

Avon Athletic Association (Affiliated to M.C.A.A.)

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

At Civil Service Club, Filton Avenue, Bristol.

Held :- 25th July 2005.

PRESENT : Peter GRIFFIN (President); Graham HOWELL (Chairman); Mike DOWN (Vice Chairman); Mike STRANGE (Hon Sec); Ray GOODING (Officials Co-ordinator); Gordon ROBBINS (Road R Co-ordinator); Hilary NASH (Coaching Co-ordinator); Mike ANDREWS (Clevedon AC); David COALES (City of Bath AC); Mike WILLCOX (Great Western Runners).

APOLOGIES : Bill KINGSTON (Hon Treas); John ROBBINS (Life Member); Andy HEYES (XC Co-ordinator); James MURPHY (Westbury H); David HUGHES (Empire AC); Martin RUSH (Bath HPC); Pat SWINBANK (Team Manager); Neil MILLER (Westbury Harriers); Keith BRACKSTONE (University of Bristol AC); John CLAPP (Hogweed Trotters); Hugh BURCHARD.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

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

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

TREASURER

From last Minutes "The Treasurer confirmed that the 2004 Accounts still awaited Audit."

[Action – Treasurer] [Treasurer unable to follow up currently due to domestic circumstances – therefore action remains outstanding]

Starter's Grant

The decision of Members of the Executive to approve the payment to Ray Gooding for a Grant of £360 to a Portable PA System was endorsed. (See previous Minutes)

[Action – Hon Treas. to make payment]

ROAD RUNNING

Unattached Levy

The Secretary reported that he had received responses from Geoff Durbin the Chairman of MCAA informing that the Levy increase was imposed on MCAA by the AAA of E – thus they were acting under instruction. Concerns over the increase had been understood by the MCAA and as a result had delayed the imposition until a later date than that imposed by other Areas. Geoff did indicate that a meeting would be called to address reservations.

The meeting felt that if MCAA were not responsible for the increase (and the undemocratic way that it was imposed) then the Hon Sec should put our point of view to other parties.

[Action - Hon Sec to write to AAA cc ERRA, MCAA, Dave McNamee]

TRACK & FIELD

Comparison – County Champs

Hon Sec has examined the results of the Somerset Championships as requested and found the circa 600 competitors were largely in the Junior section and a massive proportion from the Private Schools.

Their Senior Championships were of a very low standard with few competitors. I think we aspire to better in Avon and suggest that what we are doing is correct.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

30th Anniversary Dinner.

The dinner was deemed a Great success and John Robbins moved (by e mail) a note of congratulations to Peter Griffin for all of his work in organising the event. John said "it was a very successful occasion and one which I was very proud to be a part of" This sentiment was agreed and congratulations endorsed by all.

Thank you notes were received from guests Carolyn Franks, Georgette van Hoof, Sonya Ellis.

Photos of the event were circulated during the meeting and can be obtained from Bob Evans (through Peter) - price £ 5 each.

Sports West Development Plan

This Sport England / AAA of E 'Plan' now up & running a needs every support from the County Committee – Hilary Nash appointed as Chief Coach (Honorary Post), Mike Strange is now employed as the Partnership Development Officer on a 2 day per week basis.

A 'Youth Games' event was held at YOSC for under 11 development athletes. The event attracted 90 competitors from the 4 Unitary Authorities comprising Avon.

SWOT Chart – Is in existence but is being handled on a low key basis in view of negative politics that are prevailing.

Change of Club – Eligibility & Hardship

MCAA has issued specific guidelines, to clubs, for clarity of procedures to avoid the misunderstanding of requirements.

Facilities

Whitchurch, YOSC & Bath University are now all certified for training & competition.

AAA EGM

Important that we should attend (on a Club & County basis) this EGM planned for **8th October** – We will require a mandate to vote on the restructuring of Athletics (including the dissolution of AAA of England and the establishment of England Athletics).

Another major point of interest to this Committee is 'Unattached Levies'.

The Document containing the proposals from the AAA of E had been sent to all clubs but unfortunately the attendees of our meeting had not had sight of it ?

[Action - Hon Sec to circulate a copy of document and the position of Avon AA to be resolved at the next Committee Meeting].

Grants

The Secretary apologised for his non response to Bitton RR, Sole Sisters & Mike McCarthy in respect of decisions on Grants. These items were adequately covered in the previous Minutes that were circulated to the relevant parties.

Life Members

A letter was received from Pamela Gooding thanking the Association for her award to Honorary Life Membership presented at the celebration Dinner.

Bitton Road Runners

A letter of thanks was received following Bitton's receipt of Grants for Coach Education.

First Claim Movement

As listed in the appendix.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Current Balance

£ 21,168.08.

The unaffiliated levy money in respect of 7 races was £ 1,188.00 for which we received 50% @ £ 594.

Vests for Inter-Counties

The cost of vests (Avon & Somerset) was queried.

Question deferred for the return of the Treasurer.

Centenary Dinner.

The Invoice from Corus Hotels Group was £ 1,291.75 for 56 people @ £22 (£1,232) plus the wine for the top table.

It is believed that payment of the above invoice and payments to Bristol Blue Glass, the Engraver and the Printer may not have been settled yet. The Treasurer has been requested to deal with this oversight with urgency. (The Treasurer was unable to attend the meeting due to unavoidable domestic circumstances.)

[Action – Hon Treas]

Treasurer Cover

The above unfortunate circumstances (Hon Treasurer) highlighted the fact that the Association was extremely vulnerable in situations where key Officers are indisposed. At present the single signature of the Hon Treas. is valid on the Cheque Book. In the event of financial matters that are required to be settled urgently it was suggested that further safeguards be taken.

It was moved that Cheque signatories be increased to 2 for any cheque and that those signatures be taken from a choice of 4 people from the Committee. The signatories decided upon to add to that of the Hon Treas. were those of the Chairman, Hon Sec and a person designated to interface with and cover the Treasurer in the event of his unavailability. Mike Andrews was proposed & elected to undertake this position.

Proposed Chairman (Graham Howell); Seconded Mike Willcox; by a show of hands this was unanimously approved by the meeting.

[Action Hon Treasurer (Bill Kingston) – to make arrangements for this change with the Bank and to arrange that the Bank Mandate indicates the choice of signatories to be Bill Kingston, Graham Howell, Mike Strange & Mike Andrews.]

It was further proposed that the Account should now recognise our correct designation ‘Avon Athletic Association’ and that two Cheque Books should be in operation at any one time.

COACHING

Event Specific Squads

Under the Sport West Development Plan it is envisaged that event specific squads will be formed. Coach selection is in process.

Spar Sprints Squad

Dates selected for the Winter training schedule are – 6th Nov, 27th Nov, 18th Dec. – Training times 10am till 1pm. Nominations for attendance please to Graham Howell.

Hi Tech Hurdles

Dates selected for the Winter squad sessions (1 pm till 3 pm) are – 16th October; 13th November; 11th December; 22nd January and 12th March.

OFFICIALS

Event Support

Officials were supplied / allocated for matches recently thus : Avon Schools Champs 10; BMC race at Bath 2; forthcoming BMC Races at Bath 4, South West Inter-Counties 3;

New Uniform

Coordinator proposed we defer decisions on new uniform for the County until prior to the next track season. The UKA kit is available but Ray Gooding is not impressed by prices.

Active Officials List

1/ Off Track

Returns are continuing to emerge with nominations from clubs in respect of their active officials:

Weston AC – 18 applications – 3 accepted others referred back for further info.

Clevedon AC – 5 applications – 2 accepted

This will now make 11 new grade ‘C’s’

2/ Track

From the UKA Register – 16 out of 37 recognised Avon Officials have now registered and been approved with UKA. Resignations are Michael Eustace, Valerie Eustace & Rebecca Wiltshire.

Grant Support

Support for advancement in Officials status - £ 100 has been received from UKA to support the gaining of experience for two officials with the objective of promotion from Gd 2 to Gd 1 or Gd 3 to Gd 2. 2 officials have been identified for this support. The Officials Co-ordinator stresses that he is required to identify and verify the support directed at these officials.

RR Rules/ Officials Handbook

It was agreed that the Road Running Co-ordinator could obtain an appropriate ‘Handbook’ from the Road Running Co-ordinator.

Correspondence with Graham Heeley

Ray Gooding sought verification from Graham on the Grading of Road Race officials. It is believed that the County Sec can nominate Grade 'C' Officials; Race Directors must be Grade 'B' Officials and that Referees must be Grade 'B' Officials. (It is not permitted to use Track Referees for off track races unless they are suitably off track qualified)

RR Rules/ Officials Handbook

It was agreed that the Road Running Co-ordinator could obtain an appropriate 'Handbook' from the Road Running Co-ordinator.

Level 1 Qualifications

See appendix

CROSS COUNTRY

Avon & Somerset Cross Country Champs

The date for these Champs was requested. (Held in Somerset this year)

[Action – Hon Sec to write to Somerset AA]

TRACK & FIELD

South West Inter-Counties – 24th July @ Exeter

Our team was in effect only a token of the true strength of the County. Those that did make the effort to travel to Exeter were rewarded with the usual high level of Competition. Some problems were experienced with the strength of our Team Management. Ken Holmes carried the day for us. Hilary Nash was forced to pull out through the pressures of Club Team Management & Pat Swinbank was unavailable due to family events. We must (for the sake of these top athletes) make every effort to be competitive next year. We should be a proper constituent part of the SWAA at this time next year.

[Action – Committee to consider a proper approach to this event in 2006 (in the new year)].

SW I/c

ROAD RUNNING

SW Road Running Forum

Gordon is closely involved in developments of the Road Running Forum for the South West. The group is making good progress in formulating co-ordinated plans in preparation for 'Hub' re-structuring. Some Counties have outlined their spending policies in respect of levy income. We have been requested to contribute to this process.

[Action – Hon Sec to write outlining our grant system]

Reebok Masterclass

The first two meetings of the 'Reebok Masterclass' took place in Bristol to provide a background to those planning to run in Half Marathons. (Obviously framed around participation in the October, Bristol race). The meetings (Open discussion with an expert Panel and half hour paced runs) were at GWR Bristol Lawn Tennis Club (GWR) - Wed 22nd June & Whitchurch Sports Centre (Bristol & West AC) - Wed 20th July. Bud Baldaro, Alan Storey, Steve Brace & Andy Graffin were panel guests and Steve Cram & Alison Curbushley made star appearances at the Whitchurch session.

Good local TV & Press coverage has resulted in improving the local profile of distance running.

Sole Sisters

Some discussion centred round the Louise Stratton Memorial Run and the relevance of the 'Run' not having a Race Permit. It was decided that the race was a 'Fun Run'.

Sole Sisters were disappointed that Officials from the Association were unable to help on the day of the run.

SPORTS:HALL Out of Season

CLUB NEWS

Saltford Stragglers have paid their affiliation fees to MCAA & Avon AA.

Whitchurch Road Runners – Appear are not currently affiliated to MCAA & Avon AA. It was decided to now remove the club from our circulation.

GWR – Held a Mob Match (which was endorsed & supported by Avon AA) within their ‘Towpath Series’. This proved to be a very successful evening and GWR thank everyone that contributed and /or took part . The Match was won by Westbury Harriers.

AOB

None

MEETING CLOSED at 9.40 pm

Next Committee Meeting – Mon 19th Sept 2005.
(Note later re-scheduled to Mon 26th Sept 2005)

APPENDIX

First Claim changes – Meeting 25th July 2005.

Applicable from 01/08/05

From Clevedon AC to Bristol & West AC – Stephanie BARNES

First Claim changes – Meeting 22nd August 2005.

Applicable from 01/09/05

From Dursley & District to Yate & District / Westbury H – Ashley RYMER

From Bristol & West AC to Westbury H (XC Only) – Matthew PETERS

Note also Robbie BUGDEN, this athlete is considered to still be a member of Cardiff AAC by the MCAA. (ie He is not eligible to run 1st Claim for Bristol & West AC.)

Officials Qualifications

Level 1 – Now fully qualified Kim HAMBRIDGE.