

Avon Athletic Association

(Affiliated to England Athletics)

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Held :- 3rd December 2007.

At Civil Service Club, Filton Avenue, Bristol.

PRESENT : Peter GRIFFIN (President); Graham HOWELL (Chair); Mike DOWN (Vice Chair); Mike STRANGE (Sec); Mike ANDREWS (Treas); Ray GOODING (Officials Co-ordinator); Bill KINGSTON (Life Member); Barry SMART (Life Member); Mike WILLCOX (GWR); James MURPHY (Westbury Harriers); Richard GWYN (England Athletics).

APOLOGIES : Gordon ROBBINS (Road Running Co-ordinator); Andy HEYES (Cross Country Co-ordinator); Hilary NASH (Coaching Co-ordinator); David TURNER (Sports:hall Co-ordinator); David COALES (Team Manager XC); Pam GOODING (Life Member); Lesley NUNN (Avon Schools AA); Hugh BURCHARD (Environment Agency); Ann SINGER (Portishead Running Club).

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Acceptance

The Minutes were accepted as a true record of the Meeting.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

SECRETARY

County Budget

Has been completed (apologies) but is now immaterial as we are now at the end of this financial year. The budget does indicate a projected spend of £ 12,000 and not the £7,000 that was conveyed at the last meeting.

County Development Plan

Accepted in principle by EA.

North Somerset AC

You were all circulated to be informed that EA was proceeding with the confirmation of Affiliation for this Club. Juliet Coe had come forward as someone in this club who could work toward the establishment of accepted practice. EA SW have spent a good deal of time working with them on Club:mark procedures and felt the time was right to move forward. The club is listed on EA latest list of affiliated clubs.

Hilary Nash wrote with opinion to the Regional Manager on behalf of Bristol & West AC.

However Juliet Coe has now had to withdraw from activity for personal reasons. It is hoped that her position can now be filled by Jane Wakefield.

It is interesting that NSAC have not applied for affiliation to this Association?

MACD

Ken Holmes, a long time Midland Coach intends to test out the intentions of the MACD when he travels to Finland for a Coaching Conference.

TREASURER

Unaffiliated fees

More detailed information on dues paid to Avon AA recently is:

Paid by MCAA £3,827.25 (including £3,125 from the Bath Half) and

Paid by England Athletics £809.

Training Grants

Harry Webb thanked the Committee for the Grant awarded to him.

OFFICIALS

Level 1 Course.

The course arranged at the request of Yate had 21 Attendees, 18 from Yate & 3 from Bristol & West.

COACHING

UKA Sprint Conference (at Bath) was voted one of the best ever attended. Frank Dick was inspirational, Mike Smith entirely realistic and Jason Gardner gave a real insight into his training (start) routines.

MAIN MEETING

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Resignation

Hilary Nash resigned as Coaching Co-ordinator. Hilary's is heavily committed to Athletics as well as being involved with other organisations outside of the sport. However as we all recognise overload can set in and Hilary feels that he cannot do justice to everything that he is committed to. As a result he feels that his position with Avon AA is one that he should withdraw from. Hilary expressed a desire to continue his association with Avon AA and intends to attend Committee meetings whenever possible. The Committee spoke of their respect of Hilary's opinion and all understood but expressed disappointment in his decision.

Action – Secretary to write and express gratitude for the work done by Hilary.

Proposed – Peter Griffin

First Claims procedure

You will note from the Minutes appendix that EA are now issuing First Claim change notifications even though the previous MCAA committee members are seconded to consider changes applicable to Central & South West England.

Facilities

- **Hengrove Park Developments (Athletics Track)**

Bristol & West AC wrote to the leader of Bristol City Council to support an application to full Council on the above project. The Avon Chair wrote a letter supportive of one from Bristol & West concerning proposed facilities at Packers.

However from subsequent information it looks like the Whitchurch Track will now have an extended life with the replacement at Packers / Filton now not due until Phase 2 of Hengrove Park in 2010. BCC are looking to what needs to be done to maintain standards at Whitchurch for this extended period. A Track Inspection for that purpose will take place on Wed 5th Dec at 2pm.

Members expressed this view at the news "it is very disappointing that the 7th largest City in the UK had no competition facility to offer for Athletics". Members were encouraged to express these views directly to Bristol City Council.

- **Bath University**

Bath is now due for its 5 year certification. It is said that they have plans to re-instate the Throwing Cage back in the centre of the track.

- **Fairfield School**

A 6 lane sprint straight has been created on the new Fairfield School sports area off Muller Rd, Bristol

TREASURER'S REPORT

Current Balance's

Total £ 29,544.14

HSBC Current £ 9,115.85; HSBC Deposit £ 10,428.29; HSBC Deposit Bond £ 10,000.00

Performance Grants

We agreed to pay out grants totalling £525 in this half year tranche at 8 @ £50 for Grade1 performances & 5 @ £25 for Grade 2 performances.

COACHING REPORT

Assessors

Dave Turner & Mike Strange attended a course on Assessor Training and need to be involved and assessed at the final Level 2 Coach Course at Bath in two weeks time.

Level 1 Coach Education

A level 1 Course is planned for Nailsea on Sat 19th Jan 2008.

OFFICIALS REPORT

Level 3 Course – Yeovil

This new Course to establish training with electronic aids (EDM, Photo Finish, False Start Equipment) was held at Yeovil on 20th Oct 2007 and four Officials from Avon attended.

Barry Smart attended a later course held in Birmingham.

SW Indoor Champs

Once again it seems that we are crying out for Officials. For this event only 1 starter & 3 field officials have been identified for 8th Dec. A call goes out to anyone that can to assist.

EDM Training – Bath Univ

No evidence of attendance on this course has yet materialised?

Officials Secretary's Forum Group

(Notes from a Meeting at Exeter on Sat Dec 1st)

- The Form 10 is now defunct?
- The Regions will forthwith take over responsibility from UKA for the training and qualification of all L1 & L2 Officials. UKA currently has a high workload and it was felt that passing responsibility to the Regions would be more effective. Greater control is required as there appear to have been evidence of abuses recently.
EA SW want to impress that applicants not only take the course but also provide clear evidence of experience in their log books and work sheets. Final approval of qualification requires signature from the original course tutor. A flow chart indicates this procedure.
- Assessment Reports for regrading (Level 3 to Level 4) were submitted in October on the basis that 2007 was the last opportunity for upgrading under the old system. However these reports were rejected by the Midlands on the basis that they were not in accordance with further NEW level 3 requirements? However at this meeting we were made aware that the SW Region were still accepting old system assessment reports? Different standard for different areas?
- However we did at that meeting acquire a UKA published document "Current Position in Respect of Upgrading / Education & Governance of Officials". This states quite clearly "2007 is the last year when Officials can be upgraded under the old regulations". As a consequence Maureen Bullen at MCAA and Sonya Ellis at SW have been written to requesting that these Assessment Reports be reconsidered.
It seems that selected Officials from both the old South & Midlands Territories have been 'fast tracked' recently! A good deal of resistance still appears to exist in the Territories to meeting the new UK requirements.
- A flow chart circulated for Competition purposes indicates agreement by SW, EM & WM Regions to unite to form a panel for the joint consideration of Officials to the UKA T&F Appointments Panel. SW are generally happy with this arrangement but are not happy with the representation of the Officials appointed to the Peer Group Committee. This matter is ongoing.
- A South West Officials Conference is planned for Sun 20th Jan 2008. It will follow the conventional format and will include 'Endurance Officials'. Details are being formulated at this time but an early appreciation of the numbers of Officials wishing to attend from Avon would be appreciated.
- Ray Bell the Wilts Officials Sec has moved to Oxfordshire (Faringdon) but has given no indication whether he will remain as an officer of that County.

UKA Database

Confusion still seems to reign in respect of the UK Officials data-base. Records seem not to be maintained and now there is an intention to responsibility to a private company. No decisions on exactly what information will be available to Regional & County bodies. The Officials Sec submitted 40 applications from endurance officials but has no feedback on Levels awarded to each or even whether the nominations were received.

Health & Safety (Risk Assessment)

It is understood that UKA will not recognise attendance at the H&S Course arranged by Avon AA at YOSC on 16th March 2002. The recommendation is re-attend at a future UKA Course to validate licences.

Further restructuring

Maureen Bullen informs from the MCAA that UKA intends to limit Officials at Level 4. Limits will be even more restrictive at Level 5. Maureen says that Midlands Officials are very unhappy with what has been announced so far about the next intended new structure. All without satisfactory endorsements will revert to Level 2. The question of losing established Officials once again becomes a topic.

Expenses

The MCAA may be reticent to pay full expenses to South West Officials participating in their promotions due to the need be careful with their future level of expenditure. If this proves to be the

case the South West Committee has agreed to make good any shortfall to avoid SW Officials being penalised.

UK School Games

A response is still awaited to the letter to UKA expressing his feeling that local qualified Officials should be involved in this prestigious meeting.

Level 2 Course.

A full Level 2 Course (all disciplines) is planned for Gloucester on 8th Dec. It would seem that no Avon Officials are anxious to participate.

ROAD RUNNING REPORT

Unaffiliated Income

As an estimate we are likely to receive circa £ 3,784 from EA for the Bristol Half Marathon held last September, and circa £ 4,000 from the Bath Half Marathon in March 2008. These are likely to be the last major contribution from unaffiliated fees to our funds.

Mike Willcox asked how Race Organisers were to identify dishonest unaffiliated runners declaring themselves as affiliated runners under the new regime. No answer was forthcoming as all is shrouded in the Data Protection Act?

South West RR Champs

It was disappointing that we did not have a team in the South West Road Running Champs. The circumstances are well documented.

Endurance Officials Course

Following our very successful course earlier in the year it was disappointing that a follow up course in October suffered a considerable number of drop outs at the last minute. The next planned local course will be in Taunton on 2nd Feb 2008.

Race Referee

You are all asked to note that a suitably qualified 'Endurance Official' must act as Race Referee. This rule will take effect from Jan 2008. (Other qualified race officials eg timekeeper, finish judge are no a current rule requirement).

Mike Willcox, who now is qualified as a Race Referee, asked how clubs would know who were qualified officials. Ray Gooding referred to his earlier comment on the UKA Data Base.

Public Address System

The Public Address system purchased by Avon AA is now available for use. Contact Bitton Road Runners who are the guardians of the equipment..

RRLG

Road Running Leadership Group information has been circulated and drew no specific comment although Mike Down did comment with apprehension at the venture into the 'Virtual RR Club'.

CROSS COUNTRY

A & S Champs date

Some discussion developed on the choice of date for the Championships. Members were called to task over not recognising that the date for the Avon & Somerset Champs coincided with the date of the Gloucester League. An event that some Avon Clubs have chosen to major on this year.

It was reflected that fixture congestion and the need to be timely to select for the South West Inter-Counties were predominant in making the choice. A suggestion was made that in planning for next season we could vie to host a Gloucester Lg fixture in Avon and merge this in with our County Champs.

South West Champs Entry Forms

These forms were distributed on 3rd Dec.

Selection

A meeting to select teams for the South West Championships will be held on Mon 17th Dec.

Grant to Somerset

Somerset AA are looking for a contribution in the order of £ 200 toward this years Championships as Millfield School have this time chosen to charge for the event facility.

It was decided after discussion that we defer our commitment until final event costings emerge.

Action – Treasurer to follow up with Somerset AA

TRACK & FIELD

SW Indoor Champs

These inaugural Championships are planned for Bath University on Sat 8th Dec and Dave Saker will organise on behalf of Bath University for the South West Region.

Competition Structure (County Champs)

In response to Lesley Nunn's paper viewed at the last meeting, Hilary Nash has contributed his thoughts. (Circulated with Minutes Notes).

Bill Kingston asked if there was a demand for U20 Combined Events competition. This seems in his opinion to be an omission from the proposal. It was commented that if there is good demand for Combined Event Competition then a separate fixture should be held.

Note below – we still have a commitment to consider this fully before the next season.

Action – Committee to consider this issue before planning for the next Track season.

SPORTS:HALL REPORT

Dates for 2008

Avon Schools Champs – BGS, Bristol, Sat 19th Jan 2008.

Sports:hall National Final – NEC, Birmingham, Sat 12th April 2008.

AVON SCHOOLS AA

XC Champs

These Championships are to be held at Blaise Estate on Sat 8th Dec. There is an awareness of a shortage of Officials particularly Timekeepers.

SOUTH WEST REGION REPORT

Election of Council Members

Council Members are required to step down after a period in office to allow for the election of new blood. Mike Down, Keith Reed & Jack Buckner have been encouraged to step down in this first election situation since the initial election appointments. The Committee felt it important that someone from the County attempts to seek election so that the views of the County can be conveyed to Exeter.

Regional Squads

Alan Thomas from Yate AC has made a successful impact with the Endurance squad at Regional Squad sessions.

Disability Athletics

The South West Championships for junior Disabled Athletes will be held at Exeter on 12th May 2008.

WESPORT REPORT

First Aid Course

One representative from Avon attended the First Aid Course at UWE on 1st Dec.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS/ CLUB NEWS

Avon Inter-Counties (CAU Champs) representation

The President, Peter Griffin feels that he has now completed his second Avon Records task, compiling a list of Avon Medallists in the CAU Championships.

MEETING CLOSED

At 9.31 pm

Next Meeting Date – Mon 18th February 2008.

MINUTES APPENDIX - FIRST CLAIM CHANGES

England Athletics, Meeting 24th September 2007

Applicable from 01/10/07

From Westbury H to Bristol & West AC – Emma CHAPMAN

England Athletics, Meeting 22nd October 2007

Applicable from 01/11/07

From North Devon AC to Bristol & West AC – Matthew HART

From Kettering Town Harriers to Bristol & West AC – Sally OLDFIELD