

USATF CROSS COUNTRY COUNCIL

GENERAL SESSION

Saturday, December 5, 2015

Houston Texas, Hyatt Hotel

9:30AM – 11:20AM

2014 Review of 2014-15

2014 Club Championships, Bethlehem, PA

The 2014 USATF National Cross Country Championships were conducted at Lehigh University's Cross Country Course in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania on December 13th and featured over 1900 entrants, with 1765 finishers and over 100 teams across the United States vying for top honors and \$35,000 in prize money. Zap Fitness (North Carolina) won the Open Men's team title while Boston Athletic Association won the Women's team crown. Ryan Hill and Lauren Thweatt took the individual titles. Greg Mitchell and Chris Kimbrough were fastest in their respective Masters races while Joe Sheeran and Kathryn Martin topped the Masters Age-Graded results.

2015 International Meet, Edinburgh Scotland

On January 10 Chris Derrick successfully defended the individual senior men's title he first won at the 2014 Great Edinburgh Cross Country International Challenge to lead Team USA to the overall win over teams from Great Britain & Northern Ireland and a European Select Team. Team USA won three of the four Men's and Women's races featuring both junior and senior athletes (scoring was simply adding the places of the first six team members in each of the senior races as well as the first four finishers in each of the junior races to total the final score), notching victories in the senior men, junior men and junior women's races. Makena Morley won the junior women's race to lead her teammates to victory, while leading the way in for Team USA's senior women was Brianne Nelson in fourth and Cerake Geberkidane finished second to lead Team USA's junior men. In the non-scoring Invitational 4Km, Garrett Heath successfully defended his title.

2015 USA Championships, Boulder, CO

Chris Derrick won his third consecutive individual title at the 2015 USA Cross Country Championships, which were conducted at Flatiron's Golf Course in Boulder, Colorado for the final year of a two-year stretch. The event featured approximately 500 athletes competing for National titles in six Championship races and \$50,000 in prize money. Hometown star Laura Thweatt ran away from the senior women's field to score her first win in this event. Conner Mantz won the junior men's title while hometown hero Kaitlyn Benner won the junior women's title. Jaques Sallberg and hometown star Colleen De Reuck were the top Masters finishers, while Libby James and Simon Guitierrez were the Age-Graded Champs.

2015 Pan Am/NACAC Championships, Barranquilla, Columbia

Team USA's Maksim Korolev kicked hard to win gold in the senior men's race at the inaugural Pan Am Cup Cross Country Championships in Barranquilla, Columbia on February 22. The senior men won. Kellyn Taylor's and Conner Mantz's individual silver medals led the Team USA senior women and junior men respectively to victory. Katie Rainsberger finished fifth to lead the junior women to a team silver medal behind Canada.

IAAF World Cross Country Championships, Guiyang, China

Sara Hall finished 20th in the senior women's race at the IAAF World Cross Country Championships in Guiyang, China to lead her teammates to a fifth place showing. Chris Derrick finished 24th to lead the senior men to seventh in the team standings. John Dressell finished 27th to lead the junior men to sixth, while Kaitlyn Benner also finished 27th to lead the junior women to eighth. Team USA was the first non-African team at these Championships.

Upcoming Events

December 12, 2015 Club Championships, San Francisco, CA

Everything is ready to go. There are 1,903 registrants thus far.

The course will be damp but not wet. Course maps can be seen on the LOC website. Every kilometer will be marked and mile marks will be called out. Dr. Vigil and will be speaking before the technical meeting. Results can be found on [www. recordtiming.com](http://www.recordtiming.com)

Post party will be held at "The Factory" and food and drinks will be available.

January 9, 2016 International Meet, Edinburgh Scotland

Selection will be top 6 from the Club Cross Country Championships who wish to go. The remaining three spots will be determined either by a top 15 finish at last year's USA Championships or an athlete possessing the World A standard mark. For juniors athletes will need to nominate themselves and selection comes from Nike Club Nationals, Footlocker Championships, JUCO and top finishers from the Division I Championships. UK Athletics and Nova International will again host this International event.

February 6, 2016 USA Championships, Bend, OR

The course is a modified course from the course that was run at Club Championships a couple of years ago. The registration for this event is not up yet.

March 5, 2016 Pan Am/NACAC Championships, Venezuela

Travel should be better than last year. The race course will be on a golf course this year. The team will be selected from Bend, Oregon at the 2016 USA Championships. The Pan American Cup is scheduled for March 6th and 7th.

Selection procedures for upcoming National teams

Club Nationals Selection Report

Bill Quinlisk announced that the Joint Selection Subcommittee selected Lexington, Kentucky as the 2017 event pending the following: Games Committee reserves the right to have a decision over scoring and timing company and the party venue after the event.

Masters Cross Country Report

Bill Quinlisk reported Male Masters Harrier of the Year is Peter Magill and Female Masters Harrier of the Year is Kathryn Martin. The Masters Championships will be in San Francisco for the USA Club Nationals; Bend Oregon for USA Championships on February 6th and the Masters 5K Championships in Tallahassee Florida in late October or early November.

Masters International did contest a Cross Country 8K event that was part of the Worlds Masters Track and Field Championships this past year.

There will be a World Masters Marathon Championships. Date pending. This is a possible future NACAC Masters event.

Bill recommends we continue the trend for Cross Country committee working to promote Masters Cross Country we need to write up the language to reflect this in the legislation.

Cross Country National Championships Requirements issues

Discussion about having B teams be accommodated into A class races at our Club National Championships is under review. The question is should B-Race entries be allowed to compete at these Championships. This issue is under discussion. The B- Races will be the last race of the day. Bill Roe recommends we look into raising the standards to qualify and this will only add to the prestige of these Championships.

International Cross Country Distance Change

IAAF introduced gender parity into World Cross Country. Both the Men and Women will now be racing the 10K distance.

2016 USA Championships in Bend Oregon will offer the 10K distances.

A rule change is slated to be approved that will also have the 10K distances for both Men and Women at the February USA Cross Country Championships. Mike Scott will deliver a survey at this year's Club Cross Country Championships about the distances we offer in the future at Club Cross Country Championships..

Staff Selection Procedures

Co-defining staff selections. The protocol now will continue to be selecting coaches who serve our athletes first. It's a step up process where coaches work an Edinburgh or Pan American team before being selected for World Championships team leadership responsibilities.

Bids Procedure for Future Cross Country National Events

Club Cross Championships bids will be due June 1st.

Cross Country Council Awards

2015 Men's Runner of the Year is Chris Derrick

2015 Women's Runner of the Year is Laura Thweatt

2015 Doris Heritage Award is Steve Vaitones

2015 Merit Award is the Pacific Association

The Bids for USA Championship due September 1st.

IAAF Cross Country Report

No Report