

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of the 2011 Annual General Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday March 21st 2011, at the Civil Service Sports and Social Club, Filton Road, Bristol, starting at 7.30pm.

Those Present: Gordon Robbins (Chair, Road Running Co-ordinator, Bitton RR), Keith Brackstone (CC Coordinator), John Deaton (Secretary), Mike Down (Bristol & West AC), Rachael Fisher (North Somerset AC), Pam Gooding (Life Member), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Bill Kingston (Life Member), Cy Knibb (Bristol & West AC), Neil Miller (Westbury Harriers / SW Council), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), Lesley Nunn (Avon Schools AA), Stuart Nunn (Yate & District AC), John Robbins (President), Mike Strange (Life Member). Gareth Thomas (Thornbury RC) Mike Willcox (GWR).

Apologies : Janet Jenkins (Fry Club Joggers), Ian Macintosh (Life Member / Trustee), Jim Murphy (Westbury H. /Welfare), Tim Snowdon (Avon Network).

Minutes of Previous AGM (March 29th 2010): There was uncertainty whether it had been John Robbins or Gordon Robbins who had been elected as a Trustee. It was agreed to hold an election for the post later in the meeting.

Chairman's Report: "Firstly, thank you for your support over the last year. I am pleased that the principle of making all Avon AA events and activities should become self-financing and progressively profit-making has been adopted.

"With the tough economic times I am sure that after 2012 there will be severe budget cuts to many sports. The funding for the Networks may well become strained. I believe that the Avon AA should position itself ready to pick up the slack should this occur.

"I have decided not to stand for re-election as Chair but will continue to support the Association's aims and activities".

Secretary's Report: Circulated in advance (copies available on request): there were no comments raised.

John Robbins (President) proposed a vote of thanks to Gordon Robbins and John Deaton for their work over the past year.

Treasurer's Report: Hilary Nash presented the Annual Accounts (copies available on request): there were no significant differences from the provisional Accounts which he presented to the January Management Committee meeting (a deficit of £556-23 on the year). The accounts still had to be submitted to the Independent Examiner. There were still some applications for Coach Education Course subsidies to be processed; affiliation fees were coming in well, although it is possible that Fry Club Joggers may not renew their affiliation. Hilary had transferred £15,000 to a fixed-interest bond giving better returns than the previous arrangement.

Election of Officers:

President:	John Robbins	Re-elected unanimously
Chair:	Stuart Nunn	Elected unanimously
Vice-Chair:	Rachael Fisher	Elected unanimously
Secretary:	John Deaton	Re-elected unanimously
Treasurer:	Hilary Nash	Re-elected unanimously

Election of other Secretaries / Coordinators:

Officials Secretary	Ray Gooding	Re-elected unanimously
Cross-Country Coordinator	Keith Brackstone	Re-elected unanimously
Road Running Coordinator	Gordon Robbins	Re-elected unanimously
Track and Field Coordinator	Graham Howell	Re-elected unanimously
Sportshall Coordinator	Dave Turner	Re-elected unanimously
Welfare Officer	James Murphy	Re-elected unanimously
Webmaster	John Deaton	Re-elected unanimously
(Coaching Coordinator post: in abeyance; role covered by Avon Network)		

Election of Team Managers:

Cross-Country (Senior and U/20)	Mike Down	Re-elected unanimously
Cross-Country (other age groups)	Vacancy	
Road Running	Dave Coales	Re-elected unanimously
Track and Field (Senior and U/20)	Ken Holmes	Re-elected unanimously
Track and Field (Younger age gps.)	Dean Garrett	Re-elected unanimously

Election of Trustee: Gordon Robbins was elected unanimously for a three-year term.

Election of Independent Examiner: Mike Andrews was re-elected unanimously (subject to his acceptance).

Proposal for Addition to the Constitution (proposed by the Management Committee):

“NOTE: All references in the Constitution and Rules to matters “in writing” shall be taken to include submission by e-mail”

This was accepted unanimously.

Any Other Business:

1. Road Race Licensing: Gordon Robbins made a statement outlining why he had resigned as the County Licence Officer for Avon (note: this position reports to UKA and is not an Avon AA appointment). He did not consider that the on-line Race Licence application process (mandatory from April 1st 2011) was suitable; he considered that the new procedure for considering licence applications (a regional panel who would consider the previous year’s Referee’s Report) would miss out on valuable local expertise; he considered that the plans to require Race Referees (from January 1st 2012) to report in addition on matters previously the province of the BARR Scrutineer were impractical. He was happy to continue to advise local race promoters and to maintain the Avon road race fixture list.

Three other Licence Officers in the South-West had reportedly resigned, and Gordon foresaw problems in finding Race Referees. Local promoters seeking advice on licensing should contact Gavin Lightwood at UKA (glightwood@uka.org.uk).

John Robbins (who had prepared an early paper for the AAA on the role of Race Referee) sympathised with Gordon’s position, and pointed out that the Race Referee was now apparently required to assess the provision of medical facilities as well. He was apprehensive about what would happen if there was a serious problem at a race: would the Race Referee be sued personally?

2. Officials: The South-West Officials Conference on Sunday March 13th at Exeter was both well-attended and successful. New licences, and details of how to access the TRINITY database, were being distributed to officials: some had received both, some just one, others had received neither.
3. Cross-Country: The Wiltshire AA reaction to the tri-County Cross-Country Championships in December had been favourable: the Somerset AA reaction rather cooler. Keith was trying to establish from Bath University the basis for the £300 charge for the event, as he understood that the land raced over was National Trust property. South-West Cross-Country Championships: the Dorset AA was reportedly unhappy about the regular choice of fixture date (first weekend in January); there would be a South-West meeting on Saturday 26th March which would discuss various aspects of the Championships.
4. South-West Council: some members had been uncertain about the nomination process for candidates for election to the South-West Council. Neil Miller would try to ensure that the process was more widely publicised. There would probably be a change of structure of the Council in 2012.

Meeting Closed at about 8.45pm.