



## **2014 Road Running Committee Summary Report** **Clifton Cunningham**

I'll defer to the Technical Managers Road Running & Cross Country Report, to recap a number of the specific details. Including the Number of Sanctioned Events, Provincial Series numbers, BC Road Running Championship participation, the performance of BC Athletes in National Championships, International Representation and National Rankings.

In brackets is how each initiative applies to the Strategic Objectives as put forth by BC Athletics.

### **In 2014 our planned initiatives included:**

**Developing Provincial Championship Hosting Criteria** (*BCA Organization Capacity, Members initiative*), hosting criteria for Provincial Championships has been developed and being refined as we head in to our next two year cycle of hosting (2016-2017), with bid process beginning in April and next event hosts chosen by September of 2015.

**Development of Team Selection Criteria** (*BCA, Competition, Athlete Development and Organization Capacity*), criteria for team selection has been developed and in final review, to help assist in the choosing of teams that will represent BC in National Road Running events.

**Race Directors Summit**, (*BCA, Organization Capacity, Governance / Organizational management*), plans were put on hold to host a BC summit, as AC announce in the spring of 2014 that they would be hosting their own summit in the fall of 2014. Approximately 10 BC delegates attended, representing more than 30 BC events.

**BC Events Bids to Host National Championships** (*BCA, Competition*), five events from BC put in bids to host Athletics Canada National Road Race Championships for the next 2015-2018 hosting cycle. None of the BC events were chosen to host.

**Committee Expansion** (*BCA, Organization Capacity, Governance / Organizational Management*), continuous outreach is needed to grow our committee; a member was added and has since resigned due to other scheduling commitments.

Unfortunately the Road Running Committee was only able to meet two times in 2014. Six meetings have been scheduled for 2015.

The meetings highlighted a number of concerns about Athletics Canada's support for Road Running.

- In the spring AC announced the B&O Yorkville Run would be the National 5k Road Running Championships. All in all positive that a championship at the distance has been formed, but the event did not exist in the bylaws of AC, and it was awarded unilaterally without the formal bid process used to determine the other Championship events. This was subsequently challenged by BC Athletics and a bid process was announced and decided, B&O Yorkville run will continue to host the Championship through 2018. One BC event bid for the event.
  - o There is concern on the accountability and transparency of the process surrounding event bid applications and the awarding of championships.
  - o The 10k National Championship in the past has hosted the National Timex Series Championship in the fall. The championship was awarded to the Ottawa Marathon 10k May 23, a great IAAF gold event. But the spring date would not be able to be the Timex Championship and since then it has also been announced that Timex will no longer support a national road race series.
  - o The Half-Marathon Championship, was awarded to Calgary Marathon, staged just one week after the 10k Championship on May 31<sup>st</sup>. The marathon championships will be staged in conjunction with the Toronto Waterfront Marathon on Oct 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - o The committee is also concerned that the now 4 year terms of AC championship hosting is too long and does not give the opportunity for athletes from across the nation to have the ability to participate. There has not been a national road championship staged in BC since the mid 1990's.
- Concerns were also expressed regarding the process by which AC awarded other National Championships for cross country and T&F.
- At the 2013 BCA AGM, AC presented a proposal to the membership that would increase the remittance to AC from \$5 per member to \$15 per member, the additional funds would be committed to elimination of self-funded teams. BC Athletics decided to fund the increase amount to AC, by raising the membership fees and raising the sanctioning fees (raising the application fee by 66% and raising the per runner fee from \$.05 to \$.15.



- Road Runners in the IAAF World Half-Marathon Championships have not been included in the national team funding initiative. All athletes competing at an equivalent international level in all disciplines – Track & Field, Cross Country, Race Walk, Road Running, Para - deserve equal support. The money for the self-funded teams was raised equally by all disciplines, but road running athletes are not eligible for the AC Team funding. This is being challenged by BC Athletics.
- The committee would like to caution the BCA Executive, that sanctioning fees can have an adverse effect on the number of sanctioned events. What seems like a small \$.10 raise in the per runner sanctioning fee, for an average small event of 300 people is only a \$30 increase. But an event like Sun Run the increased cost is \$3000, or the Marathon \$1500. Reminder that previous to 2006 when sanctioning fees were high, deals were cut with events on fee and a number of the larger events stopped sanctioning due to high costs and low perceived value of sanctioning.

**Positively for Athletics Canada**, was the development of the [www.acroad.ca](http://www.acroad.ca) portal for Road Running events and initiatives, and the new Race Directors conference that was held around the Toronto Waterfront Marathon mid-October, and will be hosted next year at the Calgary Marathon at the end of May.

**Road Running Instructor Course** – thank you to Jennifer Schutz, for holding a Road Running Instructor Course to introduce would be group leaders to specific coaching and road running techniques. The program was offered in conjunction with SportMed BC and program leader Lynn Kanuka.

**Road Running Officiating** – the road running committee awaits the recommendations and report from the officiating committee with regards to the officiating of road running events and will then determine a course of action in 2015.

#### **2015 Planned Initiatives**

- **Scheduled meetings** – Increase the frequency, by increasing the scheduling. Meeting have been scheduled for all of 2015 for the Road Running Committee in advance. Schedule available in the committee minutes.
- **Membership Outreach** (*BCA Organization Capacity, Members initiative*) – work with the marketing committee to see how we can leverage sanctioned events and DOE membership about BCA.
- **Juniors Development** (*BCA Athletic Development, Recruitment, Training*) – look to develop more Junior talent in the road running events, as they transition from Track and Field competition.
- **Race Director Training** (*BCA Organization Capacity, Communications*) – grow the resources available to new race directors and improve the communication between them.
- **Committee Growth** (*BCA Organization Capacity, Governance*) – look to recruit 1-2 new members to take an active role in the committee, with more representation from Athletes than events.

Road Running Committee Annual meeting and elections are scheduled for January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

#### **Recognition**

I would like to thank the members of the Road Running Committee, Staff and Board Members for their support through the 2014 year. Frank Stebner (Vice Chair), Geoffrey Buttner (Secretary), Bob Reid (Treasurer), Cindy Rhodes, Rick Jenkner, Jake Madderom, Tom Michie, Jordan Myers, Maurice Wilson (Staff), Jim Hinze (BCA Board).

Submitted by Clifton Cunningham – Chair, Road Running Committee.