

**BC ATHLETICS AGM 2008**  
**BCA ROAD RUNNING COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**Frank Stebner**

Chair - Frank Stebner - Vancouver  
Vice chair – Clif Cunningham- New Westminster  
Secretary – Jake Madderom -Burnaby  
Treasurer – Bob Reid -Victoria  
Maurice Wilson -North Vancouver  
Rick Jenkner - Vernon  
Geoffrey Buttner - Vancouver  
Greg White (Board representative) - Vancouver  
Jerry Tighe –BCA Road Running Manager 2007. North Vancouver

**A. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

First of all I want to thank the members of the BCA Road Running Committee that have worked very hard this year to be proactive and to take measures to increase the number of sanctioned events in BC and provide value to the BCA membership. We have made major strides and have seen increasing support of the road running community. In particular the Vancouver Island Road Running community has returned to BCA in a major way after a notable absence of over 25 years.

The committee would also like to thank the BCA Board and staff for the support that they have given our committee. In particular we would also like to thank the BCA Road Running Manager (Jerry Tighe) who left BC Athletics in 2007. We wish him well in his future endeavours and would like to acknowledge the major contribution he has made to road running in BCA. We have invited Jerry to sit on our Road Running Committee as a BCA voting member.

We are very pleased to hear that one of our valued committee members (Maurice Wilson) has accepted the position of new Technical manager of Road Running and Cross Country and we look forward to collaborating with him. Maurice has been a past board member, and sat on various BCA committees over the years. He is heavily involved in the road running community and well respected by all. He also drafted the current sanctioning policy that our committee put forth as a resolution to the 2007 AGM.

Most importantly the Road Running Committee would like to thank the BCA membership and the road running community in general, who have shown overwhelming support of the initiatives of our committee. At the 2007 BCA AGM the BCA membership unanimously supported our resolution to change the sanctioning policy. Without this new policy the future of road running within BCA was very uncertain. It was evident that the number of major road running events leaving BCA would only continue to increase with out this new policy. We are now very optimistic about the future of road running in BC as the number of sanctioned events has increased to 85+/- in 2007 and we expect that number to increase again in 2008.

## **B. NEW BCA SANCTIONING POLICY**

With the unanimous approval of the BCA membership at the 2007 BCA AGM, we have a new event sanctioning policy in place at BCA that came into effect on April 1, 2007. We have received congratulations from across Canada, the chair of Run Canada (Dan Ouimet) as well as from a member of AIMS and the IAAF Road Running Commission.

The goals of the policy were to provide a more affordable fee structure to the road running community that would be more in line with the rest of Canada. We also felt that this new policy would encourage more events to consider applying for sanctioning, thus providing the BCA membership with a greater selection of events from which their performances can be officially recognized for consideration for BCA team selection and for BCA Athletic Awards.

Key to this new policy was the optional insurance coverage with BC Athletics. Many events (especially those organized by non-BCA clubs) have insurance within their own organization or are able to get insurance coverage considerably cheaper with one of their sponsors. However the fee structure for BCA's insurance coverage is now also very affordable and competitive. We are discovering that most races that are applying for sanctioning are still choosing to take race insurance with BCA and we are pleased that this policy now opens the door for more events to consider sanctioning with BCA thus offering more events to the membership from which performances can be officially recognized.

This new policy alone does not guarantee that more events will seek sanctioning. Key to the success of this policy is the value that BCA provides to these sanctioned events. It has to be a Win/Win situation for both parties. The sanctioning agreement is basically a contract between BCA and the sanctioned event. Both parties are required to promote each other in a timely and effective manner as well as honor the terms of the agreement.

### **NEW SANCTIONED EVENTS IN 2007**

With the new sanctioning policy many new road race events have now chosen to get sanctioned. Up until this year only a handful of road race events on Vancouver Island were sanctioned by BCA. Thanks to the new policy, major events like the 25 year old Royal Victoria Marathon with 10,000 participants have now applied now for sanctioning for the first time in its long history.

The following major road races are some of the many new road races that have chosen to get sanctioned in 2007 and 2008.

1. The BMO Vancouver Marathon and Half Marathon (12,000+ participants)
2. The Royal Victoria Marathon, Half Marathon and 8K (10,000 participants)
3. The James Cunningham Seawall Race (1100 participants)
4. Eight major competitive races in the Vancouver Island Road Race Series. (5000 participants)

## **C. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

In 2007 our committee focused on 5 key areas of concern in order to increase awareness and participation in the road running community.

1. CALENDAR OF EVENTS (Both printed and online)
2. ONLINE SANCTIONING SYSTEM AND BCA BENEFITS
3. BCA ROAD RACE CHAMPIONSHIPS & ELIGIBILITY
4. BC TIMEX SERIES
5. MASTERS AGE 40+ FOR ROAD RUNNING

The issues are detailed below and several motions have been approved by the Road Running committee and forwarded as recommendations to the Board of Directors for further action. Some of these recommendations have also been brought forth as official resolutions to this 2008 BCA AGM.

### **1. CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Given BCA's initiative back in 2006 to have a calendar of events available in January 2007, the printed calendar of events still did not get mailed out until June 2007. Some events that met the Dec 2006 deadline and paid a fee for the calendar listing still did not get listed in the printed road running calendar.

As a result the road running calendar was a mere shadow of itself, and was no longer the most comprehensive road race calendar in BC.

The Road Running Committee is very pleased that a subcommittee of the board was created on June 9 to address the concerns of producing an online and printed calendar of events. The board did request a list of calendar recommendations from our committee back in June 13, which we promptly responded to within a week. However it is extremely disappointing to our committee that the calendar subcommittee has not met yet given that the calendar is a very high priority item for road running.

#### **Online Calendar**

Action was required from BCA board, BCA Calendar Sub-Committee and BCA staff to produce a comprehensive and timely calendar of events to be posted online in January. However the \$20 Calendar listing fee does not work as only two road race events paid for this in 2007 and the BCA calendar suffered as a result.

We feel that a comprehensive draft online calendar should be posted in December if not sooner. The online calendar can be then still be updated weekly as required. A draft 2008 Road Running Calendar created by the road running committee in October was ready for posting at the end of October 2007.

The road race calendar is the single most important aspect of sanctioning for race directors in order to get promoted in the BCA online calendar. The road Running Calendar of events is also the number one priority of the Road Running Committee. Many sanctioned events in 2007 did not even get listed in the calendar. We also recommend to remove the calendar listing fee in order to create a more comprehensive calendar as per association rules.

### **Printed Calendar**

Since it is difficult for BCA to produce a comprehensive and timely printed calendar of events for January, the road running committee recommended that BCA post a printable online pdf calendar of events / BCA Manual that the membership can download or print themselves. This can be updated and printed at any time and should be dated accordingly. Any BCA members that do not have computer access should receive a printed version when they join BCA. Also any member should be able to ask for a printed copy on request. Printable copies of the calendar of events of the four running disciplines should also be posted and updated on a weekly basis as more events get added and/or upgraded to sanctioned status.

### **2. ONLINE SANCTIONING SYSTEM**

Since Dec 2006 our committee has been trying to get the online sanctioning system updated. Finally in November 2007 our committee was asked to test the updated system. Having tested the system we found very little change from the December 2006 version.

The new version for online sanctioning shows very little change from the December 2006 version and still has many of the flaws that were identified. It is not very user friendly and does not conform to all the requirements of the new sanctioning policy. Eg Insurance option. We feel that there also needs to be a signed agreement identifying what each party provides for sanctioning. A proposed sanctioning agreement has been forwarded to the board for their consideration.

Insurance with BCA needs to be shown as being optional and we need the insurance waiver form and fee added. Many system flaws that have been identified in early 2007 that caused the system to be deactivated in March, still have not been fixed. Our committee has also made a resolution to the AGM to remove Calendar listing fee. It is important to keep the calendar listing separate from the online sanctioning process so that it does not hinder the timely development of a comprehensive calendar. We cannot expect all race directors to submit and/or sanction their races online by December of the previous calendar year.

### **3. BCA ROAD RACE CHAMPIONSHIPS & ELIGIBILITY**

Given that there was little interest in hosting any of the six 2008 Road Race Championships that were posted and that we only had one Road Running championship event in 2007 with questionable results (nowhere to be found), we need a strategy to make the championships more attractive for potential Host Organizing Committees and athletes alike. Eg. Open up eligibility, offer prize money, offer trips to nationals for winners, timely (pre and post) promotion of championships, post results, recognize the winners etc.

The BCA board requested twice in 2007 that a sub-committee of the board was to organize a meeting of BCA committees to review BCA eligibility requirements for BCA Championship events and awards in time to propose resolutions for the 2008 BCA AGM. Unfortunately the sub-committee was unable to organize this meeting in 2007.

#### **4. BCA TIMEX SERIES**

With the exception of the HBC July 1 Run for Canada 10K, the Road Running Committee has approved the other 14 events from the 2007 TIMEX series to continue on into the 2008 Timex Series. These have already been identified in the draft 2008 road race calendar. These are to be posted and promoted ASAP as the series starts in January 2008 and one event is already sold out. The committee would like to investigate how the profile of this series can be enhanced. Although there were almost 70,000 participants in the series events, syet less than 100 BCA member participated in enough races to qualify for awards, with some younger categories having no eligible candidates whatsoever.

#### **5. MASTERS AGE 40+ FOR ROAD RUNNING**

In support of the October 2007 recommendations of the IAAF Road Running Commission, to change the masters age back to 40+ for road running, our RR committee is proposing a resolution to change the masters age for Road Running back to 40+. For road running the world still unofficially recognizes 40 as the age that an athlete is considered to be a masters runner. Even within BCA sanctioned events most masters awards are given to Master members age 40+ including the Haney to Harrison Relay which is a BC Athletics Property. Of the 300+ masters members at BCA only 6 or 7 athletes aged 35-39 actually took out a 'masters' BCA membership. So why are we catering to 6 or 7 masters athletes aged 35-39?

There were no BCA masters members aged 35-39 that participated in any of the 2007 BCA Championships in Track & Field, Road Running or Cross country. All Masters members were over 40. If so few 35-39 members care to compete as masters why are we continuing to recognize masters as 35+?

The top BCA members (aged 35-39) continue to take out Senior membership with BCA, including Jon Brown, Mark Bomba, Bruce Deacon and Lucy Smith This year Bruce Deacon and Lucy Smith turned 40 and as BCA masters members are the winners of the 2007 Masters road running awards. Both refused to compete as Masters members until they turned 40.

The road running committee urges the BCA membership to support our resolution #6 to recommend changing the masters age back to 40+.

#### **D. ATHLETICS CANADA & RUN CANADA**

John Halvorsen, the new Chair of Run Canada has contacted our committee asking for feedback on national road running issues. Given the lack of action by Run Canada in past years, we welcome the opportunity to address national issues concerning road running.

We are also very pleased that there was a roundtable discussion at the Athletics Canada AGM in May addressing road running issues. Below is a summary of the discussions that took place in Ottawa. THE BCA Road Running Committee shares the concerns identified below and are keen to help Athletics Canada / Run Canada move forward to help resolve these issues.

## **ROAD RUNNING ISSUES RESULTING FROM THE ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS HELD IN OTTAWA ON MAY 27, 2007**

### **Q: How do we integrate with the Canadian Road Running Community?**

- Benefits to the road running community – new website;
- Rankings (Open, age group)
- Results (2nd highest priority)
- Events calendar (Highest priority)
- Athlete profiles (top 20 elite, as well as the average joe/joan)
- Profile events
- Awards
- Tips (i.e. nutrition, training, etc.)
- Surveys, focus groups, etc. for corporate partners
- Direct access

### **Q: How do we grow our base?**

- Membership – join your branch, portal to AC
- By having the benefits, easier sell to get people to join – however don't want it to look like a money grab (money used to benefit road running community)

### **Q: How to create a renewed focus on high performance road running in Canada?**

- Recruiting
- Coaching
- Media
- Clubs
- Event Groups

The BCA Road Running committee supports many of these initiatives that resulted from the round table discussion.

## **D. ROAD RUNNING COMMITTEE GOALS FOR 2008**

1. Produce a timely calendar of events that effectively promotes sanctioned road races in BCA in a timely manner.
2. To increase the number of sanctioned road races in BC
3. Investigate changing eligibility rules to open up competition for BCA Road Running Championships and encourage our top athletes to participate.
4. Investigate ways to make encourage more events to bid on all BCA Road Running Championships
5. Offer more benefits to the BCA membership and sanctioned events that support BCA.
6. Recruit female committee members to represent BC female road runners.

## LIST 2007 BCA SANCTIONED ROAD RACES (total 85 Road Races)

1/28/07	Ice Breaker 10K	7/1/07	Sidney Days 5K
2/10/07	2007 Northern BC Winter Games	7/11/07	Kelowna Midsummer 8K
2/11/07	First Half, Half Marathon	7/15/07	PR Fort Langley Half Marahon & 5K
2/11/07	The Starting Block 10K	7/21/07	Summerfast Race
2/25/07	Summerland Centennial Half Marathon	7/22/07	2007 Revelstoke Grizzly Bear Run
3/11/07	Penticton Lakeside Resort 5K	7/22/07	Diva on the Run 5km /10km
3/18/07	Diva on the Run	7/28/07	Gibsons Sea Cavalcade Mile
3/19/07	The River's Spring Run-off Kamloops	7/29/07	Peninsula Runners Esquimalt 8KM
3/25/07	OUC Campus to Campus Half Marathon	8/5/07	Squamish Days 10K
3/25/07	Run the Ridge, Maple Ridge	8/8/07	Masich Mile
3/31/07	Spring Forward 5K	8/8/07	Miracle Mile
4/1/07	Spring Ahead 5K,10K, Half-Marathon	8/12/07	Delta Half Marathon & 5K Run
4/1/07	Oliver OK Photo Ten K	8/25/07	Run for the Ferry
	Spring Runoff Road Race and Walk for	9/2/07	Labour Day Classic Road Race
4/1/07	Diabetes	9/2/07	Kajaks Labour Day 8K
4/1/07	Sunshine Coast April Fool's Run	9/9/07	Bike Barn 10K
4/1/07	Heights Fiver	9/9/07	Chetwynd 1/2 Marathon & Relay Race
4/1/07	KNA 10K		Nanaimo Daily News Harbour City
4/8/07	Hart Half	9/9/07	Half Mar. & 10K
4/15/07	Ruperts Runners Half-Marathon	9/9/07	Coho Festival 14K
4/15/07	Vancouver Sun Run	9/15/07	Cannery Road Race
4/22/07	Miworth Run	9/19/07	Raven Run 2007
4/29/07	Times Colonist 10K	9/23/07	Blue Heron Half Marathon/10K
5/5/07	29th Annual Wild Goose Chase		Rotary Club of White Rock
5/6/07	36th Annual BMO Vancouver Marathon	9/23/07	Peace Arch 1/2Mar.
5/12/07	Sechelt 5K	9/23/07	Beach to Beak 14K
5/12/07	Crest Glory Days 5 & 10K	10/7/07	Royal Victoria Marathon, Half Mar. & 8K
5/13/07	Mothers Day 5K Spring Classic	10/8/07	North Shore Half Marathon
5/13/07	Blossom 10 Miler	10/14/07	26th Annual Richmond Flatlands
5/13/07	Annual Mother's Day Run (Smithers)	10/14/07	Run for Your Life 10K, Half Marathon
5/13/07	Evirions Run for Mom 2007	10/15/07	Bridge to Bridge 10K
5/16/07	Pineview	10/21/07	Diva's Only Run for Arthritis
5/20/07	Brooks Peach City Half Marathon	10/28/07	ING James Cunningham Seawall Race
	Oak Bay KOOL Half Marathon &	11/3/07	Haney to Harrison 100K Relay & Ultra
5/20/07	Ekiden Relay	11/12/07	Khahtsahlano 17k Road
5/27/07	The Gathering		
5/27/07	Annual Rhythm of Life 5 & 10K Event		
5/27/07	Blackwell Dairy 15km Race		
5/27/07	Vistas Run Maple Ridge		
5/27/07	Kootenay Express 10km Run		
5/27/07	Running Room Shaughnessy 8K		
6/2/07	Skeena River Relay		
6/3/07	Sandcastle City Classic		
6/3/07	Family Y 1/2 Marathon		
	Dawson Creek Rotary 5K, 10K and Half		
6/9/07	Marathon		
6/10/07	Coalmont to Princeton 18.5kn Road Race		
6/17/07	Highland Ridge		
6/19/07	Longest Day 10K		
6/24/07	Popeye's 10K Run		
6/24/07	Scotiabank Vancouver Half Marathon & 5K		
7/1/07	HBC Run for Canada 10K Vancouver?		
7/1/07	HBC Run for Canada 10K Victoria?		
7/1/07	Sechelt Canada Day Mile		