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Clifton Cunningham

I defer to the report of the Technical Manager of Road Running & Cross Country for statistics of Road Running, Events and Athletes. This report is the opinion of the Chair and does not necessarily reflect those of the committee.

## 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.
  - o We were better scheduled, meeting a little better than quarterly, with regular email communication.
- **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.
  - o This was achieved, through staff initiative. Maurice has been great with having news items published in the blog and quarterly emails to event directors.
- **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.
  - o Some of this has occurred but by no action of the committee. Mainly through key clubs and members. Recognize the efforts of Bruce Deacon with activating Juniors in the Victoria area.
- **Race Director Training** (*BCA Organization Capacity, Communications*) – grow the resources available to new race directors and improve the communication between them.
  - o The initiative is ongoing, but has been somewhat sidelined with the AC National Conference working on the same initiative. Goal is to produce an outline guide for a new event director to best practices in event directing.
- **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.
  - o Yes and no. The committee in 2015 was expanded to add more representation, through yearly attrition new members will be recruited in 2016.

## Our meetings this year focused on a few initiatives.

- Series and competition updates. A large portion of our meetings have become dedicated to reviewing the participation in regional road running series and the performance of BC Athletes in Provincial and National Championships. This is reflected in the committee minutes. The committee’s time and experience could be better spent working on what we could do, rather than what has happened.
- Provincial Championships – the committee developed and continues to refine a set of criteria to select Provincial Championships, free from bias and applicable year to year. The committee has increased the quality and number of applicants’ year to year.
- Series transition – we will have to wait and see how the transition goes from the Provincial / National Timex Series, to the new BC Super Series and how it merges into the running community and how it works along side the Regional

Series. Overall the committee hopes that there are increases in participation in road running, representation of BCA Competitive members (Jr & Sr), overall increase in competitive scoring of events.

## Industry concerns

- **Sanctioning** – Three of our ten largest events in BC are not sanctioned. We need to continue to ensure that all events are safe and accurate for all participants. Athletics Canada is in the process of developing event standards. How this may dovetail with provincial sanctioning, and whether it becomes an income stream for AC, is unclear.
- **Participation** – Road Racing participation rates were down on average across Canada, is this a short term fluctuation or a long term concern?
- **Officiating in Road Running** – a clear consistently policy and program needs to be developed to ensure our events are consistent and accurate to IAAF rules of competition.
- **Ethical Sport** – There will only be four annual road events in Canada that will be subject to drug testing over the next three years, each around a national championship. Our Canadian athletes that compete on national and international stages are some of the most tested athlete's world wide. Our own stages though are not, we allow and encourage other athletes to compete in events that have not been tested or in rare cases have failed tests. A program needs to be developed to allow events across Canada to have CCES perform testing. Testing costs are relatively affordable; however, legal fees can quickly add up if a positive test is found, making the risk of testing unaffordable. Athletics Canada bears the risk at National Championships, but individual events at the moment could be on their own to bear these costs. Now is the time to stand behind our clean Canadian Athletes and ensure that our sport is too.

## 2016 Planned Initiatives

- **Scheduled meetings** – Maintain minimum quarterly schedule for 2016.
- **Membership Outreach** (*BCA Organization Capacity, Members initiative*) – ask the marketing committee what initiatives they are working on and how the Road Running Committee can assist.
- **Juniors Development** (*BCA Athletic Development, Recruitment, Training*) – Find ways to include and increase the Juniors and younger members to participate in Road events.
- **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*) – new leadership within the committee and look to increase representation of the demographics and geographic distribution of road running in our province.
- **Drug Testing** (*BCA Competition*) – develop a provincial drug testing program, that will have real consequences for those abusing our sport.

Road Running Committee Annual meeting and elections are scheduled for January, 2016.

## Recognition

I would like to thank the members of the Road Running Committee, Staff and Board Members for their support through the 2015 year. Frank Stebner (Vice Chair), Geoffrey Buttner (Secretary), Bob Reid (Treasurer), Cindy Rhodes, Rick Jenkner, Jake Madderom, Bev Larsen, Charlene Krepiakovich, Jordan Myers, Maurice Wilson (Staff), Paul Mathias (BCA Board).

Submitted by Clifton Cunningham – Chair, Road Running Committee.

