

Avon Athletic Association

(Affiliated to England Athletics)

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Held :- 18th February 2008.

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); Gordon ROBBINS (Road Running Co-ordinator); John DEATON (Webmaster); Bill KINGSTON (Life Member); Barry SMART (Life Member); Mike WILLCOX (GWR); Lesley NUNN (Avon Schools AA); Ann SINGER (Portishead Running Club), Tim HAYSOM (Portishead Running Club); Arthur RENSHAW (Thornbury RC); Stuart NUNN (Yate & District AC); Keith BRACKSTONE (University of Bristol).

APOLOGIES : Hilary NASH (Coaching Co-ordinator); Andy HEYES (Cross Country Co-ordinator); Pam GOODING (Life Member); James MURPHY (Westbury Harriers); Neil MILLER (Westbury Harriers); Gareth THOMAS (Thornbury RC); Richard GWYN (England Athletics).

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Acceptance

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

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

SECRETARY

MACD

Ken Holmes had followed through the indication from MCAD that they would support Coaching Grant requests from Midland Area Coaches. We are pleased to report that MCAD have given an undertaking to support half the cost for Ken to attend a Javelin Conference in Finland.

TREASURER

Performance Grants

'Performance Grants' were distributed and we record letters of thanks from Bethany Jones & Emily Diamond.

OFFICIALS

Letters from the Secretary urging UKA to utilise 'Local Officials' at the UK School Games have so far not received a positive response.

Form 10

It now appears that Form 10 (despite information conveyed and noted at the last Committee Meeting) will continue to be utilised by Officials when recording their activity profile over a season.

COACHING

Assessors

Mike Strange & Dave Turner completed their Coaches Assessor course with a practical session at Bath Univ and are now duly appointed.

TRACK & FIELD

SW Indoor Champs

This inaugural event held at Bath University went well but was a low key event. It is intended to raise the event profile in future years.

MAIN MEETING

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary

Club:mark

The Meeting congratulated Westbury H (who follow Yate AC) in being awarded their Club:mark Accreditation. The Secretary noted that Bitton RR & TeamBath AC have also submitted files for accreditation.

Facilities

Bath Univ

The Bath Univ track had an inspection recently with positive outcomes. Planning for adjustments to make ready for hosting the UK School Games later this year are established and should benefit Clubs & Athletes using the facilities generally.

Whitchurch

A Track Inspection was completed recently with a view to establishing costs involved in the event of the track remaining open for a few more years.

Nailsea School

Tim Haysom asked about the possible building of a track in the development of Nailsea School. He had seen it on plans for the development and was particularly anxious to know whether it would be an all weather facility.

No-one at the meeting was aware of this project.

Action – Secretary to enquire

AGM

The Secretary requested that people think about appointments to positions at the forthcoming AGM. In particular a vacancy exists as Hilary Nash resigned as our Coaching Co-ordinator prior to the last Committee Meeting. Graham Howell continues to cover the Track & Field Secretary's role and would welcome someone stepping into that role. We therefore seek nominations for positions to be elected at the AGM.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Current Balance's

Total £ 28,826.87

HSBC Current £ 8,071.10; HSBC Deposit £ 20,755.77. No HSBC Deposit Bond

Unaffiliated Fees

£ 170 Received from England Athletics covering the following races : Oldbury Fun Run; Oldbury Power Station 10Mile & Team Bath 5k road race.

Avon AA Affiliation

The Secretary asked for a view on the current situation on Affiliations to this Association. In view of our needs for future funding it was generally accepted that we would cease circulation of Minutes etc to those choosing not to pay our affiliation fee.

Action – Treasurer to provide an Affiliation list.

Grants

Avon Schools AA

Lesley Nunn on behalf of the 'Schools' stated that they would be seeking a Grant and outlined forthcoming funding needs. She stated that they need to pay out £5,500 in costs to get teams to Liverpool & Gateshead for the two ESAA Championships. Athletes have been asked to contribute £55 each.

Proposal 'that we contribute £ 750.00' Proposed Bill Kingston ; seconded Peter Griffin. Passed unanimously.

Grant

Joe Dalglish

Joe correctly applied for a grant toward Altitude / Warm Weather training.

It was agreed that this application could be considered under 'Performance Grants' and was duly deferred until the Winter Grants were awarded.

Action – Secretary to bring back to the meeting with other Winter Grant considerations.

Bristol Half

Evidence of payment from the Bristol Half Marathon (held last September) has still not been received although we are assured that it is in process to be paid soon.

COACHING REPORT

L2 Course

The Core of this course was held at Bath Univ over this previous W/e. Some Avon Coaches were in attendance but it is unknown at this stage how many.

Neil WINTER

Has been fast tracked thru Level 2 by virtue of his International background and current Coaching engagements.

OFFICIALS REPORT

EDM Certificate

EDM Certificates have now been received and distributed. It is required that Officials complete a work sheet to prove experience with the equipment and will provide evidence when working toward the new new Level 3 Grading.

L2 Course

A Level 2 Course was held at YOSC yesterday with attendance from 16 candidates including 6 from Avon.

Endurance Course

An Endurance Officials Course was held at Taunton on 2nd Feb with 4 attendees from Avon.

ROAD RUNNING REPORT

RRLG

Road Running Leadership Group 'elections' are taking place around this time but it should be noted that Avon AA do not qualify for a vote?

Enquiries to Mike Summers were thus :

Q "I see from AW today that RRLG Elections are taking place currently. As Avon AA (a properly affiliated organisation) have not been notified can I assume that we do not qualify for a vote?"

A "The only groups that qualify for votes are (i) representatives of affiliated clubs with a declared affiliation for road running and (ii) directors / promoters of UKA-permitted races. County associations do not qualify in their own right.

I hope this clarifies."

On a personal basis the Secretary recommend to clubs who might be considering voting 1/ Nigel Jones – Level 5 Timekeeper, BARR Scrutineer, organiser of Swansea 10k and Road / Xc organiser for many years in Wales. Well known to Ray Jaekels and was Chief T/k at this year's Bristol Half. 2/ Nigel Rowe who we all know primarily as Chair to the SW Council and organiser of the Plymouth Half Marathon. (standing for re-election).

We also note Andrew Taylor is up for nomination for races in excess of 4,000 competitors and is the only nomination – it is therefore likely that he will be returned without a Vote.

ERRA Elections

ERRA elections are imminent and we are asked through the AAA to vote by 12th March 2008. Our choice is Mike Neighbour or Graham Jessop.

It was decided that we would decline the privilege of voting in what we consider now to be an irrelevant body.

CROSS COUNTRY

CAU Inter-Counties

A team selection meeting was held on Monday 11th Feb for this event to be held at Nottingham in March. Alan Thomas (Yate) & John Nash (WH) joined with the regular selection panel.

SW XC Forum

It is now unlikely that the SW Lg will proceed in the Winter of 2008 due to the difficulty in bringing the various established leagues together on mutually convenient dates. The Gloucester Lg are being approached next week to sound them out.

County Vests

Mike Down requested that an extra tranche of County Vests be purchased. He also requested that we look at the design because in the opinion of the cross country faction the vest was not easily recognisable to supporters. On the question of additional cost to the association it was recommended that we look to sponsorship opportunities.

Action – Committee to consider

TRACK & FIELD

Track & Field Champs

The selected date of our one day all age group Championships will be Sunday 11th May 2008. Entries will close one week before and the format will be the same as last year.

Competition Structure

Lesley Nunn stated that after discussion with the Chair it had been decided not to further pursue her proposals at this time.

On the basis of this decision Lesley outlined that she had then pursued the opportunity of integrating the South Glos district schools trials / championships into this County event. (Or for that matter any of the district schools trials for the other unitary's). However the youngsters do not currently pay an entry fee for their trials. Therefore discussion explored whether it would be possible to incorporate district trials activity but to waive the charge. This would clearly enhance the number of young athletes competing at our Championships and would create the bond between county and the schools that is an understood objective of the Competition Structure proposals. This would encourage many school age competitors to try our Championships.

Proposals therefore were that we cover the costs of our Junior Championships fully (do not charge for entry). These Champs currently cost circa £ 900 to put on and individual Schools don't fund. We would limit kids to three events to avoid unlimited entries to avoid a scenario where an athlete then chooses to only do one or two events. Test water.

On this basis Mike Down proposed "that we fund the 'Junior Champs'". Bill Kingston Seconded. Approved unanimously

Mike Down also suggested that we write to EA SW to outline our proposal so that this bringing together of County & Schools might be adopted in other Counties and request that they Grant Fund the shortfall that we expect. It seemed to the floor to be impossible as a County to receive grants from EA these days.

Action Secretary to write to Nigel Rowe & Sonya Ellis.

Action Mike Down to raise this issue at the SW Council.

The floor offered Lesley Nunn a vote of thanks for the hard work that she had put into this proposal.

Proposed Peter Griffin – Unanimously supported.

SW Inter-Counties Champs

The selected date for 2008 is Sun 3rd Aug. and the venue is Exeter Arena. However this date does directly clash with the Midland League commitments of Yate and Bristol & West and the Gloucestershire clubs.

The Secretary has already communicated to MCAA who have passed it on to League Secretary's and to EA SW.

With the Mid Lg it needs a consensus of participating clubs to effect changes which is unlikely. With the SW the date is as preceding years and those top athletes who choose to do the league can still be selected on past performances for the subsequent representative match in Belgium.

Midland Lg

This league has now opened up to 'B' Teams and clubs need to apply immediately if they are to be considered.

SPORTS:HALL

FIA

The Avon Team was successful in winning both boys and girls sections in the Northern SW U11 Final at UWE Bristol. A week later they chose to travel to Torbay to compete in the Southern SW U11 Final that they also won.

Sports:hall

In the SW finals at Torbay the U13 boys & girls teams were successful as winners and now proceed through to the National Finals in Birmingham. The U15 boys were 2nd and the U15 girls were 4th so unfortunately do not qualify for the final.

AVON SCHOOLS AA

XC Champs

Were held at Blaise on Sat 8th Dec. and the County team was selected based on these results. There is an awareness that there was a shortage of Officials on the day, particularly Timekeepers.

South West XC Champs

The team performed well with a win for the Junior Girls and 2nd places for the Inter Boys & Inter Girls (after rescored). Richard Peters and Hannah Alderson each achieved Silver Medals.

SOUTH WEST REGION REPORT

Council

Elections to the South West Council will come up soon – the Secretary requested that clubs participate by voting if required.

Neil MILLER has been accepted as a Candidate and is likely to be returned unopposed.

Avon did nominate Neil and due to the timescale it was done without too much consultation! We trust that no-one is opposed to this action.

Neil apologised for his absence at this meeting and wrote thus :

"I am standing for election to the SW Council (I have had confirmation of receipt of application from the Electoral Reform Society – it all seems very formal!). If elected, I want to try to coordinate and raise the profile of the various cross-country events around the region, which often seem to fall 'below the radar' on the endurance fixtures lists. I am also interested in exploring ways of bringing more youngsters into running. And, of course, I would be able to carry the views of Avon county and clubs to the attention of the SW Council. Enough electioneering, I am starting to sound like a politician! Regards, Neil"

Officials Peer Groups

For the SW these have been established to draw a balance from the old territory demarcation. i.e. Avon & Gloucestershire are represented on each panel as well as the old South West.

Territories

The previous Territory known as Midlands now includes the South West and is known as Central & South West by England Athletics. The other two areas are South & North.

Resignation – Neil Parsley has left the employment of EA South West.

Appointment – Tracey Linstead has now joined the EA Staff at Exeter as Administration Assistant.

AAA / MCAA

Notification was received of the AGM on Sun 16th March at Birmingham. No one from the floor offered to attend this Meeting.

It would seem that they will necessarily have to cut back their operation massively to make a small operating profit.

From the annual AAA report received it would seem that the MCAA still do not know how they will finance competition with only entry fees to support expenditures.

CLUB NEWS

Bitton Road Runners

BRR were pleased to remark that their multi-terrain race, the Sodbury Slog was voted by Runners World to be the second most popular race in the UK for 2007.

Bitton Road Runners

The new secretary for the Club is Karen Dawkins.

Contact details : 2 Drake Close, Saltford, Bristol. BS31 3LW

Tel 01-225-345271 e kedawkins@blueyonder.co.uk

Portishead Running Club

Tim Haysom gave his contact e-mail address as : tim@haysom.mobi

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Club:mark

Mike Willcox enquired - With the loss of Neil Parsley from the South West office who will pick up responsibility for Club:mark. Mike is particularly anxious for someone to meet with his Committee at GWR to extol the advantages of being Club:mark accredited.

ARC

Arthur Renshaw enquired on the current impact of ARC. Gordon Robbins reported that 6 clubs in the Avon area are currently affiliated (most of these are dual affiliated to England Athletics). Around the UK Gordon estimated a Membership of circa 120 clubs.

Minutes

The secretary stated that Minutes had previously been distributed to Clubs on the periphery of affiliation but who he felt could be attracted into the Association. In view of the fact that distribution can become expensive he felt now that people who continue to be informed without ever making a move to affiliate should now be disassociated. This view was unanimously supported

Westbury Harriers

Peter Griffin regretted that he would be unable to attend our AGM due to a clash of dates with the Westbury AGM. This situation obviously applies to other Westbury affiliates. Peter did however appreciate the difficulty experienced in finding a suitable alternative date when our meeting room would be vacant.

MEETING CLOSED

At 9.25 pm

Next Meeting (AGM) Date – Mon 31 March 2008.

APPENDIX

FIRST CLAIM CHANGES (can also be found on the EA web site)

England Athletics, 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

England Athletics, November 2007

Applicable from 01/12/07

From Wells City H to Team Bath AC – Tracey HALLIDAY

From Thornbury R C to Westbury H – Charlotte LESLIE

England Athletics, December 2007

Applicable from 01/01/08

From WG&EL to Bournemouth AC – Adam POTTER

From Vale Royal AC to Bristol & West AC – Stephen MITCHELL

England Athletics, January 2008

Applicable from 01/02/08

From Salisbury ARC to Team Bath AC – Gemma YOUNG

From Westbury H to Valley Striders – Maureen COFFEY

Information

Some dates for your Diary

2nd Feb – Endurance Officials Course @ Taunton. Information from EA SW at Exeter

17th Feb - Level 2 Officials Course @ YOSC. Information from EA SW at Exeter

1st March - South West Conference & Dinner Information from EA SW at Exeter

9th March – Child protection Conference @ Aztec West. Information from Wesport.

10 / 11 May – County Champs w/e Track & Field – TBC

14th June – County Schools Champs @ YOSC (Your availability would be valued).

3rd August – SW Inter-counties @ Exeter – Clashes with Midland League?