

Avon Athletic Association (Affiliated to England Athletics)

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

At Civil Service Club, Filton Avenue, Bristol.

Held :- 24th July 2006.

PRESENT : Peter GRIFFIN (President); Graham HOWELL (Chair); Mike DOWN (Vice Chair); Mike STRANGE (Hon Sec); Mike ANDREWS (Hon Treas); Ray GOODING (Officials Co-ordinator); Gordon ROBBINS (Road Running Co-ordinator); Barry SMART (Life Member); Gareth THOMAS (Thornbury RC); Bill KINGSTON (Bristol & West AC); James MURPHY (Westbury Harriers); Mike WILLCOX (Great Western Runners).

APOLOGIES : Andy HEYES (Cross Country Co-ordinator); Hilary NASH (Coaching Co-ordinator); John ROBBINS (Life Member); Tony HURLEY (Life Member); Pam GOODING (Life Member); John CLAPP (Hogweed Trotters); David COALES (City of Bath AC); David HUGHES (Empire AC); Andy MULLETT (City of Bath); Hugh BURCHARD (Environment Agency).

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Corrections / Omissions

Peter Griffin pointed out that his mission to establish a record of performances by Avon athletes in the National Inter-County Championships had not been minuted. The Secretary apologised for this oversight.

Peter called for assistance with relevant information from all and noted that Barry Smart had offered to seek information via the Internet.

Acceptance

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

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

SECRETARY

The Secretary & Chair looked into the matter of past Secretary, Ray Gooding still receiving a great deal of 'Avon' enquiries due to his telephone number being issued as current on a web site.

It was concluded that the Avon web site was not giving out this information and that an out of date web site was possibly issuing this information. Without knowledge of the offending web site it was not possible to effect corrections.

TREASURER

Portishead Running Club

The Treasurer confirmed receipt of affiliation fees from Portishead Running Club and we duly welcome them to our Association. Contact details in Club News.

OFFICIALS

Passbooks / CRB Checks

It was pointed out that CRB checks not yet a requirement for Officials although the obtaining of a passbook from UKA is advised.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

South West Council

As a results of recent voting the following have been elected to the inaugural South West Regional Council : Gordon Robbins, Mike Down, Nigel Rowe, Paul Ross & Bill Whistlecroft. It is understood that further representatives will be invited to join these people so that a balance of representation is achieved.

We congratulate Mike Down & Gordon Robbins as the two representatives from Avon AA.

Park Furnishers.

This club, previously members of this Association are seen to be the only club affiliated to MCAA yet not affiliated to Avon AA. The meeting confirmed that the club is currently active. It was agreed that the Secretary should write to encourage their return to our fold.

Action – Secretary to write to Park Furnishers.

Regional Performance & Development Co-ordinator.

An active Avon athlete, Richard Gwyn has been appointed to this Regional position. We wish him well for the future.

Environment Agency

Hugh Burchard enquired by e-mail with questions relating to his attempts to set up an affiliated club to be called

Environment Agency Harriers. Quote Hugh's e-mail "The most likely way in which we are likely to set the club up is by using the existing Sports & Social Club (SSC) as a committee that, amongst other activities, has an athletics club as one of its activities. The SSC would then ask a sub-committee to run the Environment Agency Harriers on its behalf. A sub-committee would be set up along the lines of a conventional club ie with Membership Secretary, Treasurer, etc.

The rationale behind this is that the Environment Agency are unlikely to want a single sport specific organisation when it already has a SSC network. There would be advantages in cutting down administration And the collection, distribution and management of funds."

Hugh asked "do you think this is a reasonable and acceptable approach".

It was generally felt that this was a question that could only be offered to the MCAA for advice and guidance.

Clubs within clubs were not unknown but their modus operandi was not clear. No-one at the meeting felt competent to offer constructive advice even though we would welcome the club to our Association when properly constituted. Clubs within clubs were not unknown but their modus operandi not known.

Action – Secretary to advise Hugh to seek advice from MCAA.

Club Membership Numbers

One aspect of Performance Indicators required by England Athletics of our region is a quarterly figure for total membership, with a figure for all athletes under 23 as well. As the Midland Membership scheme does not record athletes under 11 it would similarly be fruitful to obtain memberships at this level.

The future funding of athletics may be dependant upon achieving expansion of our young memberships.

Action – Member Clubs please furnish figures to the Secretary

Photo Finish

Upon enquiry it was stated that photofinish equipment had been purchased for use at YOSC.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Change of Bank

The fund transfer from Barclays to H.S.B.C. is now largely complete. (See one comment below.)

The Treasurer also commented that the dual signature system adopted for cheque validation was working.

Current Balance's – H.S.B.C. – £20,024.71

Consisting : Deposit Account £17,602.08; Current Account £ 2,421.91

It is thought that possibly circa £200 still wrests with Barclays and this is being investigated by the Treasurer.

Investment of Monies

The Treasurer has investigated returns on investment and believes that it would be prudent to invest £10,000 in a Deposit Bond at a rate of 4.1%. This compares with the Deposit Account which is earning 2.03% currently. The Deposit Bond provides flexibility in that withdrawals are permitted against 6 months notice.

Proposed that we proceed with this move.

Proposed Mike Andrews; Seconded Peter Griffin; Unanimous decision.

Unaffiliated Fees

No monies from this source were received in the period.

Affiliations

We have identified the following as fully paid up members for 2006. In view of some problems with mailings we ask that those not listed and who believe they had paid should put a stop on their original cheque and reissue fresh payment to the Association. List : Westbury Harriers; City of Bath AC; Portishead Running Club; Bristol & West AC; Great Western Runners; Bitton Road Runners; Empire Sports AC; Somer AC; Weston AC; Nailsea Running Club.

For those who clearly have not paid we request their affiliation fee asap.

Grants

Yate & District AC sought a grant against total costs of £845 for the purchase of 5 no Vaulting Poles to sustain the growth of their Pole Vault squad. The Club contribution is planned to be circa £500 and they asked if Avon could support by covering a grant for the remainder. The principles raised by our subsequent discussion follow in the next item.

Agreed to award grants of £300 to Yate & District AC but to observe that this grant must fall within the annual allocations made for each club to be decided under the following item. .

Proposed Mike Strange; Seconded Bill Kingston; Unanimous decision.

Action – Treasurer.

Wider Grants Issues

In reference to discussion previously quoted. It was re-iterated that the Association needs to establish a comprehensive policy that embraces all grants and other aspects of expenditure. This policy needs to cover all

foreseeable eventualities and planned expenditure must fall within the expected annual income levels of the Association. On club grants as above it was suggested that they be awarded annually to a maximum of £500 per club. It was rightly left to the Treasurer to bring a proposal to the Committee based on the needs of our members, the observations made in discussion and on the viability of any plans.

Action – Treasurer.

Grant policy proposal - Graham Howell

Graham expanded on his previous proposals for 'Athlete Personal Development Grants'. He stated that he was in the process of analysing performances at the West of England Championships with awards 'A' based on Grade 1 standards and 'B' based on Grade 2 standards. Currently this would provide a need to offer grants to 18 'A' athletes & 28 'B' athletes. He will continue to refine objectives.

Graham stated that he had not yet worked out a system for Cross Country performances.

Action – Graham Howell.

COACHING

Level 1 Course

A successful Level 1 Coach Education Course was held at Chuchill Leisure Centre with 20 attendees.

At least 50% of these people from North Somerset are now in a position to commence Coaching for the Clubs and Local Authority. All participants were from the Avon area.

OFFICIALS

Level 1 Course

The Level 1 Course at Gloucester will be on Saturday 29th October at the University of Gloucester, Oxstalls Campus, 10 till 3, Cost £10 (which Avon AA will reimburse). Enquiries thru the Officials Secretary.

Level 2 Courses – Track Judging, Timekeeping, Starter/ Marksperson, Field Judging.

These Level 2 Courses are planned at the same venue on the two subsequent weekends, 10 till 4, Cost £10 (which Avon AA will reimburse). Enquiries thru the Officials Secretary.

Level 2 Tutor

Malcolm Bowen, a level 3 Track Judge who has teaching experience has requested that he be included for Tutor Training on future courses.

New Handbook

It was enquired whether the Committee would be agreeable to purchase UKA Rules handbooks for those Technical Officials operating without current handbooks. The Officials Co-ordinator requested that these be only issued to those who complete the required Form 10 (indication of active status) at the end of a season (remembering that MAFEO Members are already issued with a Handbook as a perk of membership).

Availability

Few Technical Officials have made themselves available for the forthcoming SW Inter Counties and a request is made more availability for the British Transplant Games at Bath HPC on 20th August..

ROAD RUNNING

Road Race Officials Course. L4

Unfortunately the intended Level 4 Road Race Education Course at Oldland (Bitton RR) has been postponed due to a seasonal clash with the host Football Club. This will be re-arranged, the Secretary would approach Filton College as an alternative venue.

Action – Secretary

Permits

No new situations have arisen concerning Permit issue recently.

Bath Half

The subject of 'race returns' and payment of unaffiliated fees for 2006 remains unresolved.

CROSS COUNTRY

Andy Heyes informed (by e-mail) that he was awaiting word from Clifton College on a convenient date for Avon & Somerset Championships to be held.

TRACK & FIELD

Avon & Somerset Vests

Ken Holmes informed that we were in need of 'larger' vests for the track & field athletes competing at the Inter Counties Championships. It was agreed that further vests were needed.

Action - Treasurer

South West Inter-counties.

Plans were well in hand for teams to represent Avon at the annual South West I/c Champs at Exeter on 30th July. It appears that clashes with the Cup Finals and the Midland Women's Lg. may deplete our senior ranks. Alan Thomas, Hilary Nash & Ken Holmes will make up our Management team.

SPORTS:HALL

National Finals NIA, Birmingham.

Avon were represented by girls teams in this year's National Finals and they performed creditably coming 8th in the U15 events and 10th in the U13 events.

Jade Ellans in her final year at Sports:hall was the U15 individual event (joint) Champion.

SCHOOLS

Avon Schools Association declared their performance at the ESSA Championships at Gateshead as their best for several years. They achieved 6 medals (1 Gold) and a further 11 top six performances from their 35 permitted competitors. The Senior Girls won the 'Rotary Cup' for their section of the Championships and overall the Avon team were third in the 'B' category competition.

Kylie Russell achieved the gold in the Senior Girls 100m and Richard Peters (silver 1,500m Intermediate Boys) was selected for the Home Countries International in Grangemouth.

CLUB NEWS

New Club - contact

Portishead Running Club : Anne Singer, 58, Newhaven Road, Redcliffe Bay, Portishead, Bristol. BS20 8LH

MEETING CLOSED

At 9.38pm

Next Meeting Date – Mon 25th September 2006.

APPENDIX

First Claim changes – Meeting 19th June 2006

Applicable from 01/07/06

From Yate & District AC to Leamington C & AC – Esther SIDEBOTTOM

First Claim changes – Meeting 24th July 2006

Applicable from 01/08/06

From North Devon AC to Bristol & West AC – Kirsty HAMILTON

COACH EDUCATION DATES

Level 1 (SW10082) – Filton College – Sat 11 November 2006

CIA (SWCIA40) - Filton College – Sun 19 November 2006

FIRW (SWFRW24) - Filton College – Sun 19 November 2006

Level 2 (SW20032) Core - Filton College – Sat/Sun 10/11 Feb 2007

Level 2 Event Specific - Filton College – Sat/Sun 24/25 Match 2007