colin Tether

Also Present:

Paul Wood
Doug Hyde
Tony King
Rob Bright

Continuing problems with Microsoft Teams meant that a number of people were unable to join the meeting remotely. Those known to be unable to join were:

*Paul Hodgson
Nathanael Freeman
Christopher Sewell
Paul Hughes*

1. In the absence of the chairman Phil Cook was appointed as chairman for the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Hugh Jones, Ian Isaacs, Tim Cook, Steve Crane, Robert Taylor, Llyr Ap Geraint Roberts, Eddie Meeha and Peter Rudzinski.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2022:

The minutes were agreed.

4. Matters arising:

Para. 11 – Association Membership: The Secretary has written to all measurers, inviting them to register as full members of the Association. As a result of this, the number of full members had increased from 43 to 58.

5. International Matters:

As neither the chairman nor Paul Hodgson were present, this item was passed over.

6. Area Course Measurement Secretaries' reports:

Reports were received from the North, Midlands, Wales and Scotland. These are appended to these minutes.

7. AUKCM website management:

The AUKCM website, hosted by WordPress, was managed by Ken Kaiser before his death earlier this year. The Secretary was trying to establish how to access and edit the site and would report back.

8. Measurement Charges:

Papers had been circulated to CMWP members prior to the meeting. These included, (a) a proposal drawn up by Dene Townend in 2021, and (b) an analysis of the associated issues.

Following a short discussion, it was agreed:

- a) to adopt, as guidance, Dene's proposals;
- b) full details of the revised guidance would be published on the AUKCM web pages;
- c) existing guidance on the course measurement website would be revised to reflect the changes; and
- d) AUKCM guidance would be developed, covering the taxation implications for measurers in applying "commercial fees" to course measurement.

9. Investigations:

A number of cases had arisen in recent years where the accuracy of courses has been challenged. Papers had been circulated prior to the meeting raising the key issues:

- When is an investigation required?
- Who is responsible for investigating complaints?
- Who will meet the costs of investigating any complaints (AUKCM, race organisers or the licensing body, or, indeed, someone else – if, for instance, the highway authority or the police question a race route)?

It was agreed that all complaints should, initially, be referred to the appropriate licensing body who should determine what steps, if any, should be taken. The Association would provide advice and assistance where necessary, but any associated costs should be borne by the authority requesting assistance. It was acknowledged that were there were clear errors in an original measurement it might be appropriate for AUKCM to bear the costs.

10. World Athletics (WA) certification of races for ranking purposes:

Details had been circulated of a WA ruling that competition results will only be considered for any of its statistical purposes (performance lists, records, entry standards, world rankings, qualification to major championships, etc.) if they have been achieved in a competition held in compliance with the applicable and relevant competition and Technical Rules and for which an application has been received. This appears to cover championships, including Road Running. Under this road-races must be held on properly measured courses which hold an International Measurement Certificate "*valid on race day*".

The implications are that all national championships must be run over courses holding WA certification.

In the absence of the chairman, it was agreed that discussion on this item should be postponed. (Action: Secretary to circulate details to CMWP members and invite comments).

11. Certificate Renewals – timing:

Colin Tether had tabled a paper for discussion on the need for courses to be remeasured after 10 years. Currently there are two options:

1. Get the race re-measured or
2. A measurer with current knowledge of the course should inspect the original measurement report and if he can confirm to the area measurement secretary that no changes have taken place, then a new certificate will be issued.

Colin suggested another option, that, as the Race Director should be better acquainted with the course than a measurer not previously involved in the measurement:

3. A formal confirmation to the Area Measurement Secretary from the Race Organiser, *(confirming that they have carried out a close inspection of the race route and this has not changed in any respect to that shown in the Measurement Report, and that there are no changes to start or finish, nor at any corner or in the section of road available to runners and it has not been affected by road improvements or traffic management to that shown in the Measurement Report.)*

In discussion a number of points were raised:

- i) Race directors frequently change between measurements.
- ii) The longer the race, the more likely it was that changes may have crept in.
- iii) Individuals' memories cannot necessarily be relied upon after 10 years.
- iv) Minor changes can go undetected but can affect the accuracy of a measurement.

It was agreed that the current guidance should remain in force.

12. Constant for the Day:

The Secretary reported on his review of the Working Constant. Under existing AUKCM guidance it is the larger of either the pre-measurement (working constant) or post-measurement (finish constant) calibration. However, there is scope for this to be varied and other than the larger constant may be used if justified. In some circumstances it is recognised that the average is more appropriate.

World Athletics, Technical Rules (effective 01 December 2022), define the "Constant for the Day" solely as the average of pre- and post-measurement constants.

After some discussion it was agreed that, in general, the larger of the pre-measurement and post-measurement calibrations should be used as the *constant for the day*, but that measurers would retain the discretion to use different figure where that was justified.

13. Review of on-line training:

Because of the scale of this exercise and the amount of material to be considered it was agreed that this item would be handled via email and that all CMWP members would be asked to provide

comments and suggestions by a date (to be set by the Secretary when he circulates the relevant material).

14. **Practical assessment for trainees and Upgrades from 2 to 1:**

Deferred, to be considered further in tandem with item 12, above.

15. **Any other business:**

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 1330.

Area Course Measurement Secretaries' Reports



AUKCM - Midlands Area Report 2023 for the 12 months ending 31st October 2023

By Colin Tether, Midlands Area Secretary

Overall, there were 78 new measurements in the 12 months up to 31/10/2023 compared to 96 new measurements in the 12 months up to 31/10/2022, 52 in the 12 months up to 31/10/2021, 33 in the 12 months up to 31/10/2020.

Midlands Measurers and Measurements

We started with eight measurers in the region, but my own move to London in April 2022 has now reduced the number to seven. Measurers from outside the region have continued to carry out measurements in the Midlands.

Measurements carried out in Midlands Area

<i>Midland Measurers</i>	
Llyr ApGeraint-Roberts	1
Jon Aston	2
Terry Cardy-Wise	18
Rob Cope	2
Paul Dodd	9
Dave Mann	29
Bob Statham	1
<i>Measurements by outside measurers</i>	16
Total	78

Measurements carried out by outside measurers

Andrew Clough	2
Marcus Cram	1
Phil Cook	1
Doug Hyde	3
Ian Isaacs	1
Tony King	8
Total	16

Organiser type

Club	29
Charity	8
Commercial	41
Total	78

Location of Measurements

Avon	2
Gloucester	11
Hereford	0
Leicester/ Rutland	17
Northants	2
Notts	5
Shropshire	2
Staffs	9
Warwicks	17
Worcester	13
Total	78

Metric Races

1K (relays)	2
3 Km	1
5Km	13
10 Km	26
13.1 (Metric half)	1
Total	43

Imperial Races

1 Mile	2
5 Miles	6
7 Miles	1
10 Miles	1
16 Miles	1
20 Miles	1
Total	12

Marathon

Half	20
Full	0
Total	20

Other distances

1.25K	1
1.595K Relay	1
2.347K relay	1
Total	3

Of the 78 measurements, two were 10-year renewals. Another was a reversal of an older course which had been confirmed by the course measurer as remaining at the correct distance.

Commercial organisers requested the most measurements. Many of these were more multi-distance races held on the same day, entitled as 'Running Festivals', or similar terms. Of these 'Run Through' commissioned 13 measurements and 'Active Training World' 14 measurements.

Routine Renewals

There were 175 routine renewals for 12 months ending 31/10/2023. This compares to 169 for 12 months ending 31/10/2022, 94 in the 12 months up to 31/10/2021, 79 in the 12 months up to 30/10/2020.

Altogether there were 253 certificates issued for the year.

I am happy to continue as Midlands Area Secretary for the forthcoming year. I give notice I intend to resign as from 1st November 2024.

Colin Tether 2 November 2023
midlands@aukcm.org.uk

AUKCM – North Area Report Nov 2022 to Oct 2023

A busy and sometimes challenging year for the North!!

The sudden and sad loss of our Treasurer, friend and prolific measurer Ken Kaiser.

Measurers

Retiring measurers across the area, Mel Gould, Mel Smith and Ian Pickett (temporarily) have resulted in a gap particularly across Greater Manchester, which I am currently able to manage any requests for. South Yorkshire also has no local measurers, and again I am covering as required.

The North currently has 27 active measurers, and after recommendation by Paul Hodgson, James Colling has been upgraded to Grade 1

Training

I have spent time training a new measurer (Richard Brook) to cover Cumbria and also worked with John Glover to train 2 new measurers in Northern Ireland (the one who attended with no cycle and a measuring wheel made little progress on the day!!), a further 2 who attended on the day have not yet submitted their reports so are unlikely to progress further

A visit to Dorset for a 10 year review, (as there are no active measurers in the area), also resulted in an additional 1 to 1 training session and the trainee is currently preparing to repeat an existing course's measurement and submit his report before I consider recommending for Grade 2

I am still trying to arrange a convenient time to meet with a trainee from the Isle of Man.

Certification

New courses over the year total 135 with a number of these being 10 year renewals/reviews.

308 renewals does not reflect the real event activity as Run Through are renewing certificates for events which in some cases are held monthly throughout the year. Many events are still being staged without renewals being requested with Race Directors believing that the original certificates last for the 10 year period.

Incorrect Courses

I have undertaken reviews, at the request of Run Britain, of both St Helen's 10k and Littleborough 5K (the latter, being one I had measured for the previous organiser and attended as event adjudicator, so was fully aware of the route change). I have raised questions with Mike Burns as to how we handle requests for measurement checks as this is an area we need to consider guidelines around.

Dene Townend

North Area Secretary

6th November 2023



AUKCM COURSE MEASUREMENT SECRETARY: SCOTLAND

REPORT 2022/23

(1 NOVEMBER 2022 TO 31 OCTOBER 2023)

Introduction:

There has been a steady flow of renewal applications over the past 12 months along with a steady flow of new measurements.

I continue to work, under a Service Level Agreement, as the Course Measurement Coordinator for Scottish Athletics. This establishes close cooperation between AUKCM and Scottish Athletics, particularly with their events team. This also ensures, as far as possible, that all licensed races in Scotland have up-to-date Certificates of Course Accuracy.

Measurers:

At the start of 2023 there were 10 measurers based in Scotland:

Grade 1:

- Mike Burns: Shetland;
- Adrian Tarit Stott: Edinburgh;
- Les Hill: Dumfries;
- Paul Hughes: Forres.

Grade 2:

- Jason Blagden: Orkney;
- Campbell Joss: Glasgow;
- Ronald Maclean – North Uist;
- Peter Rudzinski: Clydebank;
- Robert Taylor – Grimsay;
- Ken Walker: Limekilns.

Ronald Maclean and Robert Taylor, both based in the Western Isles, were confirmed as Grade 2 measurers following theory and practical training during 2022 and a practical assessment in November 2022.

There remains a lack of coverage on mainland Scotland north of the Great Glen.

Course Measurement and Certification:

The total number of Certificates issued, 1 November 2022 to 31 October 2023, is 238 (provisional and subject to final checking).

				Full calendar-year figures							
2022/23				2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
New	Renewals	Total									
For UKA	51	182	233	245	163	118	205	131	15	5	15
For ARC	0	4	4	3	3	0	1	1	0	0	0
Multi Terrain	1	0	1	4	0	1	2	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	52	186	238	252	166	119	208	133	15	5	16



MIKE BURNS
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13 November 2023



Area Course Measurement Secretary Report 2023

Wales

In terms of measurements and renewals within Wales there was little change in comparison to last year, but still not up to the pre Covid numbers of 2019. Below I've shown the figures for 2023 (1/11/22-31/10/23) and 2022 (1/11/21-31/10/22)

Measurers:

There are still 6 measurers based in Wales showing on the website, but I think I need to check with some to see if they intend to continue.

Name	Grade	Base Area	2022					2023				
			Total	North	South	East	West	Total	North	South	East	West
Phil Cook	1	South	19	1	7	3	8	18	0	7	4	7
Dafydd Ellis	2	North	8	8	0	0	0	11	10	0	1**	0
Graham Finlayson	2	South	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lyn Rees	2	West	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ian McDonald	2	South	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paul Day	2	East	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			30	9	9	3	9	29	10	7	5	7

** confirmation of course unchanged @ 10 years rather than a measurement

There was 1 measurer not based in Wales that submitted a measurement report.

Name	Grade	Base Area	2022					2023				
			Total	North	South	East	West	Total	North	South	East	West
Dave Gough	2	NoE	1	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	0

There has been 1 request for AIMS/WA certificates in 2023 – Swansea Half Marathon

Course Measurement and Certification:

I've done a comparison over the last 7 years to see the difference in measurements and renewals. *Not all the events would have taken place in 2020.*

New Measurements		Renewals Requested	
2023	31	2023	60 ^^
2022	31	2022	51
2021	22	2021	14
2020	8	2020	15
2019	37	2019	70
2018	35	2018	59
2017	24	2017	55

^^ this number includes 6 renewals for events being held in 2024 – Adrenaline Sporting Events (2) and Run Through Events (3)

There are still quite a few events out there that don't request a renewal certificate each year. I've picked up on two larger events which don't, and both have run this year without a valid measurement having passed the 10 years. The one (Caerphilly 10K) was actually hosting the Welsh Athletics 10K Championships and

was measured by me back in April 2013 and they had a renewal in 2014 and nothing since. Then Marathon Eryri (Snowdonia Marathon) was measured back in 2010 and has never renewed. My understanding was that a renewal should be in place in order to get a licence, I have contacted Welsh Athletics about these two as they are higher profile.

Phil Cook

AUKCM Course Measurement Secretary – Wales