

# ***Avon Athletic Association***

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

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

Held :- 29<sup>th</sup> March 2010; 7.30 pm at Civil Service Club, Filton Avenue, Bristol.

**PRESENT** : Graham HOWELL (Chairman / Yate & D); Mike DOWN (Vice-Chairman / Bristol & West); Mike STRANGE (Secretary); Hilary NASH (Treasurer / Bristol & West); Ray GOODING (Life Vice President – Officials Co-ordinator); Andrea CULP (XC Co-ordinator); John ROBBINS (Life Vice President); Bill KINGSTON (Life Member); John DEATON (Webmaster); Mike ANDREWS (Clevedon AC); Keith BRACKSTONE (Bristol University); Cy KNIBB (Bristol & West AC); Lesley NUNN (Avon Schools); Stuart NUNN (Yate & D); Tim SNOWDON (Avon Athletics Network).

**APOLOGIES** : Gordon ROBBINS (Road Running Co-ordinator); James MURPHY (Welfare Officer & Westbury H); Barry SMART (Life Vice President); Ian MACINTOSH (Life Vice President); Tony HURLEY (Life Member); Pamela GOODING (Life Member); Neil MILLER (Westbury H & SW Council); Mike WILLCOX (GWR); Hugh BURCHARD (Environment Agency Harriers); Steve COGHLAN (N Somerset AC).

### **PRESIDENT**

The meeting commenced with a few words from the Chair and then a period of silence in respect of our President, Peter Griffin who passed away recently.

The Secretary also spoke briefly to inform the meeting that Life Member Tony Hurley had been in hospital for about 4 weeks recovering from a problem with his foot.

### **MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM :**

These Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

### **CHAIR'S REMARKS**

The Chair thanked everyone for their assistance during his period in office and confirmed his intention not to seek re-election for a further period. Although the status of County bodies had been undermined by structural changes in athletics he felt that Avon AA still do good work and operate as a focal point for the clubs in the County. We make a considerable contribution to athletics and bring people together in a positive way for the benefit of athletics.

### **COMMITTEE REPORT Jan to Dec 2009**

#### **GENERAL**

#### **DEATHS**

It is sad to once again record deaths of friends and colleagues. In 2009 Tom Clark who was a well loved long time Official passed away.

In early 2010 we suffered the great loss of our President, Peter Griffin. Peter, once a Welsh International Half Miler, the President of Westbury Harriers and a Life Member of the MCAA died quite a few days after suffering a heart attack. Peter right up to his last few days had been a totally active and involved President, always finding time to attend Committee Meetings, delving into the history of the County and throwing his all into arrangements for our Anniversary Dinner celebrations. Peter will be sorely missed.

#### **LIFE MEMBERS**

In accordance with our practice certain people who have contributed greatly to athletics in the County have been nominated to the installed as Life Members. These nominations have been approved through Committee and require confirmation at the AGM. They are:- Life - Vice Presidents: Gordon ROBBINS; Hilary NASH; Tim SNOWDON & Mike STRANGE. Life – Honorary Members: Raymond BRIGDEN; David HUGHES; Patricia JEFFERIES; Diana VILES; Anthony JEFFERIES; Patricia GALLAGHER & Stuart NUNN.

## **COMMITTEE POSITIONS**

### **CHAIR**

After many years of doing a quietly effective job steering the County out of difficult times and negotiating the ever changing athletics landscape Graham Howell has decided that it is time to step aside to allow someone new to take up the fight. Graham has introduced a new vigour into the position of Chair and has shown a balanced and fair perspective where many vested club interests can at times become difficult. Graham's wider involvement particularly as a Coach will continue to show benefits to the wider County and we wish him well in his future endeavours. Well done Graham.

### **SECRETARY**

Similarly to the Chair, Mike Strange has served a good and constructive term of office with the County. As in all tasks time erodes enthusiasm and the task becomes a chore rather than a pleasure. Therefore he also feels that it is time for new blood to come in and drive us forward.

### **AVON NETWORK**

As reported at last year's AGM following considerable work by Keith Brackstone we were poised to see England Athletics establish an Athletics Network covering Avon County. Much frenetic last minute activity established that this Network would be driven by & for the Clubs.

Tim Snowdon was installed as Network Co-ordinator and housed within the County Sports Partnership (WESPORT) on the UWE Campus. Dave Travis was adopted as Chair to a Committee consisting of contributors to Athletics in the County.

Initial outcomes particularly on the Coaching front appear to be extremely successful and beneficial to this Association, the Clubs and their athletes.

### **STRUCTURE OF ENGLISH ATHLETICS**

As predicted last year England Athletics contracted its management of the athletics scene and controlled all operations from Solihull. The closing of a Regional office in the South West lost for us the close and personalised attention that existed in the past and our attentions from EA became sporadic.

### **SOUTH WEST COUNCIL**

Dr Neil Miller was elected to the SW Council during 2008 and has been an extremely constructive contributor. His specific remit to Cross Country activities has showed good results. Neil continues to keep this County Committee well informed of actions of the Council.

### **AFFILIATED CLUBS**

We are pleased to welcome Southville Running Club and Environment Agency Harriers to our fold of Affiliated Members.

### **COUNTY SPORT PARTNERSHIP**

As previously noted WESPORT now houses and administers the Avon Athletics Network Co-ordinator so has had increased involvement with the Association in 2009. Jackie Hilleard also remains as the designated contact for Athletics at Wesport.

### **FACILITIES**

Barry Smart continues to hold the position of 'Track Assessor for the County for UKA.

**YOSC** improvements to Pole Vault & High Jump landing areas complied with safety requirements and the track was achieved full certification.

**Bath University** the outdoor facility was fully certified in 2008 following work to accommodate the UKSG that August and remains in excellent shape. The Indoor area was resurfaced in 2010 and is now a safe facility. Certification of Indoor Facilities is not applicable at this time.

**Whitchurch** continued to become a run down facility and is due to close in 2010. Until that time it will only be used for training by Bristol & West AC who will administer health & safety aspects.

**Packers Ground** will become the new facility for Athletics in Bristol following an input of money from Bristol City Council. It will be predominantly 6 lane (8 on the home straight) and will carry full field event facilities.

**Filton College WISE** remained uncertified through 2009 but resulting from an input of finance from Bristol City Council it will be upgraded to be the competition facility for the City. Built round a Soccer pitch there will be limited use for Throws due to pitch deteriorations but all will be functional for competition. This facility is located ideally for access to rail travellers and is at the hub of Bristol's Motorway links and should at last be a track that the County can be proud of.

### **TREASURER**

Hilary Nash slipped into the role of Treasurer at the last AGM and is working quietly and constructively.

## **PERFORMANCE GRANTS**

Our £1,000 annual allocation for performance grants was distributed thus in 2009:- Grade 1 £58.82 ea : Luke BAILEY; Lucy BRYAN; Ben COGHLAN; Gary COLEMAN; Emily DIAMOND; Lauren GALE; Hannah GRUBB; Luke JACOBS; Christina JONES; James PRESTON; Floren SCRAFTON; Hayley SMITH; Cameron WALKER-SHEPHERD. Grade 2 £29.41 ea : Hannah ALDERSON; Jonathon CLAYTON; Scott DAVIE; Joanna EATON; Hayley GREEN & Ashley PIERSON.

## **BRISTOL / KENYA PROJECT**

Links with Kenya consolidated in 2009 with confirmation that their Olympic Team would be accommodated in Bristol in 2012. Bristol based athletes did visit Kenya in early 2009 and undergo training at Kip Keino's Camp as planned and exchanges are planned both ways in the future. It is expected that the Opening of the Filton Track in September 2010 will include considerable involvement from Kenyan athletes.

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

### **COUNTY TRACK & FIELD CHAMPS**

At the County Championships in May we were very short of qualified officials and had to call on the assistance of parents to keep the meeting going.

### **SW INTERCOUNTIES TRACK & FIELD CHAMPS**

The SW Inter-counties in August was rather chaotic as 25% of the expected officials failed to turn up and the shortage was most noticeable among the Start and Track officials.

## **SOUTH WEST FOCUS GROUP**

A meeting of SW County Officials Secretaries was held at North Petherton on the 28<sup>th</sup> November. Unfortunately only 4 of the SW counties were represented. However, as a small group we had a very useful meeting. It should be noted that Natalie Shaw has taken over from Morag Ford as Officials co-ordinator and Education officer at England Athletics.

## **SW CONFERENCE**

The SW Officials Conference was held at Exeter on 7<sup>th</sup> March (this year) and was attended by about 40 which included 4 from Avon. The meeting included several workshops which seemed to be mainly aimed at the higher grade officials (new Level 3). A new rule Book is due to be issued in April but is more likely to be later than that. We were made aware in advance of some of the rule changes. The most significant of which was the one false start and out, which is to be applied to Senior's races. If U20 or Vets race against seniors then the rule will apply to them also.

## **COMUNICATION**

A new magazine for officials, "For the Record" was launched by England Athletics in March and I have a few copies for distribution.

## **COURSES**

A level 1 course was held at Yate on 29<sup>th</sup> November, attended by only 10 of the expected 19.

A Level 2 course is scheduled to be held at Filton College WISE on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2010 covering just 3 disciplines – Track, Field & Timekeeping. The hire of the venue will be paid for by England Athletics.

One technical requirement for these courses is the use of a Digital Projector. Filton WISE makes this equipment available at its venue but we have also been given the go ahead from the Avon Athletics Network to purchase such equipment for use at other locations

## **COACHING**

### **COACHING COORDINATOR**

Keith Brackstone who stepped into this vacancy in 2008 unfortunately decided due to a change in circumstances that he would withdraw from the position during 2009. Good ideas were instituted by Keith in particular his ASSET training group which brought together effectively a number of like minded groups in the Endurance Running areas.

It was decided by the Committee that it was unnecessary to fill the position vacated by Keith due to the obvious crossing of responsibilities with the common objectives of the Athletics Network.

## **CROSS COUNTRY (Co-ordinator – Andrea Culp)**

### **XC CO-ORDINATOR**

Andy Heyes stood down from this position at last year's AGM. Eventually Andrea Culp from GWR came forward to fulfil the role. Andrea's principal task in 2009 was to interface with Somerset over the A&S Champs. The Championships were once again backed into a Gwent Lg. fixture as in past years. This task proved to be quite an unrewarding objective in the end with Somerset choosing to alter evolved systems to the dislike of many in Avon. Andrea found herself buffeted in all directions but obviously

with Somerset as the hosts then their method of operation prevailed. There is no doubt that Andrea extricated herself with great credit from difficult circumstances and we had great confidence in her delivering the 2010 home Championships effectively and efficiently. However it transpires that due to her Husband's work involvement it may be necessary for them both to return to the USA to live in 2010. So ended what appeared to be an ideal match to this position.

#### **SOUTH WEST INTER-COUNTIES – January 2009**

Avon AA teams performed exceptionally in the SW I/c at Bicton in Devon. Avon won the Snr Women & were 2<sup>nd</sup> in the U20 Men Team events and the following won Individual Gold Medals : Phil PARRY – V40; Eleanor WIMSHURST – U17W; Floren SCRAFTON – U15G & Miles BURTON – U13B.

#### **SOUTH WEST INTER-COUNTIES – January 2010**

Due to adverse weather the 2010 Champs were cancelled.

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

##### **WEST OF ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS / AVON (JUNIOR) CHAMPIONSHIPS**

These events were again successfully organised by Graham Howell and although numbers of competitors did increase marginally it could be said that it was not greatly different from preceding years. Some outstanding sprint performances were nullified by extremely high winds.

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

The Avon Team in 2009 finished in much the same position as it had done in previous years - 4<sup>th</sup> Male, 4<sup>th</sup> Female & 4<sup>th</sup> overall. At the end of a long Track season it has long been difficult to encourage a very competitive team. Of our representatives most performed outstandingly.

#### **INDOOR TRACK & FIELD**

##### **SOUTH WEST CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The third SW Indoor Champs were held at Birmingham (in early 2010) butting up to the Midland Championships. The SW entry was again sparse.

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

##### **London Mini Marathon**

Bitton Road Runners organised on behalf of Avon AA the Regional Trial for this national event. After much planning heavy snows on the day before the event meant it was postponed. The alternative date proved a great success and a number of Avon athletes ran in the London race.

##### **RRLG / Run Britain**

This body that has taken over Road Running matters for EA / UKA created a number of new initiatives during the year including Parkrun, Run England & Real Buzz. The former seemed to undermine the role of clubs, the second put considerable amounts of money into the already existing Womens Running Network as a base for its concept and the online club Real Buzz was eventually shelved due to lack of interest? As Avon have indicated in the past Run Britain as it is now known seems to lurch from one new initiative to another without achieving a great deal of success. However their ability to spend is immense yet their accountability remains a mystery.

#### **WELFARE (James Murphy)**

##### **ACTIVITY**

No incidents occurred in 2009 concerning this Association.

##### **ISA/VETTING & BARRING SCHEME**

A letter sent by UKA explained clearly the timescales for the implementation into Athletics of this replacement for CRB checks. By 12<sup>th</sup> Oct 2009 it became the legal duty of a 'regulated activity' provider to refer information to the ISA for consideration of persons being barred.

On 26<sup>th</sup> July 2010 the individual registration to the scheme will commence for those new to our sport.

The conversion of current CRB Certificated UKA registered members to the ISA scheme will commence when their CRB would normally come up for renewal in 2012.

Clubs confirmed that they had been notified directly. Our Welfare Officer offered guidance to any club that was unclear on the path ahead.

## **CLUB NEWS**

### **BITTON ROAD RUNNERS**

Bitton's Easy Runner Sodbury Slog was voted the 5<sup>th</sup> best race in the UK although it had also been voted even higher (2<sup>nd</sup>) in the 2 preceding years.

### **GREAT WESTERN RUNNERS**

GWR launched their Arthur Dagger Memorial Fund during the year to assist athletes from all clubs in the area. GWR's Inter-Club 'Towpath Races' (supported by Avon AA) again proved a great success for typical 'club runners'.

### **BRISTOL & WEST AC**

B&W were winners of the Midland T&F League (Div 1) in 2009.

### **THORNBURY RUNNING CLUB**

Thornbury RC again organised a very successful Oldbury 10, which again doubled as our County Road Championship for 2009.

### **CLEVEDON RUNNING CLUB**

Clevedon continued to achieve acclaim with their very successful 'Boxing Day' races but unfortunately felt a need to cancel their long standing North Somerset Relays in September. These Relays also doubled as Avon AA County Champs.

## **CELEBRATION DINNER**

As happened for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the County we plan a celebration for the 35<sup>th</sup>. Peter Griffin, before his untimely death, put a great deal of effort into this venture. He had indicated that Bruce Tulloh (former European 5km Champion) would be the Guest of Honour and a deposit was forwarded to the venue, Redwood Lodge for a Dinner on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2010. The financial future of the County brought into question the wisdom to spend considerable monies and the matter was left in the air for discussion at the AGM.

## **FINANCES & THE FUTURE**

Although the County has a fairly considerable amount of reserves money in the bank it is apparent to all that it will be necessary in the near future to either source new revenue paths or alternatively reduce spending to a sustainable level. A discussion is planned to map out the future pathway at the AGM.

## **DISCUSSION ON THE COMMITTEE REPORT**

There were no comments emanating from the report.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer presented a Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009 with accompanying explanatory notes.

No specific questions were asked although the declining balance level was noted but discussion was deferred until a later stage in the Meeting when Finances in relation to the future activity of Avon AA was on the Agenda.

It was also noted that outstanding affiliation fees chased through 2009 had reached a satisfactory outcome.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

### **Committee**

President-	John Robbins	Proposed, Mike Strange; Seconded, Ray Gooding. By show of hands - unanimous
Mike Down (Vice Chair) took the Chair at this stage		
Chair-	Gordon Robbins	Proposed, Mike Willcox; Seconded, Mike Strange.
Vice Chair-	Stuart Nunn	Proposed, Ray Gooding; Seconded, Lesley Nunn. The vote was by concealed ballot GR 8; SN 4.

Stuart Nunn in the absence of Gordon Robbins took the Chair at this stage.

Stuart gave thanks from the Meeting to the outgoing Chair, Graham Howell for his good work.

Secretary-	John Deaton	Proposed, Graham Howell; Seconded, Mike Strange. By show of hands – unanimous
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Cross Country Co-ordinator      Keith Brackstone Proposed, Mike Down; Seconded, Graham Howell.  
By show of hands – unanimous

The remainder of Committee positions as listed below were considered by bloc,  
Proposed, Graham Howell; Seconded, Bill Kingston.

Officials Secretary	Ray Gooding	
Coaching Co-ordinator	Vacant	Covered by the remit of Avon Athletics Network.
Road Running Co-ordinator	Gordon Robbins	
Track & Field Co-ordinator	Graham Howell	
Sportshall Co-ordinator	Dave Turner	
Welfare Officer	James Murphy	
Webmaster	John Deaton	

By show of hands – unanimous

**Team Managers**      Considered en bloc

Cross Country Senior + U20 M&W	Mike Down	
Cross Country YA M&W	Vacant	
Road Running M&W	Dave Coales	
Track & Field Senior + U20 M&W	Ken Holmes	
Track & Field YA M&W	Dean Garrett	(With additional volunteers to be found)

By show of hands – unanimous

**Trustees**

Ian Macintosh	remains
Ray Gooding	for re-election.
John Robbins	Proposed, Mike Strange; Seconded, Ray Gooding.

By show of hands – unanimous  
[the 2011 AGM was unclear whether Gordon R. or John R. was the appointed Trustee]

**Independent Examiner of Accounts** Mike Andrews Existing - By show of hands – unanimous

## ELECTION OF LIFE MEMBERS

The Meeting considered the list (below) of Life Member nominations before them for confirmation.

Life - Vice Presidents: Gordon ROBBINS; Hilary NASH; Tim SNOWDON & Mike STRANGE. Life – Honorary Members: Raymond BRIGDEN; David HUGHES; Patricia JEFFERIES; Diana VILES; Anthony JEFFERIES; Patricia GALLAGHER & Stuart NUNN.

Stuart Nunn queried why he had been nominated for membership when his wife Lesley was in fact the one who had made the major contributions the Avon AA over the years. Stuart volunteered to forego his right to membership in favour of Lesley. The way the nomination list had been compiled was outlined and it was noted that the final list was evolved from a considerably longer list.

An amendment to the proposal was made “that the name of Lesley Nunn be included in the list of Life-Honorary Members”. Proposed by John Robbins; Seconded by Mike Strange. The amendment was accepted by a unanimous show of hands. The motion to accept the whole “list of Life Members” was then made on behalf of the Committee and was accepted by a unanimous show of hands.

## CHANGES TO RULES

Proposal by Graham Howell – “That the position of Chair be rotated and filled for 1 year each by member clubs on an annual basis”.

Graham explained the proposal as an attempt to engage all member clubs in the running of the County.

The motion did not gain a Seconder.

It was confirmed that the Chair is expected to only serve a term of 5 years in Office before being succeeded.

## THE ‘FUTURE’ FOR AVON AA (finances)

This discussion was preceded by the **Chair** asking for clarification on the reason that this motion was down for debate. **Mike Strange** explained that the current expenditure of the Association was far exceeding the minimal income streams expected for the near future. Some delegates had felt unsure whether these income streams could ever match recent previous levels and therefore called for the Association to trim back before it was too late. Others felt that there was scope to draw in funding from various sources obviating the need for drastic cut backs. Inconclusive discussions at the previous two Committee Meetings necessitated this full scale discussion at the AGM.

**Tim Snowdon** kicked off the debate stating that Avon AA was well equipped to renovate athletics thinking and be a prime example to other Counties. He felt that we were equipped to establish teams that could fight their way to the top of the Track League structures and outlined that this could first start with a 'Composite' approach to the existing Junior (U20) League. He also suggested that funding from Clubs should be increased to say £130 / club to fund this activity level.

**John Robbins** asked that we didn't throw in the towel and considering the recent history of the governing body it was quite likely that circumstances were likely to change in favour of Counties again. We need to hang together and think wisely about working with whatever funding can be achieved. We should reorganise according to what we think is required for athletics in the area and not according to the dictates of EA/UKA.

**John Deaton** reflected that Avon AA would be expected to pick up the pieces when the Avon Network ceased to be funded. The meeting strongly foresaw this as a possibility.

**Cy Knibb** asked that we look at what we need to do then we could generate greater input in order to become stronger. We must grow ourselves aggressively remembering that we have a huge responsibility to the athletes of the Area. As a suggestion we could look to Road Races where funding can be generated to finance our wider athletic interests.

**John Deaton** queried our continuation of grants and requested that this item be put on hold until our pathway is resolved. Tim Snowdon reiterated his call for a drastic increase in Affiliation Fees and asked that we grasp this nettle firmly.

**Mike Down** stated that we must start to balance future income and expenditure without delay and called for an initial increase in Affiliation Fees to £50 per club.

**John Deaton** suggested that this fee should be scaled according to the size of clubs but others reflected that due to mix of what clubs offered it was often the bigger ones that would experience the most difficulty in paying an increase.

**Keith Brackstone** suggested that Avon AA could request a 10p levy on runners in local races which could bring in considerable revenue. This area of discussion developed into the County selling its Officials to races for say £1 per Official.

**John Robbins** stated that we could not put any of the suggestions into practice without an EGM and that both big money races in the County were not run by (controlled by) clubs.

**Hilary Nash** asked that our objectives are first established and set out clearly. We do have some time to establish a workable strategy after all there is some time before our financial situation becomes dire. There is exiting new opportunity in the area with the advent of two new tracks and we must support activity around such opportunities.

**Cy Knibb** asked for that hard proposals be put before an EGM and firm decisions made. After all we have already discussed the issue on two previous occasions.

**Stuart Nunn** suggested that we bring together the successful 'Development Teams' that had evolved within Network discussions and ask them to formulate 'hard proposals'.

**John Robbins** requested the 'folding up' not be an aspect for the Agenda and that we all resolve to move forward with a positive attitude.

**Cy Knibb** suggested that we convene a meeting of a sub-group based on the aforementioned Development Teams before the next Committee Meeting and bring those hard proposals to the next Committee Meeting for firm decisions. After all the next CM will be scheduled for 2 months time.

Through the **Chair** it was decided that discussion was closed for the evening and that we take on this final proposal as an action point.

**A meeting of the sub-group was scheduled for Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April at our venue at Filton Avenue to be followed for decisions at the next scheduled Committee Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May.**

## **35<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER**

Following financial uncertainties at the previous Committee Meeting and more importantly the passing of our President who was the principal organiser of this event the matter of 'the Dinner' was placed on the Agenda for discussion.

All were agreed that the 'Dinner' must go ahead but that the costs must be kept under control. Gordon Robbins had suggested prior to the meeting that the Dinner be named also as a commemoration to Peter Griffin. This suggestion was unanimously agreed. In fact Ray Gooding had already incorporated it into his draft of the presentation menu.

Gordon Robbins had also put forward at Peter's Funeral that he was willing to continue through with the organisation of the 'Dinner' and Mike Strange (who was in possession of Peter's file) offered to assist.

Mike Strange had already written to Bruce Tulloh, the Guest of Honour, as a point of contact to note Peter's death and the future need for a resolution to continue. No notification had however had yet been made to the Redwood Lodge Hotel. MS agreed to remedy this point.

The AGM was reminded that proposals from the previous Committee Meeting were that a cap of £500 be placed on the total costs to the Association (excluding costs of presentations to Life Members) and that ticket prices should be fixed at £25 per head.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Grants**

In view of previous comments on finances & grants the past Secretary confirmed that Performance Grants were considered at the end of both the Winter & Summer seasons (ie April & September). One grant request had been received for the Winter period

and the past Secretary would correspond to inform that decisions on grants are now under consideration and the one received would be duly considered in the light of the eventual Committee decision and at the end of the Summer period.

**Bill Kingston** re-circulated his invitation for Officials to attend the 2010 Revenue & Customs National Sports Day at Exeter Arena on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2010 in view of a change in contact details of the Organiser. Bill informed that they would be grateful for any assistance and would pay travelling expenses.

**Andrea Culp** raised 3 points.

1/ John Terry of Westbury Harriers had approached Andrea to enquire whether Avon AA were affiliated to EA for Fell Running and whether they would support a Representative Team in this year's Inter-County Championships. The ex secretary confirmed that that we were appropriately affiliated and the floor supported the efforts of John's group of runners.

2/ Following discussions with Derek Drewitt from Wiltshire AA it was suggested that a Tri-County XC Championships might be organised in future years commencing with the first on 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 2010. It seems that Wilts and Somerset are in agreement with this proposal and that it should have a permanent home at Bath University. Following the initial Champs it was suggested that the annual date for the event be the W/e of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in December. The floor indicated that this was a sound proposal.

3/ Following on from the above Dave Saker on behalf of Bath University had proposed that for a sum of £300 (£100 per County) a suitable Course could be set out and prepared and support facilities could be provided (including toilets). Subject to agreement on cost apportionment the floor agreed that this suggestion be proceeded with.

**Ray Gooding** announced that EA are now producing an informative magazine for Officials. Ray handed round copies of 'For The Record' and informed that it could also be sourced on line.

**Tim Snowden** informed that an endurance coaching day primarily for Coaches was organised for the 18<sup>th</sup> April at Bath University and that Bruce Tulloh would be the principal Coach.

**John Deaton** as the new Secretary noted that he lives in Swindon therefore it may provide him with some difficulties when being invited to attend Meetings.

**Lesley Nunn** noted the successes of the Avon Schools Team at the recent ESAA Championships. Notable placings were:- Senior Girls 2<sup>nd</sup> Eleanor Wimshurst, Hannah Alderson 23<sup>rd</sup>; Intermediate Girls 17<sup>th</sup> Aoife Thorogood, 20<sup>th</sup> Olivia Sadler; Senior Boys 24<sup>th</sup> Brett Halliwell & Intermediate Boys 10<sup>th</sup> Alex Hill and this Team came a notable 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Hilary Nash** noted the continued outstanding successes of Avon Sportshall teams both in South West and National Championships. 3 teams qualified for the 2010 Championships by winning their SW qualifiers with the remaining team awaiting a hopeful invitation as a wild card to the National Final.

The AGM closed at 9.38pm

Future Committee Meetings:- Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May followed by Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July at Filton Avenue.

A sub-group meeting to consider proposals for the future role of Avon AA will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> April at Filton Ave.

Mike Strange - ex Secretary - 13<sup>th</sup> April 2010.