

# ***Avon Athletic Association***

## **(Affiliated to England Athletics)**

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### **MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Held :- 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2007

7.30 pm at Civil Service Club, Filton Avenue, Bristol.

**PRESENT** : Peter GRIFFIN (President); Graham HOWELL (Chairman); Mike DOWN (Vice-Chairman); Mike STRANGE (Sec); Mike ANDREWS (Treas / Clevedon AC); Gordon ROBBINS (Road Running Co-ordinator); Hilary NASH (Coaching Co-ordinator), Ray GOODING (Life Vice President – Officials Co-ordinator); Mike SMITH (Life Vice President); Barry SMART (Life Vice President); Bill KINGSTON (Life Vice President); Tony HURLEY (Hon Life Member); David COALES (City of Bath AC); Mike WILLCOX (GWR); Ann SINGER (Portishead RC); John MATTHEWS (Portishead RC); Chris JONES (Portishead RC); Robin FOX (Clevedon AC); James MURPHY (Westbury H); John CLAPP (Hogweed Trotters); John DEATON (Webmaster); Richard GWYN (England Athletics / Bristol & West AC).

**APOLOGIES** : Derek MORRISON (Life Vice President); Joyce JACKSON (Hon Life Member); Pamela GOODING (Hon Life Member); Tom CLARK (Hon Life Member); Andy HEYES (Cross Country Co-ordinator); David HUGHES (Empire AC); Andy MULLETT (City of Bath AC); Nigel COX ( A&S Tri Club).

### **MINUTES OF 2006 AGM**

The minutes were accepted as a true record of proceedings (**after adjustment of minor typo errors**) and were duly accepted.

**Proposed Mike Willcox; Seconded Peter Griffin; Accepted Unanimously**

### **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

The Chairman congratulated all involved in the County for their contributions and commitment. He felt that we gave excellent service to member clubs and athletes and was proud that 'we do things well'. We look forward to the advent of England Athletics and our inclusion in the South West Region, the Chairman asked that we get stuck in to ensure that all works out well.

### **COMMITTEE REPORT 2006**

Prepared by the Chairman, Secretary and Sections – presented by the Secretary.

#### **GENERAL**

#### **STRUCTURE OF ENGLISH ATHLETICS**

The shift of governance from the AAA and its Territories to England Athletics and its Regions was completed in 2006. This region is now administered through the South West office for England Athletics. Mike Down & Gordon Robbins from Avon were successful candidates and now hold positions on the initial South West Council. Mike Andrews was an unsuccessful candidate.

Some matters still need to be ironed out before it can be said that the new structure is making positive inroads for the future but it is clear that the South West is ahead of other Regions in most respects. Our delegates also sit on working groups covering each section of Athletics and are thus contributing to the development of future policy.

Aspects of Affiliation, 1<sup>st</sup> Clam Change of Club considerations, track certification, Race Permits and payment of unaffiliated fees will finally be picked up in April 2007 thus completing the phased changeover. The Solihull based 'Athletic Services' will be responsible for the central administration of the above acting for EA and its Regions.

#### **SOUTH WEST REGION**

Nigel Rowe was appointed as Chair of the Regional Council.

Sonya Ellis was appointed as the Regional Manager during 2006 and Richard Gwyn (an Avon athlete) and Neil Parsley were appointed as Regional Performance & Development Co-ordinators. With the addition of one outstanding appointment as Administrator the team will be complete and be in a position to exercise more direct control over Regional activity.

## **SOUTH WEST CONFERENCE**

Avon was well represented at the initial Conference of the South West Region and made notable contribution to proceedings.

South Gloucestershire received an Award as the best Sport Development Partnership in the Region.

## **TREASURER COVER**

We are pleased to report that Mike Andrews has successfully stepped into the role of Treasurer. His separate report will be presented at the AGM.

## **DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Our commitment to the Development plan continued through 2006 and this was supported through Wesport and England Athletics.

## **CLUB:MARK**

Two clubs (Yate & District AC & Westbury Harriers) are well advanced on the path to accreditation under the Club:mark scheme. (For info - Not under this report, Yate have now been awarded full accreditation).

Bristol & West AC, Bitton Road Runners & City of Bath AC are also now working toward this goal.

England Athletics are soon to extend this scheme to encompass clubs without significant (or any) junior competitors.

## **NEW CLUBS**

Portishead Running Club formed and affiliated to the Association during 2006 and City of Bath AC held talks with Team Bath that should materialise in the formal unification of these two groups in 2007.

## **WESPORT**

The County Sports Partnership re-established and re-branded as Wesport. Within its budget an Athletics Development Officer is employed for a couple of days per week and sums are set aside for the support of Athletics Development. In future the role of Wesport will tend toward being strategic with wider direct responsibility being carried by England Athletics.

Wesport is bidding for the UK School Games to be held in Avon in the near future.

## **FACILITIES**

YOSC was fully certified through 2006. Bath University was certified but had a period where the facility was limited following wind damage to Floodlight pylons. Whitchurch's certificate expired in May 2006 and re-inspection has not occurred due to a variety of factors. Filton College has yet to apply for Certification.

The opportunity of the new track at Whitehall, Bristol and the enhancement of the Filton track into a full facility remain on schedule for 2008.

## **FRED HILL**

Past President Fred Hill passed away during 2006. Fred was active in Avon matters throughout and we mourned his passing.

## **OFFICIALS (Co-ordinator – Ray Gooding)**

### **OFFICIALS KIT**

Free Polo-shirts for officials have been purchased and issued.

## **EXAMS & UPGRADES**

Four officials took advantage of a last opportunity to take the old Grade 4 exams for an additional discipline before the end of 2006 and three more, already at Grade 4, were re-graded to Grade 3.

## **NUMBER OF REGISTERED OFFICIALS**

The number of UKA Registered Technical officials now stands at only 24, plus 5 Level 1 Assistants.

## **TUTORS**

The County also has four Level 2 Tutors (2 Starters; 1 Field & 1 Timekeeper).

## **SW REGIONAL FORUM**

The Officials co-ordinator attended 2 meetings of the SW Region Officials' Secretaries held at Exeter, both of which were poorly supported by the Counties.

## **GRADES / LEVELS**

The new Level system is now in force so we must now cease designating as grades.

## **COURSES**

Level 1 & Level 2 courses are up and running. Level 3 is still in preparation but planned to be significantly different from the old Grade 3. Former Grade 3 and Grade 2 officials (transferred to Level 3 and Level 4) will be required to take the new Level 3 course and the rest that it entails, for continuation of qualification at Level 3 in 2008. Otherwise they will be downgraded to Level 2. [I have the details but too complicated for this report] However, it is generally feared that this will lead to further loss of experienced Technical officials.

## **ENDURANCE OFFICIALS REGISTRATION**

UKA Registration of "Endurance Officials" (Road Race & Cross Country) has started.

## **COACHING (Co-ordinator – Hilary Nash)**

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

45 new Coaches were initiated into the sport on Level 1 in 2006 and 18 established coaches proceeded forward to level 2 status.

Courses were again held in Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucester & Bath (including a Strength & Conditioning Course) to support local interest.

### **TALENT SQUADS**

Event specific groups proceeded within the South West Region and many of the young Avon athletes are covered by these sessions. However the establishment of a County Squad did not make real progress during the year. Sprint, hurdles and endurance squads did operate as established in 2005.

## **CROSS COUNTRY (Co-ordinator – Andy Heyes)**

### **CHAMPIONSHIPS – Jan 2006**

These joint (A & S) Championships were held in Somerset at Millfield Prep School. After some difficulties in fixing an amicable date the Championships went ahead but feeling was that number of competitors was affected by this uncertainty. A block fee for whole club entries was used for the first time thus allowing clubs an opportunity to enter their whole eligible membership. This system did however carry with it a loss of income to the County.

### **CHAMPIONSHIPS – Dec 2006**

With restructuring of the SW fixture list the arranging of these Champs before Christmas was fraught with hitches. The Championships were eventually incorporated into the (Westbury H) Gwent League Lg fixture at Blaise Estate, Bristol. The eventual outcome was a successful Championship event. Even Officials were well covered by the League with the host Club contributing heavily.

### **SW INTER-COUNTIES**

A great deal of preparation has gone into the inaugural SW I/c Champs to be in Devon in January 2007. This new arrangement was consequent in the moving the latter County Championships into December.

## **TRACK & FIELD (Co-ordinator – Graham Howell)**

### **CO-ORDINATOR**

Graham Howell continues to carry the organisation of the Championships and we constantly search for assistance.

### **SOUTH WEST INTER-COUNTIES**

Avon finished 4<sup>th</sup> overall in the 2006 Championships despite depletions due to fixture clashes with Midland Women's League (Yate) & the BALg Cup Final.

### **WEST OF ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS.**

A disappointing entry from Wiltshire was low this year (13 entries) thus the total numbers of competitors was disappointing. However the standard of competition was considered generally to be high.

The support of Wiltshire Officials was excellent and this saved the day considering the low numbers of Officials currently operating for Avon.

### **AVON (JUNIOR) CHAMPIONSHIPS.**

Entries were marginally up on 2005 and this Championship was deemed a success although the number of Officials present ran us close to the mark. Once again we respect the high interest and competitiveness of Nailsea School who carry this event with their high entry.

## **ROAD RUNNING (Co-ordinator – Gordon Robbins)**

### **FIXTURE LIST**

The fixture list continues as an established up to date feature of the County Road Running scene.

## **TEAM MANAGER**

Mike Down stood down from this position at the AGM and despite pursuing some quite positive possibilities we ultimately failed to fill the position.

## **UN-AFFILIATED FEES (Runners)**

The £2 levy for un-affiliated runners was introduced despite protests. Currently the County is being awarded 25% of this fee which of course equates to the previous 50% of £1. However debate rages around the ultimate destiny of the fees.

## **ROAD RUNNING STRUCTURE**

A Road Running steering group has been formed to consider the future National structure of Road Running. Their findings are anxiously awaited by this County which is critical of their believed direction.

## **SW ROAD RUNNING CHAMPS**

This inaugural event was arranged within the Taunton Half Marathon on 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Avon's competitive contribution was minimal despite the wholehearted support of our aligned officers.

## **BATH HALF MARATHON**

Responsibility for this race in respect of Permits and the associated health & safety aspects was taken away from the County and dealt with directly by UK A.

An agreement was also struck with MCAA / UK Athletics for Bath to pay a fixed fee in recognition of unaffiliated runners. The County benefited from this arrangement (on this occasion) without the loss of potential revenue.

## **SPORTS:HALL (Co-ordinator – Dave Turner)**

### **FUN IN ATHLETICS**

This U11 Sports:hall event was again held at Torbay but this year unified Teams represented Avon as a whole. The 'A' boys finished 3<sup>rd</sup> and the girls 4<sup>th</sup>. Both 'B' Teams were 8<sup>th</sup> in a 11 team competition.

### **SPORTS:HALL (South West Final)**

This year the Girls surpassed the Boys and it was the U13 & U15 Girls who qualified for the National Finals at the N.I.A. by winning at these South West Championships. The U13 boys were 3<sup>rd</sup> and the U15 boys were 2<sup>nd</sup> thus both boys teams missed the opportunity to contest the Finals

Jade Ellans was again the outstanding 'All Rounder' winner in the girls competition and went to the N.I.A. as an individual 'All Round' competitor.

### **SPORTS:HALL (National Final)**

Jade Ellans in her final year at sports:hall was the overall (joint) U15 Gold Medallist.

The girls teams finished a creditable 8<sup>th</sup> (U15) & 10<sup>th</sup> (U13) in this UK Final.

## **AVON SCHOOLS (Representative – Covered by Lesley Nunn)**

### **ESAA TRACK & FIELD CHAMPS**

Avon Schools Association declared their outstanding performance at the ESSA Champs at Gateshead as their best for several years. They achieved 6 medals (1 Gold, Kylie Russell SG 100m) and a further 11 top 6 placings. The Senior Girls won the 'Rotary Cup' for their grouping.

## **RANKING LISTS & PERFORMANCE DATA**

### **COUNTY RECORDS / REPRESENTATIONS**

Primarily through the efforts of Peter Griffin we now have a detailed list of Championship Records that we are able to publish in the event programme. Any further amendments would be welcomed as we recognise that some stones have yet to be overturned. Peter continues to prepare a list of medallists at the various CAU Inter-County Championships

### **CLUB RANKINGS**

County Ranking Lists were not published for this year due to the difficulty in finding people willing to allocate time. However it seems that individual Club Statisticians are more prevalent and they are correctly feeding their data to the new 'Power of 10' UKA / England Athletics site.

## **CLUB ACTIVITIES**

### **BITTON ROAD RUNNERS**

The Club celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 3<sup>rd</sup> June by holding a 4x5 mile relay for road running teams. This also backed into a Masterclass Workshop with the Bristol Half Marathon team and a party in their marquee in the evening.

## **DISCUSSION ON COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **Cross Country**

It was indicated that the performance of the Avon & Somerset Cross Country Team had not been noted in the report. The joint team had won the National Inter-Counties Championship but the Secretary indicated that this had occurred in 2007 and would therefore need to be formally recorded in next year's report. Never the less we do congratulate all concerned on an outstanding performance and shows the very real strength of Endurance running in the area.

Note : The Secretary felt that this report item should be included in the following Committee Minutes and next year's AGM Report and sought direction from the floor.

### **Development Plan**

Mike Down referred to the 'Development Plan' and indicated that as the County was becoming wealthy it would be important to establish a plan for future spending in line with the expansion of development activities.

Mike Strange indicated as referred in the Committee Report that the County has a current published Plan acknowledged by the Committee. The Plan had received commendation from England Athletics. It is intended that this Plan be updated for 2007/8 and that it reflects our current financial situation and further need to invest in the development of Athletics in this County.

**Action – Secretary to prepare a 2007/8 Development Plan for approval by the Committee.**

### **Unattached Levy**

Gordon Robbins asked that we obtain clarification from Alan Harrison (Chief Executive – England Athletics) on the situation concerning the continuation of payment of the 'Unattached Levy' to the Counties. This follows assurances from Nigel Rowe & John Temperton that these would continue until April 2008 when a decision on future policy would be made and statements purported to emanate from Dave Bedford that this practice would cease shortly.

**Action – Secretary to write to Alan Harrison**

### **South West - Cross Country Proposals**

Mike Down appraised the floor on further developments on Cross Country running in the Region. The South West League will be inaugurated toward the end of 2007 using dates and venues that tie in with previously well established fixtures. The dates are Oct 28 – Exeter; Bristol – Nov 18; Millfield – Dec 15; leading to the South West Inter-counties on 7 Jan 2008

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer presented the accounts.

*(Pages appended to be considered at this point)*

*Income & Expenditure Account*

*Current Accounts*

*Deposit Accounts*

### **Notes on the Accounts (Year ending 31-12-2006)**

#### **Auditor**

Advice from the Company that inspected the accounts is that a formal Audit is not required and that an 'independent examination of the accounts' is all that is required. Therefore our Auditor needs to be re-titled as 'Independent Examiner of Accounts'.

### **MATTERS ARISING (from Accounts)**

#### **Above reference Auditor**

Amendment needs to be made to the 'Constitution' and be formally applied through the next AGM.

**Action Secretary – AGM Agenda Item, April 2007**

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President-	Peter Griffin
Chair-	Graham Howell
Vice Chair-	Mike Down
Hon Secretary-	Mike Strange
Hon Treasurer-	Mike Andrews
Coaching Co-ordinator	Hilary Nash
Officials Co-ordinator	Ray Gooding
Road Running Co-ordinator	Gordon Robbins
Track & Field Co-ordinator	Graham Howell
Cross Country Co-ordinator	Andy Heyes
Sports:Hall Co-ordinator	Dave Turner
Welfare Officer	Peter Miller
Proposed (en block) – James Murphy; Seconded – Mike Willcox; Elected Unanimously	

Team Managers	
Cross Country Men / Women	Mike Down
Road Men / Women	David Coales
Track & Field Men	Ken Holmes
Track & Field Women & Young Athletes Girls	Alan Thomas
T & F Young Athletes Boys	Hilary Nash
Proposed (en block) – James Murphy; Seconded – Graham Howell; Elected Unanimously	

Trustees – Iain Macintosh; Ray Gooding; Peter Griffin.  
Iain Macintosh only for re-election.  
Proposed – Mike Strange; Seconded – Graham Howell; Elected Unanimously

Independent Examiner of Accounts – Christopher Miles  
Proposed – Graham Howell; Seconded – Mike Strange; Elected Unanimously

## CHANGES TO RULES

None proposed.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### Grant Application – Clevedon AC

The matter of the deferred discussion on the Grant Application for Clevedon AC was raised. To assist with clarification a letter of response from Andy Heyes was at hand and Robin Fox was present at the Meeting (nb both Clevedon Officers) .

Clevedon stated that this system would not be used as a Commercial venture and would not be available outside of competitions promoted by Clevedon AC. Clevedon felt that in their continuing promotion of Avon AA Championships and other popular local races coupled to their unstinting support of Avon AA that we should look favourably upon their application. It was stressed in their letter that very little financial support had been asked for previously by the Club from the County.

With such clarifications the meeting was fully supportive of assisting towards the £12,500 purported outlay for a ‘Chip System’ and following discussion a proposal was made to offer “a grant of £3,000 contingent upon the non Commercial statement from the Club”.

**Proposed – Mike Strange, Seconded – Peter Griffin, Unanimous.**

### Ryan Scott

It was suggested that a letter of congratulations be sent Ryan Scott on selection for and performances in the European Indoor Championships recently with particular emphasis on the manner of acceptance of his disqualification in the final. He was seen as a credit to himself, to his family and Coach and an example to other high profile athletes.

**Action – Secretary to write to Ryan.**

### UK School Games / Bath Athletics Facilities.

The Bath University track has prevailing problems with the standard of Field Event facilities. In view of the undoubted prestige of the School Games it was suggested that a letter be written to the promoters of these Games, Wesport, indicating that problems exist and will need to be rectified for the Games but also that a timely rectification would also be of advantage to all local users of the facility.

**Action – Secretary to write to Wesport**

### **County Champs - Track & Field**

Entry forms are now available – will be distributed without delay.

The Officials Co-ordinator notes that to date only 10 registered officials have put their names forward for this meeting.

**Action – Secretary to distribute**

### **Midland Champs – Entries**

It was noted that the MCAA are continuing with their practice of giving free entry for County Champions to the Midland Championships.

Forms available from the Secretary.

**Action – Secretary to inform the MCAA of the names of our Champions.**

### **Empire AC – Affiliation**

David Hughes – Empire AC, phoned to inform that they have decided not to apply for affiliation to England Athletics in view of the enormous uplift in fees.

**Action – All to publicise the plight of smaller clubs in the light of the new Affiliation fees.**

### **AGM CLOSED**

At 9.05 pm.