

# Minutes of the East of Scotland Cycling Association 2011 AGM

Held in Eddleston Village hall on Sunday 11th December 2011.

## Present;

### *Executive members*

Ken Whitson (KW) – Chair, Tom Arnott (TA) – interim Secretary, Allister Watson (AW) – Track Secretary, David Johnston (DJ) – Gala CC, Ted Radford (TR) – interim Minutes Secretary.

### *Ordinary members*

Colin Russell, Ken Russell, Jonny May, Dave Waterston, Neil Muir, Colin Dumba, Bill Hamilton, Sonya Crawford, Colin Crawford, Stuart Gillies, Michael Simpson, Phil Darby, Andy Laing,

### *Guests*

John Anderson, Helen Findlay, Terry Wishart

1. **Chairman's welcome** – Ken thanked everyone for making the effort to attend the meeting which the Executive intended to be a progressive & constructive conclusion to a difficult period in ESCA's history. He introduced the members of the Executive.
2. **Apologies for absence** - Had been tendered by Gareth George, Cliff White, Scott Bell, Graham Wylie, Les Kirkwood, Brian Annable & Andrew Kerr.
3. **Minutes of 2010 AGM** – Adoption as a true record was proposed by **TR** & seconded by **KW**. This was agreed
4. **Matters arising** – There were none.
5. **Minutes of Extraordinary General Meeting 17th August 2011** – Adoption as a true record was proposed by **TA** & seconded by **DJ**. This was agreed
6. **Officers' reports**
  - 6.1 **General Secretary** – In the absence of Brian Annable **TA** reported that he had collected relevant papers from Brian who had assisted him & **TR** with AGM organisation. Brian had also offered to mentor his successor.
  - 6.2 **Championship Secretary** – Currently vacant. **KW** said that the 2011 Championship information had been distributed with the AGM calling papers.
  - 6.3 **Road Race Secretary** - Currently vacant. **KW** said that the 2011 Championship information had been distributed with the AGM calling papers.
  - 6.4 **Time Trial Secretary** - Currently vacant. **KW** said that the 2011 Championship information had been distributed with the AGM calling papers.
  - 6.5 **Track Secretary** – **AW** spoke to his report. He confirmed to **Andy Laing** that access to the Meadowbank velodrome in 2012 had been confirmed provided the same fire safety precautions were operated.
  - 6.6 **Records Secretary** – **KW** said that he & Brian Annable had cooperated to update the ESCA Records database. There was only one new ESCA record (Jessica Wilson-Young 25m TT). Her Scottish 10m TT record was not included since it was achieved on a non-ESCA course.
  - 6.7 **MTB Secretary** – Currently vacant. **KW** said that he hoped that the new Executive would address this failing as all types of Mountain-biking were significant in ESCA's area.
  - 6.8 **Safety Coordinator** – Currently vacant. **KW** expressed the view that as expertise in Risk Assessment (RA) had increased & most ESCA courses now had generic RA's the need for this role had diminished. He suggested that collective RA experience should be pooled and called upon when needed.
- 7.0 **Finance**
  - 7.1 **Treasurer's report** – After some debate within the Executive, the full text of the Treasurer's report had been circulated.
  - 7.2 **Approval of 2011 Accounts** – In order to achieve a clean handover to the new Treasurer, and as there had been no audit for several years; the Executive had agreed to have the 2011 accounts professionally audited. It will be scheduled to meet the 31st January 2012 deadline required by the Constitution. **TA** confirmed that he had retrieved all the documentation, chequebooks etc & that he and **KW** were arranging the transfer of authorised signatories. Until this was concluded the Association's financial affairs were in suspension.

**KW** summarised the financial statement that recorded an apparent loss. However, it had been confirmed that grants from Edinburgh City Council (ECC) had been approved by them but not processed. Once these were paid, the accounts would show a modest surplus. The present cash assets were ca. £17K.

**Sonya Crawford** questioned the accounts failure to clearly identify the significant sum transferred to the ESTPA. **KW** agreed saying the professional audit was intended to clarify such anomalies.

**David Waterston** observed that in which case, although the final balance was accurate, the accounts were not a transparent record of financial proceedings in 2011. **Allister Watson** said these points of detail should be clarified by the audit.

**Sonya Crawford** commented that all Treasurers should present accounts in a form that is readily comprehended by those for whom they are compiled making most of the queries raised during the discussion unnecessary. **Ewan Gowrie** reiterated his point that such transparency was also essential when responding to questions from funders. Adoption of the 2011 Accounts was proposed by **Sonya Crawford** & seconded by **Andy Laing**. There were no objections but adoption was qualified pending the outcome of the professional audit.

### **7.3 Organisation Affiliation fees 2012**

**KW** reminded the meeting that the 2011 AGM had not abolished the individual affiliation fee but had set it at zero.

The interim Executive proposed that the Organisation (Club) affiliation fee for 2012, currently £50, should also be set at zero.

**This was agreed unanimously.**

**KW** pointed out that this "free year" was done as a gesture of goodwill that was intended to foster greater participation in ESCA by all types of cycling organisations in the region.

**Sonya Crawford** welcomed both concessions but made the point that non-competitors are still required to hold BC membership before they can act as coaches, race-convoy drivers etc. This appeared to penalise volunteers. It was suggested by Allister Watson that this was not so since BC awarded Bronze membership FOC to Organisers, Coaches, Club Secretaries & others. It was pointed out these concessions had been withdrawn some years ago.

### **8.0 AGM Motions**

**8.1 Executive motions** – There were none.

#### **8.2 Affiliates' motions**

**DJ** spoke to the motion from Gala CC that had been seconded by Kelso Wheelers, Auchencrow Thistle, Peebles CC and ERC. He said that the principal aim of their motion, which was a wholesale revision of ESCA's Constitution, was to foster & enhance membership participation in ESCA affairs. In particular, the deletion of the clause that gave the Executive untrammelled authority between AGM's was confirmation that a new Executive was there to serve all the interests of all affiliates & their members. The reduction in designated Officers would be balanced by:-

- Encouraging an increase in club representation
- The ability to form sub-groups
- the power to co-opt specific expertise and/or experience when required

All of these were designed to return the direction of ESCA to its members, not least by encouraging dialogue between them & the Executive but also between member organisations. **DJ** said there was a considerable pool of knowledge within the membership that could be tapped to the benefit of all, but particularly those who were new event organisers or volunteering to be race officials & training to be coaches etc. Sharing this knowledge, not just between clubs but also between disciplines could only help to develop all categories of cycling.

**Sonya Crawford** echoed these points saying that having a mentor that one could turn to without embarrassment was an essential part of the development from tyro to confident performer. **Colin Dumma** agreed adding that to be seen to be delivering these benefits would also encourage others to affiliate to ESCA.

**Andy Laing** expressed broad sympathy for the proposed revision but suggested that fewer Officers might be overloaded. He went on to say that the reduced meeting frequency might also be a barrier to decision making. Finally, he asked if co-optees would have a vote. In reply, **KW** acknowledged the potential increase in workload but hoped this could be spread when there were more active members. He pointed out that the new Constitution required *a minimum* of 2 meetings per annum. More frequent meetings were not ruled out but it was hoped that by using IT & varying the venue greater participation would be achieved. **KW** confirmed that co-optees would not have a vote.

In response to a further query from **Andy Laing** it was made clear that those elements of the present Constitution that enumerated ESCA Championships & other non-Constitutional matters would appear as Rules & Regulations in Appendices to the Constitution. This was so the Executive could update & amend these to reflect changes made by BC/SC without the need to await an AGM.

**KW** closed the debate by confirming that the proposed Constitution was a working document. It would require endorsement from SC. It could also be amended at the next AGM in the light of operating it during 2012. He stressed the need for active cooperation since if the aims of adopting the Constitution were not achieved in 2012 the Association might fold and have to hand over its responsibilities to SC.

*When put to the vote the motion was carried unanimously.*

## 9.0 Election of Officers

The posts to be filled were the three cited in the newly adopted Constitution. The nominations were:-

- Chair – Tom Arnott Nominated by David Waterston, seconded by David Johnston.
- Secretary – Ken Whitson. Nominated by Tom Arnott, seconded by Colin Russell.
- Treasurer – Ewan Gowrie. Nominated by Stuart Gillies, seconded by Michael Simpson.

In the absence of any other nominees the three named were elected unanimously.

Ted Radford's offer to act as Minutes Secretary, a lay & non-voting appointment, was accepted. He emphasised that he would stand down at the 2012 AGM.

**TA** said that new Executive would meet as early as possible in January 2012.

## 10.0 Nominations for Awards

**10.1 Roll of Merit** – There were no additions to the 2011 list that had been circulated.

**10.2 Certificates of Honour** – There were no nominations.

## 11.0 Any other competent AGM business

**11.1 Neil Muir's** proposal to invite Sir. Chris Hoy to be the 2012 ESCA patron was *agreed*.

**11.2 Andy Laing's** regret over the turmoil of 2011 was shared. He thanked those who had put much effort into re-establishing ESCA as an effective entity.

**11.3 Bill Hamilton's** suggestion that an SC representative should be invited to meetings of the Executive was *agreed*.

**11.4 Provisional 2012 events calendar** – it was *agreed* that the new Executive should complete the confirmation of the schedule as a matter of urgency.

**11.5 Tom Arnott's** proposal that the Minutes should record the appreciation of members for Ken Whitson's forbearance in trying circumstances was endorsed by the meeting.

Tom's second proposal that thanks for their long service to the Officers who had resigned was also endorsed.

Ted Radford  
Minutes Secretary  
13th December 2011