

Avon Athletic Association (Affiliated to England Athletics)

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING Held :- 29th January 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); Gordon ROBBINS (Road Running Co-ordinator); Hilary NASH (Coaching Co-ordinator); Barry SMART (Life Member); Bill KINGSTON (Bristol & West AC); Ann SINGER (Portishead Running Club); Chris JONES (Portishead Running Club); Gareth THOMAS (Thornbury Running Club); David COALES (City of Bath AC); Lesley NUNN (Avon Schools AA); Stuart NUNN (Yate & District AC).

APOLOGIES : Andy HEYES (Cross Country Co-ordinator); Pam GOODING (Life Member); John CLAPP (Hogweed Trotters); David HUGHES (Empire AC); James MURPHY (Westbury Harriers); Mike WILLCOX (GWR); Hugh BURCHARD (Environment Agency); Richard GWYN (England Athletics).

The Chairman began proceedings by welcoming Chris Jones attending as Chair of the recently formed 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

TREASURER

Grant Applications

Bristol & West AC requested that the grant awarded to their member Lloyd Rice be paid through the club for redistribution to the athlete.

Action - Treasurer to pay.

Westbury Harriers grant for the re-imbursement of the purchase of road traffic cones (a Council requirement for the County Cross Country Champs) – these cones should be made freely available to other clubs when required and should be considered the property of Avon AA.

Action – Secretary to advise Westbury

Harriers.

MAIN MEETING

SECRETARY

Club:Mark

It is believed that the Club:mark file prepared by Yate AC has been approved and that the awarding of their Accreditation is imminent. The Westbury Harriers File is also gaining favourable response by England Athletics.

Gareth Thomas enquired on behalf of Thornbury Running Club whether they already had been awarded such accreditation. The Secretary informed that to his knowledge Thornbury had satisfied a Clubs:future audit but due to the fact that they did not cater for Young Athletes then Club:mark was not applicable to that Club.

County Vests

There was some consternation about the suitability (sizes) of County vests for the SW Inter Counties XC Champs. The outcome however was that no real problems were encountered although a few more Men's medium size would have been helpful.

Facilities

Bath University track has had some problems with their Floodlights. The stanchions came down in high winds and some stress effects detected on the poles have caused a need for repair.

Packers – Bristol & West are now having regular meetings with BCC on this facility. Talks on the building of an indoor sprint & jump straight (based on the Bath facility) at the Russell Town Av main site have been held.

England Athletics

The EA AGM will be held on 31st March 2007 beginning at Noon in the Perry Park Complex of the Univ. of Central England.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Current Balances

HSBC Current - £7,735.27; HSBC Deposit – 10,119.33; HSBC Deposit Bond – 10,000.00.

Unaffiliated Fees

Received cheque for the MCAA for Unaffiliated fees of £4,440.50. This figure includes £4,133.50 attributed to the Bath Half Marathon.

For information the previous 'Unaffiliated' payments from MCAA were £3,620.00 for April, May & June 2006 (Incl. Bristol Half at £3434.50) & £921 for July, Aug & Sept.

First Aid Course

After agreeing to retrospectively support clubs costs for those Coaches / Officials seeking First Aid qualifications we note that Chris Elson & Simone Lowrey attended recently for Bristol & West AC and a number of Yate AC Officials attended under their quest for Club:mark accreditation.

Affiliation reminder

The annual reminder has been sent to clubs and the following have now made payment :

Somer AC; Nailsea Running Club; Empire AC; Yate & District AC; Portishead Running Club; Clevedon AC; Great Western Runners; Axa AC; City of Bath AC; Sole Sisters; Avon & Somerset Constabulary Tri Club; Fry Club Joggers; Bristol & West AC & Hogweed Trotters.

This represents 14 of the 25 affiliated clubs.

Transport / Coaches

The Treasurer requested that negotiation take place with Coach operators with a view to selecting a formal 'best deal' for the County. It was accepted that this was a preferred course.

Action - Treasurer

Polo Shirt Payment

It was agreed that payment for Officials 'Polo Shirts' could be paid direct by the Officials Co-ordinator and then reclaimed.

Grant Applications

Clevedon AC – Chip system

Clevedon applied for a Grant towards their substantial but forward thinking outlay on a 'chip system' to enable them to streamline the timing and judging systems connected with races that they organise.

It was stressed within the Application that Clevedon annually organise County Road Championships plus the bi-annual Avon & Somerset Cross Country Championships and have throughout given full support to County activities. The outlay by the club would appear to be in the order of £12,500, involve initially 1,200 chips and would require a good deal of specially written software to prepare computers to deliver their system.

Discussion centred on Clevedon's ambitions for the system outside of their own delivery. Some question asked were : "Would the County or it's clubs benefit from wider availability of the system", "would this become a Commercial proposition for the club", "would they be seeking high return on their investment". As so many questions remained unanswered it was decided to defer the granting of any grant award until a full picture could be clearly defined.

Action – Write to Clevedon AC to seek clarifications

Avon Schools AA

Lesley Nunn on behalf of Avon Schools presented an Application for a Grant Award primarily to support the travel and expense of taking the Cross Country Team to Leeds in March 2007. The total cost of the trip was estimated at £2,200 for which the participants would contribute £35 each. The Secretary hoped that in awarding a further grant to the 'Schools' they might work more closely with this organisation in view of the fact that we had always been seen to fully support their events and activities.

Grant Awarded £500 – Proposed Mike Down, Seconded Peter Griffin, Unanimous.

COACHING

Talent Squad (SW)

Squad meet dates are :Sun 7th Jan & 4th March at Bath; 18th Feb & 25th March at Exeter and are to incorporate the BMC training Camps on 31 March /1 April.

MCAA Coaching Fund

We are aware that the Midland Coaching Committee has now decided to concentrate its efforts on the new East Midlands & West Midlands Regions. This well funded group has we believe taken with it all of the

funding handed over from MCAA. The MCC previously served Gloucestershire and Avon yet there has been no talk of assisting them in their Coaching ventures. The matter was discussed and resolution passed that the Secretary write to MCAA for clarification of the situation.

Action - Secretary

Coach Education Grants

The South West are offering 50% Grants toward Coach Education in an effort to bolster the number of qualified Coaches operating in the Region. Conditions apply and application forms are available from the Secretary.

UKA Level 3 Endurance Course (Pilot).

In an effort to satisfy the needs of the Endurance sector UKA are planning to organise a new Coach Education L3 course. The pilot Course will be free of charge. Alan THOMAS has been suggested as a person who may wish to attend from this County.

OFFICIALS

UKA Dealings

- We recently received a current list of registered Officials from UKA. We were previously unaware of 3 Level 5 Endurance Officials in our area who work with BARR.
- By definition T & F Officials will now be known as 'Technical Officials' & RR & XC Officials will be known as 'Endurance Officials'.
- Colin Adlam had been left off the UKA list of Technical Officials and we have requested his name be re-instated.
- The total number of registered Technical Officials at L2 and above stands at 24 (+ 6 at L1), however 14 at the most is the figure that we would expect to be available for Avon AA Meetings!

Officials Education

The Endurance Officials course was held on Jan 21st and a good number of Local Officials attended. Completed paperwork has been returned to UKA.

Health & Safety (Risk Assessment)

UKA have been notified of the names of the 15 people who attended the Course held at YOSC on 16th March 2002.

South West Officials Forum

Report on the Meeting of SW County Officials (Chaired by Keith Reed) at Exeter on 2nd December.

- Intend holding designated events for regrading purposes in the future.
- Intend organising courses for EDM; Wind Gauge; Photo Finish.
- Considered it essential to have an identifiable 'Meeting Manager' at all meetings.
- Considered the Level 1 qualification as pointless.
- Prefer that applicants go directly to Level 2 – this does include an introduction to Officiating.
- George Williams is still the Officials Secretary for Gloucestershire. Albert Gardner is however currently organising Courses and arranging attendance at matches for new Officials.
- No-one from Gloucestershire, Wilts, Dorset or Cornwall attended this meeting.
- Next meeting was to be at Bournemouth but has been cancelled.

Polo Shirts

17 shirts @ £259.20 (includes badge set up cost) were collected and paid for. A discount of £1 / shirt was given for prompt payment on a reasonable size order. Invoice passed to Treasurer. (See note in Treas Report)

5 late orders could be expected from a few individuals who have as yet failed to respond so it was queried whether the 'approval to purchase up to a maximum of 25 shirts' at the last meeting still stood. (The number of shirts was not minuted). It was confirmed that the agreement stood.

World Trials & BUSA XC Champs – Bath University

Originally asked to provide 4 Timekeepers, 4 Recorders and 2 Starters but due to selection of other timekeepers by UKA local finish Officials will now act as recorders or funnel operators. This late change of arrangements has caused our Officials Co-ordinator to feel reluctant about being asked to organise Officials for future similar events.

Qualified Officials

After extensive checking through MCAA it would appear that there is no evidence that Martin Davies is a qualified Technical Official. Martin has been informed of the current pathway to qualification.

ROAD RUNNING

Road Race Promotions

It was made clear to the floor that all Road Races from 2008 will require qualified Officials to be in charge.

Permits

The new permits under the England Athletics remit are now being issued by the Permit Officer.

Permit – Bath Half Marathon

Norman Wilson is now issuing the Permit for this race on behalf of MCAA

Race Diary

Issue 21 of this useful calendar of Road Races was issued today.

Safaricom Half Marathon

A team of Bristol representatives are being brought together to compete in this event in June. Formal ties are being created with Kenya with a view to the Kenyan Olympic Team being based in Bristol / Bath for the 2012 Games. A call went to Avon clubs to find recruits to participate in the event.

CROSS COUNTRY

Avon & Somerset Champs.

These joint Championships were successfully incorporated into the Gwent League Races held at Blaise

Estate on Dec 2nd. Judging and Timekeeping was conducted by the regular Gwent team and Somerset used Video to verify the positions of their finishers. Life was therefore simplified for us. We wish to record our thanks to Westbury Harriers and the Gwent League as well as Andy Heyes and his organising team.

South West Inter-Counties

This event was extremely successful although it was felt that Officials from Avon were over prominent in the organisation and we would wish for further involvement to develop across the Region in the future. It was observed that no permanent Officers of the Region were in attendance on the day.

Ironbridge Runners have been positively identified for future Sponsorship.

The weather was wet and entries numbered circa 800 with 500 to 600 actual runners.

Avon achieved the following : **Women** 1 – SW; 3 – U15; **Men** 2 – SM (count back with Devon); 1 – U20; 1 – U15; 1 – U13:

Clubs B & W 1 – SM, U20M; U13M; U20W & U17W. Westbury 1 – U15B.

Individual Winners Rob Whalley, Heidi Moulder, Stephanie Barnes, Craig Peters & Naomi Speake.

Future Champs will be held at venues rewarding participants with reasonable journeys. The example of the Southern Champs being in Norwich this year that in fact was further by 100 miles than the Northern Champs in Manchester.

Thought was that with the MCAA Champs being very badly supported this year it may be a positive move to upgrade the SW Champs to the prime XC objective for Clubs in future years.

CAU Inter-Counties Champs

A Committee of Dave Coales, John Nash, Dave Taylor, Mike Down & Ian Humphreys (Somerset) will meet at Kings College, Taunton, on 16th Feb to select the appropriate teams.

South West League

It is now a firm intention that the inaugural SW XC League will commence next season.

TRACK & FIELD

2007 Track & Field Championships

The date of our combined West of England Champs & Avon Junior Champs is Sunday 13th May. It is expected that the meeting will commence at 10am and a long day can be expected. However it was again considered to be more acceptable than a two day meeting.

South West Inter-county Championships

Will be held on 5th August at Exeter Arena.

Records

The President distributed the latest update on Records achieved at Avon County Champs. He will pass on responsibility to the Secretary and Chairman to amend and finalise for this year's Championship programme. For those records Bristol & West confirmed that they changed their name from Bristol AC on 1st Sept 2004.

SPORTS:HALL

The South West area champs for U13 & U15's will be held at Torbay on 3rd March and the National Finals at the NIA on 22nd April.

Fun in Athletics (Under 11)

The County Team did rather well against 11 other competing teams at Torbay on 20th Jan. the Boys 'A' team finished 1st and the Girls 'A' team finished 3rd. Of the 'B' teams our Boys were 2nd and Girls 1st. Talent was drawn across the County for this event and support sponsorship came from Wesport (as well as the County's support for travel).

SOUTH WEST REGION REPORT

South West Council

Both of our representatives on the Council are dissatisfied with the way this group is heading. Of primary concern is the fact that they are now precluded from discussing EA matters and are confined to those directly affecting the Region.

South West Conference

The Annual South West Conference (with a Dinner on the previous evening) will be held on 11th March at Exeter. County representatives are encouraged to attend.

South West Consultation

'Affiliation' – Tuesday 27th February 2007, 7pm – Exeter Golf & Country Club

John Temperton from Athlete Services is due speak to the Region to inform on the new England affiliation system.

Power of Ten Awards

It would appear that athletes appearing in the top rankings of Power of Ten are being receiving small bursaries from the Region. It was queried whether this status was being extended to include endurance athletes from their status in Road & Cross Country categories.

Action – Secretary to enquire.

WESPORT REPORT

The partnership is now holding periodic Meetings with NGB's and representation is present from EA South West. It is also foreseen that this will be extended to meetings with County Associations in the future.

AVON SCHOOLS AA

Cross Country

This Cross Country season reaches its peaks with the Avon Champs this coming weekend at Blaise, then the SW Champs will be on 3rd March and the ESAA Champs on 24th March.

CLUB NEWS

City of Bath AC

A Special General Meeting is to be held on Wed 31st Jan 2007 to discuss and vote on the proposed tie up of the Club with Team Bath. If the new club is verified it will be called Team Bath AC.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MCAA – The Future

Questions were asked about the future for MCAA. The Secretary stated that their role as a 'Competition Provider' had not changed but their interface with the new structure did not seem to be fully defined. The question of funding was the main stumbling block and the consequence of being self funding would be the high cost of Championship entry fees.

Avon Athletics Development Plan

Ray Gooding raised the question of when the current County Development Plan would be reviewed. The Secretary stated that the existing Plan was less than a year old and was still a relevant document. It was agreed that the Plan would need to be reviewed and re-issued later in 2007. It is interesting to note that the present Plan for the County has been offered as a template of good practice to the other Counties in the South West Region.

MEETING CLOSED At 9.36pm Next Meeting (AGM) Date – Mon 2nd April 2007.

MINUTE APPENDIX

COACH EDUCATION DATES

Level 2 (SW20032) Core – Bristol, Ashton Park School – Sat/Sun 10/11 Feb 2007 (18 places left)

Level 2 Event Specific – Bristol, Ashton Park School – Sat/Sun 24/25 March 2007

F.I.R.W. (SWFRW24) – Bristol, Ashton Park School – Sat 10 Feb 2007 (4 places left)

OFFICIALS EDUCATION DATES

Road Race Officials Course – Y.O.S.C. Sun 21st Jan (10.00am) (No Charge)

First Claim changes – MCAA, Meeting 20th November 2006

Applicable from 01/11/06

From City of Bath AC to Wessex & Bath AC – Tom BEER

From City of Bath AC to Wessex & Bath AC - Lucy BEER

Applicable from 01/12/06

From Thames Valley H to Bristol & West AC – Patrick WOODISE

From North Devon AC to Bristol & West AC – Chris BADDICK

Applicable from 01/04/07 – HCC Only (UKWALg)

From Bristol & West AC to Cardiff AAC – Emma HEATH

Note held still awaiting correct paperwork: (correct cheque)

From Bristol & West to Clevedon AC – Vito GRAFFAGNINO

From Welsh AA – web site

Applicable from 01/12/06

From Yate & District AC to Cardiff AAC – Sara BARRY