

British Association of Road Races

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Technical News Briefings

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AFFILIATED TO  UNITED KINGDOM ATHLETICS

TNB – No. 1 November 2010

UKA
LICENCE
STANDARDS



BARR RACE GRADING SCHEME

Dear member,

When Chris Brasher founded this Association nearly two decades ago, one of his prime reasons was to create a channel or forum for those willing and prepared to undertake the onerous task of organising a road race. Standards could be set, discussion forums made available and a team of race scrutineers trained to attend events and offer unbiased critique.

Now BARR finds itself not only promoting its own Race Grading Scheme but also tasked with the role of both advising upon, and scrutineering, the UKA Race Licence Standards for UKA. Acting as an independent assessor it is a role that it is both pleased, and proud, to accept.

Those of us who can recall organising events in the early 1980's had plenty of administrative problems to deal with then – but to many these may seem as nothing when compared to current situations when one can feel isolated upon an island surrounded by rules, regulations, statutes, laws, etc..... even before you print your entry form!

In response to comments from members and feedback from a number of non-member events which our scrutineers have attended to verify the UK Licence Standards, BARR has decided that, with immediate effect, it is going to re-organise its publications for members , as follows;

1. **Members News Letter**. These will be printed in hard copy and issued, by post, twice yearly in December and June.
2. **Technical News Briefings**. These will deal with issues relevant to all race organisers, regardless of the size of their event and will often contain instances of good (and poor) practice witnessed by our team of race scrutineers .*
These will be issued electronically, six times a year commencing now, in November so future issues will be e-mailed to you in January, March, May, July and Sept.

Please note that we already have topics pencilled in for those issues but, if you would like some guidance, comments, etc. on ANY issue relating to organising a road or multi-terrain event please do contact either your BARR Regional Representative – or myself as we may either deal with this in an open forum or try to help you individually – that's all part of being a member.

Please see below for further details about Technical News Briefing No.1 and the two very important attachments to this e-mail which we strongly urge you to download and file.

With best wishes,

Roland Gibbard. Vice-Chairman and Chief Race Scrutineer.

- * If you would like to find out more about this role and how to become qualified then please contact either your BARR Regional Representative, or myself.

Welcome !

Welcome to this, the first edition of the new BARR '**Technical News Briefing**'.

The sub-group of the main committee tasked with this new venture includes not only experienced BARR officials but also current county licence officers and race organisers. When and where we feel it appropriate to have specialist expertise we will co-opt additional and temporary members to the *Technical Group*. Such flexibility will be beneficial to both the Association and our members .

Our aim is to produce a technical/practical briefing every other month which may often have attachments which can be downloaded and placed straight into your race file as an aide memoir.

Issue No 1 has two attachments:

No. 1a – Risk Assessment - an attempt to clarify what you do/ do not have to cover.

Our race scrutineers have found over the past year that the majority of events fail to conform to the Race Licence Standards with particular regard to the Legislation that is required to be included within your risk assessment. BARR has therefore produced the attached documentation to help you through this 'minefield'. (TNB-1a)

It is unclear as to why this situation has occurred but in some cases we suspect that race organisers are finding it just too much effort to plough through the legislation and to fully appreciate the level of information required.

Remember this is not a case of UKA being heavy-handed, this is the Law of the land and therefore we are all bound by it. Were you to have a major incident at your event ignorance of any of those laws will be no excuse. What is required often is not as onerous a task as many may think - it just needs some time to think carefully of the ramifications upon your event.

No. 1b – Race Licence Standards, 2011

The second attachment is your copy of the 2011 Race Licence Standards that came into force from October 2010, so you can't get more up to date than that! These have been produced in collaboration between ourselves and **runbritain** with the aim of making them clearer than in previous years. Let us know what you think. (TNB-1b)

Death of a runner in your race

Even if something has never happened before don't expect that it never will !

One competitor died after collapsing during the race and a second man died after crossing the finish line at the **Perkins Great Eastern Run** last month. Paramedics treated both men at the event before they were rushed to hospital where, sadly, they died.

Although the race was held in higher temperatures than would normally be expected, both were experienced club runners. However, in addition, another six runners were taken to hospital with serious problems ranging from cardiac problems to collapsing from exhaustion. In total 15 people required medical attention.

It is clear that events need to consider their medical provision and not skimp in the hope that 'fingers crossed' it won't happen to me. As race director Stuart Hamilton said. **"...we have never experienced a fatality so for the team and myself if has been a dreadful shock."**

How is your medical provision? Have you undertaken a specific medical risk assessment?

Have you asked your medical providers if in their opinion [as the experts] your medical cover is adequate? Have you at least one ambulance on site?

These are questions asked by our race scrutineers. All too often the answer is often "no".

Expect some guidance notes on this topic in TNB -2 – issued, by e-mail, January 2011. Any personal experiences / good practice that we might include in this would be most welcome.

Finally...

... having read this first **Technical News Briefing** have you found the attachments useful? We have plans for the January issue ... but is there something in particular you would welcome? Do let us know.