

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday January 30th 2012, at the Civil Service Sports and Social Club, Filton Road, Bristol, starting at 7.30pm.

Those Present: Stuart Nunn (Chair, Yate & District AC), Keith Brackstone (CC Coordinator), John Deaton (Secretary), Mike Down (Bristol & West AC), Rachael Fisher (North Somerset AC), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Bill Kingston (Life Member), James Murphy (Westbury Harriers/Welfare), Lesley Nunn (Avon Schools AA), Ben Redwood (Yate & District AC), Gordon Robbins (Road Running Co-ordinator / Bitton RR), John Robbins (President), Barry Smart (Life Member), Gareth Thomas (Thornbury RC).

Apologies : Hugh Burchard (Environment Agency Harriers). Pam Gooding (Life Member), Cy Knibb (Bristol & West AC), Neil Miller (Westbury Harriers), Hilary Nash (Treasurer), Tim Snowdon (Avon Network), Mike Strange (Life Member), Mike Willcox (GWR).

Minutes of Previous Meeting (November 21st 2011): accepted.

Matters Arising:

1. UKA Rule Proposals for 2012 onwards:
 - ... the "Disqualification after one false start" rule would come in for Under-17's and Under-20's, but only from April 1st 2013;
 - ... Under-15 Boys would run 300m, not 400m, in Championships and in the National Young Athletes League, but other promoters were free to make their own decision;
 - ... An athlete would be allowed to change their First claim club once a year with only a minimal administrative period between with no further penalty: athletes changing more than once a year will be subject to the current rule of four months.
 - ... Track and Field permits would be required for meetings at Level 2 (County level) and above (so presumably the Avon AA Open Meetings would not need a permit)
 - ... Not implemented: a ban on Under-15's running two 1500's on the same day; a ban on Under-17's competing against Seniors.
 - ... The Secretary would clarify what had happened regarding a proposed ban on Under-13's running two 800m races in one day, and on Westbury Harriers' resolution on endurance age groups
2. The date of the Rodway Easy Runner race had been changed to Sunday March 11th.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary reminded members that the AGM was scheduled for Monday March 26th, and would be in Room 2B066, Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus. Motions for debate at the meeting needed to be with him by Monday February 27th.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's draft Annual Accounts and a report had been circulated. Matters arising:

- ... a delayed application from Hogweed Trotters for two coaching subsidies would be met, as the delay had been the Association's fault.
- ... an application for a grant towards costs for the 2011 GWR Mob Match [Ambulance cover £140; Marker tape £6-08] was approved; Gordon Robbins would discuss the 2012 event with Mike Willcox.

Stuart Nunn asked whether the Association might be willing in principle to give support to the purchase of adjustable Steeplechase barriers (total cost around £4,000) at the Yate track; South Gloucestershire Council had claimed to have no money to provide these. The Secretary pointed out that the Avon AA itself currently would not benefit directly from this spending, and that the Treasurer was as yet unaware of this possible financial

commitment. Delegates wondered whether there were sources of potential grants: the Secretary would look into this.

Officials Secretary's Report:

1. Arrangements for the Level 2 Officials course at Filton College on Sunday March 4th were proceeding, with some applications already received.
2. UKA is now leaving it to the Police to decide whether someone was suitable to use Starting Pistols; possession of a UKA Officials ID card specifying "Starter" is helpful in this respect.
3. UKA apparently no longer recognise Mike Strange or Ray Gooding as Officials Tutors (reason unknown).
4. A South-West Officials Conference is scheduled for March 2012 (no more details yet)

Road Running Matters:

1. Gordon Robbins had brought the Rodway Easy Runner 6M MT race forward to Sunday March 11th. Gordon's main concern now was obtaining enough marshals and other volunteers. To ease permit arrangements, Gordon had registered the Avon AA as an Associate Member of the Association of Running Clubs (ARC); he would deduct the affiliation fee (£10) from the race entry money.
2. Two recent races in Gloucestershire had been cancelled because of problems with police requirements. Similar problems should not arise with races in Avon, but Gordon would keep an eye on the situation.
3. Avon Road Race Championships 2012: it was agreed that the Oldbury 10M would serve as the 10 Mile Championships, with the Clevedon Midsummer 10K and the North Somerset Relays (if being staged) as the 10K and Relay championships
4. Darren Wrintmore (Wiltshire AA) wishes to organise a Tri-County 10km. Road Race Championships.

Track and Field Matters:

1. T&F Championships 2012: The meeting would be covered by the permit issued by UKA to all County Championships held on the recognised weekend (12th/13th May). In line with the new UKA ruling we would adopt the 300m event rather than 400m for Under 15 Boys. Ben Redwood had not heard back from Wiltshire whether they wished to use the West of England Championships again as their U20/Senior Championships.
2. Youth Development League: the Secretary had attended a Roadshow in Birmingham outlining the plans to combine the National Young Athletes League (NYAL) and the National Junior League (NJAL) under a single administration. The proposals were for separate U13/U15 and U17/U20 competitions: the Secretary had gained the impression that there was general support for the U17's moving to the U20 competition. However Lesley Nunn considered that this move was not desirable, and that the plans for two meetings on one weekend could prove problematic. The Secretary was dubious about the proposed League divisional structures. The Association's NYAL clubs are urged to send delegates to one of the remaining Roadshows.

Cross-Country / Trail / Fell Running Matters:

1. Tri-County Cross-Country Championships: The event had gone well, although the number of entries was disappointing. The Avon AA's share of the meeting surplus was about £90; the Somerset AA and Wiltshire AA share of the meeting surplus had been sent on to the respective counties.

2. National Inter-Counties Championships: Keith Brackstone and Mike Down were due to meet their Somerset counterparts shortly to discuss selection for this event (Cofton Park, Birmingham, Saturday March 10th). Keith had contacted all clubs likely to have contenders for selection.
3. South-West Cross-Country Championships: Neil Miller had suggested that the next event should be held on December 9th 2012 (a likely date for the next Tri-County Championships). The early January date provided problems with team selection. One possible scenario: if the Bristol McCain Challenge could be moved to the end of October and incorporate the Tri-County Championships then the Gwent League clash in mid-November could be avoided and the SW event could take up the freed December date.

Sportshall Matters: The Avon Schools Trials had been held on Saturday 14th January, and selection for the Avon team would be underway soon.

Avon Network Matters:

1. In an e-mail to the Secretary, Tim Snowdon had pointed out that funding for the Network would run out at the end of July 2012. Since the last meeting, a Race-walking workshop and a half-marathon training day had been held.
2. The meeting then discussed Stuart Nunn's updated Network discussion document. The meeting felt that the local competition provision is satisfactory, but that future development provision should perhaps be more athlete- rather than coach-oriented. The Network successor body could be built around increased use of the CCSO's, but delegates considered it probably better that the body had a locally-based administration.

Keith Brackstone, Stuart Nunn and John Robbins would meet again to produce an updated document of Network proposals, with more detailed financial proposals: this version would have a limited circulation.

3. The Network successor body needs to give thought to exploiting the Olympics legacy effect.
4. The meeting agreed to support the report's recommendation of an affiliation fee increase, and to submit a motion to the forthcoming AGM that the affiliation fee should be increased to £30.

Avon Schools AA Matters: Tim Snowdon (now Chairman of the Avon Schools AA) passed on his thanks to those who had helped out at the Avon Schools AA Cross-Country Championships and at the Avon Schools Sportshall Championships / Trials.

Stoke Gifford Stadium Ltd. Matters: There were still some time slots available for hire, although some Wednesday dates in the near future would be taken up by backlogged football fixtures.

MCAA / EA / UKA Matters: None.

Club Matters:

1. Bristol & West AC are promoting Junior Development events at the Whitehall track on Wednesdays 28th March and 24th April, to which other clubs would be welcome to send athletes. They are also promoting an Open meeting on Tuesday July 24th at the Kip Keino track.
2. Thornbury Running Club have raised £1,300 for their adopted Charity for 2011: "Hammer Out" (supporting those with Brain Tumours: www.hammerout.co.uk)
3. Yate & District AC's Coaching Coordinator is now Mark Lodge.

Any Other Business: UKA are now sending CRB forms to those whose clearance is due for renewal , so there will be no reason to use activists with lapsed CRB's in sensitive situations. Those whose CRB falls due for renewal around May 2012 are urged to process their form promptly, as there could be a backlog of applications from Olympics volunteers.

Date of Next Meeting: AGM plus abbreviated committee meeting on Monday March 26th at UWE; the following meetings will be on Monday 28th May and Monday July 23rd, both at the Civil Service Sports and Social Club.

Meeting Closed at about 9.45pm.

APPENDIX A.

Changes of Eligibility affecting Avon clubs (November and December)

Rebecca	Courtenay	Cheltenham Harriers to Bristol & West AC	e.d. 01/12/2011
Hayley	Green	Bristol & West AC to Swansea Harriers	e.d. 01/01/2012
Stephen	Hollier	Clevedon AC to North Somerset AC	e.d. 01/01/2012
Annika	Jarman	Bristol & West AC to Lancaster & Morecambe	e.d. 01/01/2012
Diana	Kennedy	WGEL to Bristol & West AC	e.d. 01/01/2012
Elliott	Prendergast	Yate & District AC to Bristol & West AC	e.d. 01/01/2012
Hannah	Williams	Cardiff AAC to Bristol & West AC	e.d. 01/12/2011
Charlotte	Wills	Bristol & West AC to Leeds City AC	e.d. 01/01/2012