



Association of UK Course Measurers

Chairman: Hugh Jones

Secretary: Mike Burns

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Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting

held on Saturday 09 November 2024 at 10.00am
at the Somerstown Coffee House, 60 Chaldon St, London, NW1 1HS

Present:	Hugh Jones	Chairman
	Mike Burns	Secretary & ACMS Scotland
	Robin Houghton	Treasurer
	Dene Townend	ACMS North
	Colin Tether	ACMS Midlands
	Charmian Heaton	Measurer
	Brian Porter	Measurer
	Kevin Miller	Measurer
Hugh Jones	Honorary President	

Observers: Chris Sewell
Paul Wood
Jon Aston

Introductions:

All present introduced themselves.

Apologies:

Apologies were received from, Graham Finlayson, Campbell Joss, Tim Cook, Steve Goss, Steve Crane, Chris Markel, Paul Hodgson and Phil Cook.

Directors' report:

The main issues to be discussed were the register of measurers and trainees.

Measurers: The number of measurers on our on-line register of measurers is over 300, but most are not active. It was calculated that out of 340 measurers, only 78 were active.

It was agreed that there was a need to go through the list and seek to rationalise it.

It was also pointed out that many on the list haven't done any measurements for many years. Race directors often rely on the register of measurers to identify a

measurer to do the work. If they happen to be inactive, that is clearly inefficient and of limited value to a director.

It was felt that the on-line map was a better means to identify an active measurer.

It was agreed that the area secretaries were best placed to review the lists of measurers as they will be more familiar with the people in their area.

The Secretary said that he would be in touch with area secretaries, after he had done an initial analysis of the lists.

Trainees: The Secretary referred to the fact that the website identifies 45 trainees, but some of them have been on the list since 2010. Others are clearly no longer interested, and some had actually left the UK.

It was suggested that trainees who had been on the list beyond three years, should be removed.

It was suggested that it was worth considering a blanket decision to remove anyone on the list who had been inactive for over five years. It was felt that it should be possible to review the majority of “inactive” measurers and ask them whether they wish to remain on the active list. If they fail to respond to e-mail approaches or we have otherwise lost contact with them, they could be removed from the active list.

However it was noted that where somebody had not submitted a report or a measurement within the last few years, it might be due to a lack of demand from race directors, not to a lack of willingness on the part of the measurer.

It was generally felt it was reasonable to invite measurers who appear to be inactive to confirm whether they are still interested in measurement and, if so, to revalidate them as active measurers. Measurers would not be deleted unless they declare that they no longer wish to be registered or if they fail to reply.

Training: It was also suggested by Doug Hyde and Paul Wood that steps were needed to address that fact that there was no longer an active programme of training courses anymore. One way of addressing this could be with a qualified measurer observing trainees in the measurement of a couple of races and backing that up with some supplementary training (to be devised).

It was noted that training was on the agenda for the CMWP meeting and further discussion was put off until then.

Website: Reference was also made to the fact that the website displays as “not secure” and that acts as deterrent to some who might otherwise use it. It was agreed to raise the issue with Sandford Arts and see if it can be resolved.

Phil Holland: The final thing noted in the directors’ report was the passing of Phil Holland. It was agreed to observe a moment of silence.

The accounts:

The Treasurer presented the accounts, asked if there were any questions and pointed out that we made a small surplus for the year.

In the presentation of the accounts the following points/issues were raised:

- The Treasurer was concerned that governing bodies were very poor at responding to billing and expressed the belief that they were actually checking, in detail, invoices sent and that appeared to be inefficient practice considering the amounts involved. It was suggested that he contact Barry Hopkins in England Athletics, who could explain that they have recently changed processes, and this might speed up their handling of invoices. The new procedures utilise an electronic system rather than a paper based one.
- The Treasurer asked if there was an organisation chart for UK Athletics that illustrates who does what. Their website did not make it easy to identify any of the appropriate staff.
- It was pointed out that the discussion related only to England Athletics. Consideration needs to be given to Welsh Athletics and Scottish Athletics.
- It was noted that one of the main expenditure items is for the website administration. It was confirmed that it was on a par with previous years – a monthly retainer of £200 a month.
- Referring to the earlier question of resolving the security issue on the website it was suggested that it should be within the remit of their existing programme and could be addressed without incurring any additional cost.
- A further question was on charges made for remeasurement exercises and why AUKCM is paying when commissioned by a race director to do a remeasurement. The main reason related to a course that actually needed measurement for a record attempt or revalidation. At the CMWP meeting in 2023 what was required in such cases was discussed and it was agreed that, if it's as a result of action by the organising body, they should fund the cost of the remeasurement. But if it's for AUKCM own internal purposes to support, for example, the case of an incorrect measurement, AUKCM would bear the costs.
- It was pointed out by the Treasurer that, whilst the accounts are made-up to 30 September each year, ACMS reports, detailing the number of measurements in their area, are compiled as near to the AGM meeting date as possible (for this meeting, using the year 1 November 2023 to 31 October 2024). However, it would be helpful to have the area reports also made-up to 30 September as well, and then everything could be synchronised and validations between them could be made.
- In previous years, ACMS reports were done on the basis of a calendar year, largely because the database is set up that way. The AGM has to be within three months of the end of the financial year, i.e. by the end of December.
- It was also asked whether we measure the stock holding of Jones Counters as an asset? It was noted that counters were held in various ways, including many on loan to measurers and were of different values, depending on age. It was not possible to place a value on those counters in use.
- It was suggested that we review the fees charged to governing bodies for new measurements (currently £15 for non-club races and £6 for club races). It was agreed to consider this in the light of forthcoming discussions with the governing bodies in relation to our working relationships with them.

- Finally,

Election of Directors:

The following CMWP members are due for reappointment in 2024:

<u>Post</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>
Chairman	Hugh Jones
ACMS Wales	Phil Cook
ACMS N Ireland	<i>vacant</i>
Measurer	Brian Porter

Both Phil Cook and Brian Porter are eligible for reappointment and were nominated by CMWP and elected.

The Chairman, Hugh Jones, has offered his resignation and Colin Tether was nominated and elected to the post of Chairman.

The ACMS Northern Ireland position remains vacant. No nominations were received for this post.

Paul Hodgson stood down as a Measurer member of CMWP last year and Kevin Miller (Lee-on-the-Solent) has volunteered to fill the vacancy. He was therefore nominated, and this was agreed by the meeting.

The post of ACMS Midlands is vacant following Colin Tether's move to London. Jon Aston (Telford) was nominated and elected to the post. The ACMS Midlands post will be subject to reappointment in 2025.

Mike Burns (ACMS Scotland) and Charmian Heaton (Measurer) will also continue to serve until 2025.

The meeting offered its thanks to Hugh Jones for everything that he'd done in the many years that he had held the post of Chairman. Hugh was then nominated by Mike Burns and Colin Tether to take on the post of Honorary President of the association. The nomination was agreed.

Appointment of Examiner for the accounts:

Charmian Heaton indicated her willingness to continue in post and was elected.

Company Rules:

The draft company rules had been circulated to members to note. The Secretary explained that they are intended to fill in the gaps not covered by the articles of association. They cover:

- How the officers and directors are appointed.
- The accreditation and upgrading of measurers.
- Proceedings for meetings.

Any other business:

The only other business to have been notified in advance was the appointment of an Honorary President, and this had already been covered.

It was noted that if there was urgent or contentious business, it could be raised on the day, and, with the meeting's agreement, can be discussed.

The meeting closed at 11.00am.