

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday March 26th 2012, in Room 2B066, Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol, starting at 7.30pm.

Those Present: Stuart Nunn (Chairman / Yate & District AC), Keith Brackstone (CC Coordinator), John Deaton (Secretary), Mike Down (Bristol & West AC), Rachael Fisher (Vice-Chairman, North Somerset AC), Pam Gooding (Life Member), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Cy Knibb (Bristol & West AC), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), Lesley Nunn (Avon Schools AA), Ben Redwood (T&F Championships Organiser / Yate & District AC), Gordon Robbins (Road Running Co-ordinator, Bitton RR), John Robbins (President), Mike Strange (Life Member), Gareth Thomas (Thornbury RC) Mike Willcox (GWR).

Apologies : Ian Macintosh (Life Member / Trustee), Neil Miller (Westbury Harriers / SW Council).

Minutes of Previous AGM (March 21st 2011): Accepted.

Chairman's Report:

"I won't attempt to pre-empt John's account of the past year, but one or two points are worth making.

"It's easy when reviewing a year's activities to compare what has happened with former times, when the Junior Girls 800m had heats and finals and the county championships were held over two days. While it is patently obvious that times have changed, it would be wrong to conclude that the year has not been successful. The regime put in place eighteen months ago, which required the association's activities to at least pay for themselves, offers another measure of success. On that measure, our competitive activities were successful, but work still needs to be done to ensure that local athletes find suitable and challenging outlets for their athletic ambitions.

"For the last three years local coaches particularly have had the benefit of the England Athletics funded Avon Network. There have been coach development days as well as informal and occasional initiatives within and between Avon clubs. This is now coming to an end, with the result that we are obliged to think hard about how athletics is to be promoted and developed in our area.

"The Network worked because its coordinator, Tim Snowdon, worked efficiently and proactively to develop clubs and coaches -- and through them, athletes -- in our area. We shall miss Tim a great deal and should record our thanks for the valuable service he has given us for the past three years.

"Whatever the future holds, this association needs to be clear about the role it sees itself playing and how this role is to be brought to fruition over the coming years. At the last committee meeting, John Robbins, Keith Brackstone and I were charged with producing a development plan for the association that could be presented to England Athletics. The immediate aim is to ensure that any money made available from Sport England finds its way into our area. Longer term, our identity and purpose needed to be mapped out and understood by all.

"At the committee meeting that follows this AGM we shall be presenting this development plan as it currently stands and inviting comments from all interested parties. Our work on it should now be completed as far as possible and presented to England Athletics so that they can make their plans for showering us with their generosity ...

Some clubs in the county have taken steps to become incorporated, either as Community Interest Companies or Community Amateur Sports Clubs. This association should take advice and check whether we should also take this step. As things stand, I don't know the answer, but we should find out.

Our financial position remains strong with considerable savings in the bank. I merely ask the question at this point: What are we saving this money for? When will we spend it? And on what?

I have already thanked Tim Snowden for the work he has done for the Network. Thanks are also due to Gordon Robbins, John Robbins and Keith Brackstone for the work they have done in organising fund raising events for the association”.

Secretary’s Report: Circulated in advance (copies available on request). Added remarks on Sportshall from Dean Garrett: “Avon's U11 (Primary Age Teams) won the South West (North) Championships again this year, meaning that the Girls have won for the 8th year in a row, with the Boys managing their 7th win in 8 years. There is now a clear pathway from the younger age groups of Sportshall into Dave's U13's etc, with every year more and more athletes from the previous primary squads making the older age groups”.

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). Hilary had been unable to contact the Independent Examiner to arrange examination of the accounts.

Discussion: SN questioned why we needed such a sizeable balance. GR: we need a safety cushion. CK: we may need to finance activities as a partial replacement for the Avon Network. JD: inflation would reduce the value of our balance. JR: Our income has increased, but so has our expenditure.

Election of Officers:

President:	John Robbins	Re-elected unanimously
Chair:	Stuart Nunn	Re-elected unanimously
Vice-Chair:	Rachael Fisher	Re-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	Ben Redwood	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: this post has been in abeyance since the formation of the Avon Network, but would need to be revived when the Network closes. To be referred to the May Committee Meeting: a job description needs to be drawn up.

**signifies subject to their acceptance [Dave Turner has since accepted]

Election of Team Managers:

Cross-Country (Senior and U/20)	Mike Down	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 **

** signifies subject to their acceptance [subsequent note: Ken Holmes and Dean Garrett have accepted].

Cross-Country (other age groups) No nomination. Mike Down and Keith Brackstone were anxious not to be landed with duties other than the Senior / Under 20 Age Groups. Matter to be referred to the May Committee meeting.

Road Running: Dave Coales was re-elected unanimously subject to his acceptance: however there will be no UK CAU Inter-Counties Road Race for 2012, and there is no news yet of any plans for a South-West event.

Election of Trustee: Ian Macintosh was re-elected unanimously for a three-year term.

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

Motion proposed by the Management Committee:

“That the annual Affiliation Fee to the Association be increased to £30”

Carried by 13 votes to 2, with 1 abstention.

Any Other Business:

1. Ray Gooding informed the meeting that the Special Olympics will be held at Bath on Thursday 29th, Friday 30th and Saturday 31st August 2013: at present the organisers had no sponsorship, and were likely to be pressed for officials. Championships events likely to be short of officials during 2012 include the EA U15/U17 Combined Events Championships at Stoke on Trent on August 4th/5th.

Meeting Closed at about 8.25pm.