

ARC – A Statement of Vision, Aims and Policies

Preface

ARC was established to provide an affiliation option for clubs in the face of the “no choice” situation that was being foisted on them by the implementation of the Foster Report modernisation structure. Under that, hitherto democratic organisations, controlled by elected volunteers with limited help from paid staff, were being replaced by regional bodies with day to day decision making and execution in the hands of paid executives and support teams. There was no acquiescence sought from, or given by the clubs, to the new structure. It was apparent that the new set up would be increasingly costly, bureaucratic and over regulatory especially for endurance clubs which, generally, had simple requirements of any governing body. There would be no democratic control by the clubs and consequently their influence over matters affecting them would be very limited.

So ARC was born out of a need to provide the endurance clubs with a Governing Body which met their particular needs and which would be fully controlled by, and accountable to, them.

ARC began operations on 1st April 2007. Its vision, aims and some key policy statements are set out below.

ARC VISION

That **all** endurance activity clubs in the UK should be democratically governed by one organisation of their choice, acting in the interests of clubs alone without governmental interference but cooperating freely with other stakeholders in the broader sport of athletics.

(‘Endurance’ incorporates road, cross-country, fell and trail running and road walking.)

AIMS

For ARC to become the preferred governing and affiliation body for all UK endurance activity clubs and clubs with endurance related activities.

POLICY

ARC is and will remain a democratic Association controlled by, and accountable to, its members.

ARC will be run by elected volunteers and have no paid decision makers. It may pay for administrative or clerical help if the need arises.

ARC will aim for simple, low cost, administration in order to maintain affiliation fees at reasonable levels.

ARC will provide insurance cover and race permits for the events organised by its members. Those arrangements will support the club system by requiring that a levy be charged on race entrants who do not belong to a recognised club.

ARC will establish rules and set standards for the benefit of its members and the safe and effective conduct of their affairs. In so doing it will aim for clarity, simplicity and the avoidance of over regulation.

ARC will deal with its members on the basis of trust.

In general, ARC will seek to establish and improve a framework which facilitates and encourages the enjoyment of endurance sport.