

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee meeting, held on Monday January 31st 2011, in Room 2B066, Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol, starting at 7.30pm.

Those Present: Gordon Robbins (Chair, Road Running Co-ordinator, Bitton RR); Keith Brackstone (CC Coordinator), John Deaton (Secretary), Mike Down (Bristol & West AC), Rachael Fisher (North Somerset AC); Cy Knibb (Bristol & West AC), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), Lesley Nunn (Avon Schools AA), Stuart Nunn (Yate & District AC), John Robbins (President), Tim Snowdon (Avon Network), Gareth Thomas (Thornbury RC) Mike Willcox (GWR).

Apologies : Hugh Burchard (Environment Agency Harriers), Bill Kingston (Bristol & West AC), Jim Murphy (Westbury H. /Welfare), Neil Miller (Westbury Harriers / SW Council), Mike Strange (Life Member).

Minutes of Previous Meeting (November 29th 2010): Additional Apology: Andy Heyes (Clevedon). The proposed new licence number would be 7 digits not 9. With these amendments, the minutes were accepted.

Matters Arising not covered elsewhere in the Minutes:

1. Presentations Evening: Tim Snowdon had now received his award.
2. South-West Council: Neil Miller is continuing to raise the matter of County communication with England Athletics representatives and with regional council members.
3. GW Running Club (Swindon): Gordon Robbins had contacted EA but they were not prepared to do anything. The Wiltshire AA were not consulted about the affiliation of this club.
4. Officials Secretary reimbursement: John Deaton had prepared a letter for discussion with Ray Gooding.
5. Avon AA Coaching Course Subsidies: As the subsidy year would run from May to the following AGM, the required meeting attendances for grant eligibility would run from May to March of the following year.

Secretary's Report: Matters covered elsewhere in the minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Hilary Nash presented his first draft of the Annual Accounts, showing a provisional deficit of £566-23. There were several outstanding affiliation fees from 2010: Hilary would invoice these clubs when requesting their 2011 affiliations. There were some applications for coaching course subsidies still to be processed. The Treasurer was authorised to transfer some funds to an appropriate fixed-interest account.

Officials Secretary's Report: Ray Gooding was not present. However the following items were reported:

1. EA's new Officials Coordinator for the South-West is Jayne Reed (officials-sw@englandathletics.org), with Barry Parker taking responsibility for the Midlands.
2. There will be a Level 2 Officials Course in Somerset on Saturday March 19th: more details awaited.
3. Re-alignment of Track and Field Officials Grading System: Ray Gooding's recommendations for re-grading of officials had all been accepted and the relevant officials notified.

Road Running Matters: Gordon Robbins outlined UKA plans to do away with County Road Race Licensing Officers: they also proposed that the roles of BARR Scrutineer and Race Referee be combined, which Gordon considered unworkable. The Avon County 4x5M Relay using the Bristol to Bath Railway Path was arranged for Sunday April 3rd; a permit had been issued, and entry forms were being circulated; athletes aged 15 or over on the day of the race were eligible to take part. Bath Half Marathon permit: Gordon Robbins was in dialogue with Ed Warner of UKA.

Track and Field Matters:

1. Avon AA Open Track and Field meetings: Cy Knibb had circulated details of the planned meetings, on the evenings of June 22nd, July 13th and August 3rd (all Wednesdays), at the Kip Keino Stadium. He was prepared to consider amendments to the programmes, notably the inclusion of 400m Hurdles.
2. Avon AA T&F Championships: discussed under "Avon Schools Matters"

Cross-Country Matters: Reports from Keith Brackstone (Avon AA Cross-Country Coordinator) and Neil Miller (SW Cross-Country Coordinator) had been circulated in advance (further copies available from the Secretary).

1. Tri-County Cross-Country Championships: These went ahead at Bath University on Sunday December 12th: the event raised a surplus of £304-22 for the Avon AA, with surpluses for the other counties too. However the entry numbers were disappointing, (possibly due to a clash with the Gloucester League the previous day?), particularly in the Under 13 Boys; it is clear that separate County Championships would have made losses for each organisation. The meeting approved the idea of the Tri-County Championships, and of the availability of on-the-day entry (although Somerset opposed this), and approved of the Somerset AA suggestion that team competitions should be held on a tri-county basis rather than county-by-county. Keith Brackstone was authorised to negotiate arrangements for future tri-county events.

The meeting passed a vote of thanks to Keith Brackstone for his work on the Championships.

2. South-West Cross-Country Championships: this went ahead successfully at Bicton on Sunday January 9th: there were reasonable numbers of Avon athletes competing, but probably less than optimum representation. Mike Down proposed that in future teams should be selected in advance and athletes notified so that they could submit entries. Neil Miller stressed that the championships were still regarded as primarily an inter-County event.
3. UK CAU Cross-Country Championships (Birmingham, Saturday 5th March): Mike Down and Keith Brackstone would shortly be meeting their Somerset counterparts to select teams. More on-the-day help with team management would still be required.

Sportshall Matters: The County Aviva Sportshall Athletics Finals [event name corrected] would be held at the UWE Sportshall on Tuesday February 15th (Primary Schools: morning; Secondary Schools: afternoon). Help would be appreciated; one representative per club would be permitted to attend for recruitment purposes. South-West Finals are at Paignton on Saturday February 5th: National Finals date to be announced.

Avon Network Matters: An Avon Network meeting had been held on January 19th. Tim Snowdon had circulated details of various courses; there will be an Athletics Leader course at Taunton on Sunday March 20th, and a UKA Coach Award course at Filton College on the weekend of March 12th/13th with extra days on April 23rd and 17th July: all such courses face cancellation if they do not meet attendance requirements (some courses in other areas have already fallen victim to this ruling). Funding for Wesport Competition Managers would cease at the end of March; Schools Sports Partnerships would continue until the end of the Summer term. From September there would be funding available to support school sport, but it would be up to individual Head Teachers how it is allocated. Wesport is still discussing with Government and local authorities what they can do to maintain the Competition Manager role: the situation is fluid.

Avon Schools AA Matters: in response to the Avon Schools AA request for financial support, the Development Sub-Committee had met with Lesley Nunn to discuss ways of easing the Schools' financial situation. The most promising avenue to explore appeared to be a joint Avon AA / Avon Schools AA T&F Championships in June, thus potentially providing one vibrant event rather than two of lesser impact, and saving on charges for track hire and first-aid services. There would need to be some level of charge for all junior competitors (however this could also be implemented at an unmodified Schools Championships).

John Deaton , Lesley Nunn and Mike Strange (programme) and Hilary Nash (Finance) would look in detail into the feasibility of such a meeting, ready for a sub-committee meeting on February 28th, leading to a Committee on March 7th which would decide to proceed with separate or combined Championships for 2011.

[POST-MEETING NOTE: The Avon Schools AA and the Avon AA Officers have now agreed that the Combined Championships event is not a practical proposition, and that the plans will be dropped].

MCAA / EA / UKA Matters: The proposed EA e-membership scheme has been scrapped.

Stoke Gifford Athletics Stadium Limited: There is still excessive demand for track use on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Principal of Filton College is assuming that the local athletics community should finance the maintenance and repair of the Track after the first ten years: Keith considers that this is unrealistic. The Avon AA would now standardise on the name “Kip Keino Stadium” for the track (as opposed to the managing company of the facility) and “Whitehall Athletics Arena” for “Packers”.

AGM Arrangements: The AGM would be held at the Civil Service Sports and Social Club on Monday 21st March. The meeting agreed to submit the following addition to the Constitution:

“NOTE: All references in the Constitution and Rules to matters “in writing” shall be taken to include submission by e-mail”.

Any other item (other than normal AGM business) for inclusion on the Agenda would need to be submitted to the Secretary by February 21st 2011. No motion to amend affiliation fees would be tabled.

Club News: Gareth Thomas has now become Chairman of Thornbury Running Club [post-meeting note: the new Secretary is Nigel Hale, 2 The Paddocks, Thornbury, BS35 2HP. Email nigelhale@blueyonder.co.uk , Telephone 01454 884042].

Any Other Business: None.

Date of Next Meetings: The next meeting will be the AGM on Monday 21st March at the Civil Service Club [NOTE: obsolete note about an earlier meeting has been deleted]. **Meeting Closed** at 10.00pm. approx.

[Please note: there is increased demand from other organisations for the meeting room at the Civil Service Social Club: we may have to use alternative venues more often]

APPENDIX A

Changes of Eligibility affecting Avon clubs (November and December)

Edward	Allen (U15)	Yate & District AC to Team Bath AC	e.d. 01/01/2011
Stephen	Goss	Exeter Harriers to Bristol & West AC	e.d. 01/12/2010
Annika	Jarman	Lancaster & Morecambe to Bristol & West AC	e.d. 01/01/2011
Michael	Johnson	Cardiff AAC to Bristol & West AC	e.d. 01/12/2010
David	Miller	Great Western Runners to Serpentine	e.d. 01/12/2010
David	Moss	Great Western Runners to London FrontRunners	01/01/2011
Jayne	Pemble	Great Western Runners to Westbury Harriers	e.d. 01/12/2010
Sylvia	Tang	Fry Club Joggers to Rolls Royce Harriers	e.d. 01/12/2010
James	Taylor	Stroud AC to Bristol & West AC	e.d. 01/01/2011
Andrew	Woods	Hastings AC to Bristol & West AC	e.d. 01/12/2010