

Avon Athletic Association (Affiliated to M.C.A.A.)

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held :- 7th March 2005

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

PRESENT : Peter GRIFFIN (President); Graham HOWELL (Chairman); Mike DOWN (Vice-Chairman); Mike STRANGE (Hon Sec); Bill KINGSTON (Hon Treas); Gordon ROBBINS (Road Running Co-ordinator); Mike SMITH (Life Vice President); James MURPHY (Westbury Harriers); Mike Willcox (GWR); Mike ANDREWS (Clevedon AC); Andy HEYES (Cross Country Co-ordinator); Dave Andrews (Thorbury R C); Neil MILLER (Westbury H).

APOLOGIES : Fred Hill (Life Vice President); Sonya ELLIS (AAA of E. SW RDC); Tony HURLEY (Hon Life Member); Hilary NASH (Track & Field Co-ordinator); Ray GOODING (Life Vice President – Officials Co-ordinator); David HUGHES (Empire AC); John CLAPP (Hogweed Trotters).

MINUTES OF 2004 AGM

The minutes were accepted as a true record of proceedings and were duly accepted.
Proposed Mike Andrews; Seconded Gordon Robbins; Accepted Unanimously

MATTERS ARISING

Bristol University Half-Marathon

The Road Running Co-ordinator commented that discussions with Bristol University AC concerning their Half-Marathon had indicated that they would seek the issue of a Permit from Avon AA for their 2005 race. This request did not materialise.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chairman thanked all who had contributed to a successful year of Athletics on behalf of the Association.

COMMITTEE REPORT 2004.

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

STRUCTURE OF ENGLISH ATHLETICS

Much discussion was undertaken at last year's AGM about proposals to modernise 'Athletics' in line with the guidance of the Foster Report. Initially it was difficult to source information on future proposals but now with the appointment of Jack Buckner (whose job it is to present the options to consultation) we believe Avon is able to foresee what the future might hold for us.

AVON AA GENERALLY

2004 saw a consolidation of the Association's status that (to use words from last year's report) sees us continuing to 'operate with a strong organisation that is fully supportive of the needs of our member clubs' and to local athletics generally.

LIFE MEMBERS

As predicted in last year's report Life Vice Presidents and Honorary Life Members were not appointed in 2004. This was in anticipation of worthwhile cases being considered and honoured at our planned 30 year Anniversary celebrations in 2005.

HARRY CRITCHLEY

Harry who stepped down after many years service as a Trustee of the association during 2003 sadly died during 2004. The Association was represented at the Funeral.

WELFARE

UK Athletics have now completed the compilation of their 'Welfare' document. (This includes full coverage of 'Child Protection' issues). As a lead to the Clubs it was encouraged that the County appoint a person to undertake responsibility. The Hon Sec has taken on this responsibility for the time being and it is envisaged that this becomes a full Executive position at some time in the future. From a census of our Clubs a list of Welfare Officers (including Secretaries and others covering this responsibility) has been compiled.

ACTIVE SPORTS

Long after its inception in most 'Counties' the Sports Partnership for Avon (Sports West) is about to introduce 'Active Athletics' into its annual programme. (Sonya Ellis spoke at our 15th November meeting on this subject). The scheme invests a good deal of money and resource into the 'development' of our sport and will be linked closely with this Association. Some aspects of development across each of the 4 Unitary Authorities (working with the Clubs) are : Children to be encouraged to participate in after-school schemes, to establish links between schools and mainstream Athletic Clubs (PESSCL), to Assist Clubs to work toward 'Club Mark', to nurture Talent & Develop Performance, to Support & Develop Coaches, to purchase development equipment. Likely appointments are : Athletics Link Officer, Club Liaison Officers , Community Coaches, Disability Coach, Multi-skill Coaches. The plan funding for the initial period will be circa £ 13,000.00. These proposals should greatly improve the influx of and development of young athletes within our sport. County support is implicit.

PESSCL FUNDING

In support of 'Active Athletics' Sport England money has been made available in the four Unitary Authorities to establish School to Club links which it is hoped will create that much needed link into our Sport for youngsters.

SCHOOLS SQUADS

Development squads of young athletes achieving high placings in Schools Championships continue to operate for both Cross Country and for Track & Field.

FSA GRANTS (Clubmark & Clubs Future)

Empire Sports & Thornbury Running Club are the only local (Avon) clubs to have updated their Clubmark audit status. There is a drive on to encourage our principle clubs to achieve Clubmark and FSA Clubs Future status shortly. Pre qualification to obtaining grant aid from our NGB could be subject to clubs obtaining Clubs Future / Clubmark status.

SPAR SPRINTS SQUAD

This UKA South West sprint squad is now operating at the Bath Indoor Centre under the Spar sponsorship banner.

SW DEVELOPMENT MEETINGS

Highly successful meetings involving the County Bodies making up the proposed South West hub have been held. Groups representing main disciplines (Road Running, Cross Country, Track & Field, Officials & Coaching) were split off to have mutual discussions. Full reports and actions to those reports were published.

DEVELOPMENT MEETINGS

Meetings for Avon Clubs organised by the SW Development Co-ordinator have been well attended. Attendees were kept abreast of the latest developments in the athletics (particularly re-organisation) and frank interchanges of opinions were expressed.

FIRST CLAIM CHANGES

We now have developed a routine whereby the movement of local athletes through the First Claim's Committee are recorded in the appendix of our Minutes

LOGO

Our 'logo' was 'computerised' to provide artwork for the Association's Die. This has made the 'Logo' accessible for application to our documentation. Presentations are now more professional and the image of our Association is enhanced.

STANDARD FORMS

A grant request form was agreed and has been circulated in order to standardise 'grant funding' applications.

An expense form is used informally and it is hoped will be adopted in the future.

FACILITIES

Defects identified at the YOSC & Whitchurch tracks were remedied during the year and both achieved full certification. The Bath University track was eventually cleared for track activity but doubts remain on the certification status of High Jump, Pole Vault and Hammer facilities. Excellent Indoor facilities offering sprints, hurdles, all jumps and throws into nets are fully certified and are a major asset to the local athletics fraternity.

New facilities proposals at Filton College and the City Academy are coming to fruition.

It is helpful that this Association receives minutes of the YOSC Consultative Committee Meetings where the track is a topic of discussion.

VOLUNTEERS

Through the Universities and Sports Colleges there is scope to pick up 'Volunteers' who are quite willing to assist your clubs. We were approached on a number of occasions in 2004 to try to find slots to accommodate. These people initially are required to serve time as a means to achieving their qualification but could go on to become good, active and well qualified members of clubs

FIRST CLAIM CONSIDERATIONS

Some clarification was sought from the MCAA in respect of the Westbury / Yate relationship in respect of First Claim movements. The satisfactory outcome is fully outlined in Committee Minutes.

OFFICIALS (Co-ordinator – Ray Gooding)

VACANT POSITION

Ray Gooding stepped forward to undertake responsibility for this vacant position and has taken on the task wholeheartedly.

OFFICIALS WORKSHOP

The first in a series of Officials 'get togethers' was held at Bath University in October. Our local attendance (6) was slightly disappointing and attendance is recommended as worthwhile for the future.

OFFICIALS REGISTER

When Ray took over this position he set about establishing a comprehensive and up to date list of active officials. Apart from interface with past officials Ray also exposed some shortcomings in the records of MCAA. This resulted in much investigatory work culminating in September with a working list of 37 Officials.

OFFICIALS GRADE 4

A 'Field Officials' course was finally held Avon followed by examinations (which also covered other disciplines). The outcome was that 5 Field & 1 Track Official can be added to our local quota.

LEVEL 1 TRAINING

We now have an accredited UKA Tutor in Avon who is available through UKA to train first stage (Assistant) Officials for all aspects of competition (includes brief coverage of Road, XC & Sportshall activity).

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

We wish to remind clubs that inexpensive training, such as promoted, on the following lines can be obtained through the Sports West Partnership : Child Protection; Coaching Disabled Performers; Equity in your Coaching; Club 4 All; First Aid; Volunteers. Attendances at these Courses qualify as endorsements to existing UKA Coaches and Officials qualifications.

OFFICIALS TRAINING GRANTS

Avon AA continues to offer full grant aid to cover the tuition cost of UKA Officials Education Courses.

COACHING (Co-ordinator – Hilary Nash)

QUALIFICATIONS

Avon Coaching qualifications achieved through the year were : Level 1 (26); Level 2 (10); Level 3 (5); Children in Athletics (16); Fitness in Running & Walking (17). This continues to be an impressive number of new and upgraded Coaches to help our Clubs and development units in the future.

RESTRUCTURING

It is likely that Coaching Qualifications will again be amended to bring them in line with the more universally accepted UKCC Qualification system.

COACHES WORKSHOP

The first in a series of Coaches 'get togethers' to be held at Bath University was cancelled due to a clash of dates but these are to be a planned feature of regular activity in the future.

COACHES TRAINING GRANTS

Avon AA continues to offer grant aid (50%) toward the tuition cost of UKA Coach Education Courses.

UKA SOUTH WEST PERFORMANCE MANAGER.

Martin Rush (who holds the above position) attended our June Committee Meeting and spent time outlining his role and the objectives of the SW Performance Unit based in Bath. Martin particularly emphasised the advantages to local athletes and encouraged their inclusion, where applicable, in his schemes.

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

Andy stepped in to take responsibility for the section when Peter Burton stepped aside mid year. The Champs of course were in 2005 but we can record the event as a resounding success. The venue at Failand was excellent and the support that Andy (suitably supported by Mike Andrews) received from his Club, Clevedon AC was outstanding. This was an excellent achievement when you consider the learning curve the Andy and Mike went through.

INTER-COUNTIES

The combined Avon & Somerset Team had an outstanding day at the 2004 Inter-Counties Championships. The Senior Men won their team race (standard 6 to score) and had also won the 9 to score team race - Ben Noad led the team by finishing 2nd overall and Rob Whalley 4th. Both were subsequently selected for Great Britain at the World Championships. Stephanie Barnes won the Under 17 women's event in style.

TRACK & FIELD (Co-ordinator – Jim Strudwick) **CO-ORDINATOR**

With Jim having limited time due to new working arrangements (working Mon to Fri in London) he was forced to leave much of the organisation of this section to others. The bulk of the work was admirably handled by our Chairman (Graham Howell).

CAU INTER-COUNTIES

The Men's Team of Avon & Somerset did particularly well to finish equal 3rd for the overall Middlesex/Surrey Trophy.

SOUTH WEST INTER-COUNTIES

Avon agreed to participate in the SW Inter-Counties in 2004. With a token team we made a good impact on the Competition winning quite a few events although in overall terms we were only 5th out of the 7 Counties competing. One encouraging feature of this year's event was the inclusion of competition for the younger age groups.

OXFORDSHIRE 'JUNIOR' EVENT.

Avon competed well at this annual event which seems always to be held at a difficult time of the season. With the success of the SW I/C Champs it was felt that we may wish to forego the Oxfordshire event and direct our energies in just the one event in 2005. The planned date for that event is Sun 11th Sept at Horsepath Road track.

WEST OF ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS.

We organised this locally and with the help of a good influx of athletes from Wiltshire the event was deemed a success. 155 athletes competed in 258 events which is far more than the level of participation in our 'Open' Avon event in 2003.

AVON (JUNIOR) CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Although the entry level slipped from 276 to 250 in 2004 it was deemed that this was still a successful and worthwhile event.

MULTI-EVENTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

This event was run on a low key basis again in 2004 and proved a good early season sounding ground for placement of the annual Spring influx of young athletes.

ROAD RUNNING (Co-ordinator – Gordon Robbins)

GENERALLY

Gordon retained his great energy for the 'Road' section through 2004. Difficulties in receiving information and guidance to assist with decisions from the MCAA have caused some consternation. Whereas the information gained from the various South West forums have more than adequately addressed this shortcoming.

FIXTURE LIST

Production and co-ordination of an up to date Road fixture list has become a feature of the current organisation. This list is now interfaced with the South West Road group to further establish a structure of races for the area. A co-ordinated Road / Cross Country fixture list would assist in avoiding such clashes that occurred with our XC Champs recently.

NON-AFFILIATED FEES (Runners)

It is proposed that the fee per race entry for non-affiliated runners increases from £1 to £2. After much discussion with the MCAA Gordon is still waiting to formally receive the proposal for comment and subsequent dialogue with race organisers in the area. The crucial unanswered question is "where will this additional revenue go"? All County Permit Secretaries in the South West appear to be asking the same question.

NON-AFFILIATED EVENT PERMIT FEES

A fee to this category of 'Organiser' (making them non voting affiliates) was implemented in 2004 to cover those organisers for public liability insurance purposes. This arrangement appears to apply differently in the various Areas and the initial fee of £20 applied to the MCAA. Subsequently it appears that this fee may increase to £ 30.

SW ROAD RUNNING FORUM

An excellent forum for the often neglected Road Running fraternity meets on a regular basis under the guidance of the SW RDC. Group discussions cover many points of mutual interest and the outcome is a very co-ordinated aspect of our Sport in the South West.

BATH HALF MARATHON

A good deal of consternation has been created over the required permit conditions for the 2005 Bath Half following the unsatisfactory observations of the 2004 event. The Bath organisers (a limited Company) received a letter soon after 2004 event stating quite clearly the race aspects that needed to be attended to if a race involving 5,000 athletes was to go ahead in future years. Without satisfy any of our stated requirements Bath proceeded to increase their target entry to 10,000 people. This stalemate was further exasperated at a late stage when the Midlands (without any dialogue with the County) appointed Midland Championship status to the race. (A permit has recently been issued 2005) but the lack of co-operation from Bath and from MCAA will be the subject of strong letters in the near future.

SPORTS:HALL (Co-ordinator – Dave Tuner)

COUNTY CHAMPS

Inaugural County Champs were held in Warmley in March with a very good turn out of Young Athletes.

FUN IN ATHLETICS

Strong teams from both Bristol and South Gloucestershire competed in the South West final at Torbay in January.

SPORTS:HALL (South West Final)

Avon teams under the team management of Dave Turner & Hilary Nash were extremely successful at this event in Exeter. In the girls events Avon finished (8 teams competing) 3rd in the Under 13 age group and 4th in the Under 15 group. Even better both boys teams won their groupings and qualified for the National Final as did Jade Ellans and Rob Trinnick who won their respective 'All Rounder' competitions.

SPORTS:HALL (National Final)

The two qualifying boys teams finished 3rd (Under 13) & 5th (Under 15) with Jade Ellans succeeding as Champion in the Vertical Jump event (with a pb).

AVON SCHOOLS (Representative – Jim Strudwick)

LINKS WITH THE ASSOCIATION

Liaison with the Schools Association improved marginally 2004 primarily due to the presence of Lesley Nunn as a constructive link with this organisation.

SOUTH WEST SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Primarily due to the fact that Senior events are no longer catered for in the Midlands (Mason Trophy) Track & Field Championships it has been decided that Avon Schools will compete in the South West Schools Champs in the future.

30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

PETER GRIFFIN

We are indebted to Peter, our President, for the efforts that he has made in 2004 and to date to bring together all of the multi-aspects of our Dinner, including arrangements for the Ties, to make this a momentous occasion.

Thanks Peter.

THE DINNER

Plans are well advanced for the Dinner Dance in celebration of Avon's 30 year existence. This event will be on Saturday 11th June 2005 at the Corus Hotel (formerly Redwood Lodge) in Beggar Bush Lane, Abbots Leigh, Bristol. David Hemery has indicated his would be honoured to attend as our Guest of Honour, and we seek to bring together a wide cross section of our friends and colleagues involved in Athletics. We urge the all Members, Associates and friends make every effort to support this celebration evening.

ASSOCIATION TIE

As mentioned above our Chairman has covered an enormous amount of ground in having designs prepared, seeking approvals from the Committee and finally coming up with a universally acceptable Association Tie. Please buy one.

LIFE MEMBERS

It is proposed that Life Members be approved at the AGM and honoured and formally presented with their plaques at the Dinner. It was accepted that the people best positioned to select new Life Members would be those already in position and nominations and considerations now come from those existing Life Members.

WEB SITE (Co-ordinator – John Deaton)

John Deaton has worked hard to establish the Avon AA website and you are all invited to access it on www.avon-aa.org.uk.

RANKING LISTS & PERFORMANCE DATA (Compilers Mike Sheridan & Mike Strange)

Comprehensive Ranking Lists were again compiled - this year these lists are particularly relevant in the identification of talented athletes for the new Active Sports scheme.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer presented the accounts as listed below but did not seek acceptance as the Audit was still in progress.

Account for the period 01-01-2004 to 31-12-2004

	Income			Expenditure	
	2004	2003		2004	2003
Road Running	£ 4,848.50	£ 6,314.00		£ 643.66	£ 251.33
Cross Country	----	£ 904.00		£ 938.91	£ 1,470.98
Track & Field	£ 1,805.00	£ 1,000.00		£ 1,666.34	£ 1,194.48
Affiliation Fees	£ 190.00	£ 180.00		£ 25.00	£ 25.00
Bank Interest	£ 113.52	£ 64.00		----	£ 8.56
Sundry	£ 150.00	£ 209.62		£ 851.33	£ 1,888.66
Grants	£ 500	----		£ 2,696.87	£ 2,462.00
Secretary's Expenses	----	----		£ 142.39	£ 97.42
Other Committee Expenses	----	----		£ 100.70	----
	=====	=====		=====	=====
Totals	£ 7,607.02	£ 8,761.62		£ 7,065.20	£ 7,398.43

Bank balances at 31-12-2004

Current	A/C £ 3,408.13	(£ 2,395.21)
Deposit	A/C £ 14,698.73	(£14,585.21)

Notes on the above Accounts (Year ending 31-12-2004)

1/ ROAD RUNNING

Our principle Income is generated by the Bath Half Marathon £ 2,301 (£ 2,61.50 in 03) & the Bristol Half Marathon £ 2,460.50 (£ 2,058 for 02) (Bristol 2004 race income comes in 2005).

2/ CROSS COUNTRY

Lack of Income reflects the fact that the 2004 Championships were hosted by Somerset. Our expenditure reflects £ 437 paid to Somerset to cover 50% of the net loss – takes into account the Costs to attend the Inter-Counties & the purchase of medals for the 2005 Championships.

3/ TRACK & FIELD

Our Income is significantly increased because we increased our entry fees & the second day (West of England Champs) drew income from outside of the County.

4/ GRANTS

The £ 500 was received from the MCAA in respect of Young Athlete development. Expenditure can be broken into two a) Coach Education Grants £ 1,145.00 & b) other grants £ 1,551.87 which includes £ 750 to Avon Schools AA.

5) SUNDRY

Income relates to £ 150 received from Bitton RR while Expenditure relates to £ 451.35 (Life Members Awards), £ 249.98 (Photocopier held by Hon Sec) & £ 150 (deposit for our 30th Anniversary Dinner).

MATTERS ARISING

Audit

It was indicated that the accounts had not been Audited at this stage.

Reconciliation

It was pointed out that the Income / Expenditure differential did not equate to the increase in stated Bank Balances. The discrepancy was put down to the value of cheques issued but not shown as cashed on the Bank Statement.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President-		Peter	Griffin
Chair-		Graham	Howell
Vice	Chair-	Mike	Down
Hon	Secretary-	Mike	Strange
Hon	Treasurer-	Bill	Kingston
Coaching	Co-ordinator	Hilary	Nash
Officials	Co-ordinator	Ray	Gooding
Road	Running Co-ordinator	Gordon	Robbins
Track	& Field Co-ordinator	Vacant	(interim cover by Graham Howell)
Cross	Country Co-ordinator	Andy	Heyes

Proposed (en block) – Mike Andrews; Seconded - James Murphy; Elected Unanimously

Team Managers

Road / Cross Country Men	Mike	Down
Track & Field Men	Ken	Holmes
Track & Field Women	Pat	Swinbank
T & F Young Athletes Boys	Hilary	Nash
T & F Young Athletes Girls	Vacant	(interim cover by Hilary Nash)

Proposed (en block) – Mike Strange; Seconded – Mike Andrews; Elected Unanimously

Trustees – Iain Macintosh; Ray Gooding; Peter Griffin.

Auditors – Andrew Jackson, Malcolm Swinbank

Trustees Peter Griffin for re-election + Auditors

Proposed (en block) – Mike Strange; Seconded – Andy Heyes; Elected Unanimously

ELECTION OF LIFE MEMBERS

Life Vice Presidents

Mike Down
Graham Howell
Mervyn Kemp
Bill Kingston
Derek Morrison
Barry Smart
Jim Strudwick

Honorary Life Members

Pam Gooding
David Palmer
Pat Swinbank
Dave Turner

Proposed (en block) – Peter Griffin; Seconded – Mike Strange; Elected Unanimously

30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

DINNER

The Menu was chosen from a selection of alternatives :

Menu 'A' – Carrot & Coriander Soup; Breast of Chicken; Strawberry Cheesecake; Coffee. + Vegetarian Option.

Tickets to be £ 20 each. Subsidy applies.

6 white + 3 red bottles of wine agreed for the top table.

Agreed to purchase a small gift for the Guest of Honour + Bouquets for the ladies.

ASSOCIATION TIES

Agreed to be priced at £ 10 each

GUEST LIST

Guest of Honour –	David Hemery
SW RDC -	Sonya Ellis
MCAA -	Geoff Durbin
Glos AA -	Carolyn Franks
Somerset AA -	David Cooke, Ian Humphries, Clive Thomas.
Wiltshire AA -	Geoff Brewer
Bristol City Council -	Georgette Van Hoof
Bristol Junior Sport -	Dave Travis
Bristol University -	Bob Reeves
UWE -	Mike Hibbert
Bath University -	David Saker
Bristol Schools AA -	Ken Holmes
Press -	Kevin Fahey

COST TO THE ASSOCIATION

Neil Miller was joined by a number of members in requesting an estimate of cost to the Association. The figure of circa £ 1,000 was proffered based on the items discussed and agreed and this was accepted.

It is understood that this Dinner is a subsidised event and that the event is not destined to be an annual undertaking.

A.O.B.

SOLE SISTERS RACE

Officials were reminded that Sole Sisters have an annual Louise Stratton Memorial Run on the BAWA Playing Fields coming up shortly and they would be pleased to receive some timekeeping / judging assistance.

SOUTH WEST INTER-COUNTIES TRACK

It was agreed that we will send a team again to this event to be held on 24th July 2005 at Exeter. It was commented that unfortunately the event clashes with one National Junior League event and unless the date can be changed we are likely to take very few Under 20's to the match.

OXFORDSHIRE JUNIOR INTER-COUNTIES

In view of the success of the former event it was decided that we would decline the invitation to the Oxfordshire event.

MIDLANDS JUNIOR ATHLETICS GRANT

A grant of £500 is again offered by the MCAA toward the development of Junior Athletics. It was agreed that we apply on the basis of Transport for our Juniors to the SW Inter-Counties event on this occasion.

VOLUNTEER FAIR

Athletics will have a table at the Volunteer Fair to be held at Coombe Dingle on 25th April (6.30 till 8.00 pm) and local clubs are requested to support the event in an attempt to gain a few valuable helpers.

COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Committee Meeting is scheduled for **Mon 16th May, 7.30 pm**, Civil Service Club, Bristol.

AGM CLOSED

At 9.56 pm.