

Avon Athletic Association (Affiliated to England Athletics)

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

At Civil Service Club, Filton Avenue, Bristol.

Held :- 30th July 2007.

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); John DEATON (Webmaster); Bill KINGSTON (Life Member); Gareth THOMAS (Thornbury Running Club); James MURPHY (Westbury Harriers); Lesley NUNN (Avon Schools AA); Stuart NUNN (Yate AC).

APOLOGIES : Andy HEYES (Cross Country Co-ordinator); Pam GOODING (Life Member); Barry SMART (Life Member); Mike WILLCOX (GWR); Andy MULLETT (Team Bath AC). John CLAPP (Hogweed Trotters); Hugh BURCHARD (Environment Agency); Keith BRACKSTONE (Bristol University); Richard GWYN (England Athletics).

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Acceptance

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

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

SECRETARY

MCAA Coaching.

Still no response from their Chairman ref Coaching money.

Action – Secretary to write again requesting a response.

Training Grants

Secretary wrote to the three athletes ref grants for altitude training but has received no response.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

UK Awards

Members were reminded that nominations for awards for Coaches, Volunteers, Partnerships etc were currently being sought by England Athletics.

County Plan

The Secretary remarked that the only two responses had been received to the 'Plan' template – from Ray Gooding and Neil Miller.

North Somerset Club

Discussion points were raised in response to an impending meeting with North Somerset Council with reference to their endeavour to establish a Young Athletes Club in the area. It was stressed that all interested parties were invited to attend. In general the meeting was wary of the motives to start another club, of the objectives of that club and of the effect on other established clubs.

First Claims procedure

Athletic Services will handle these changes of club forthwith and necessary rule changes are implied. These rule changes will be published formally in the Rule Book to be issued on April 1st 2008.

Change of Representative

The contact point for AXA AC will now be Jim Strudwick. (For detail see appendix to minutes)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Current Balance's

Totals £27,216.21

HSBC Current - £6,787.92; HSBC Deposit – £10,428.29; HSBC Deposit Bond – £10,000.00.

Unaffiliated Fees

No monies were received from the unaffiliated levy in the period. Gordon Robbins felt that some monies were in the system and should be due for payment.

Action – Road Running Co-ordinator to investigate and contact MCAA.

Individual Athlete Awards

Discussion ensued based on the paper circulated on the subject.

Amendments agreed were : These Grants to be inapplicable for athletes at the level, Under 13 athletes and younger. Add reference to 'Regional Championships' in Item 2 (Award criteria) for Cross Country.
A benchmark for the 6 monthly (seasonal) budget was set at £1,000 for the time being.

In summary ; The reasoning behind this Grant category and the full amended proposal :

Purpose : Sets out a clearly defined guidelines and eliminates the potential for inconsistency and bias.

Requests for Personal Development Grants

Allocate an annual Personal grant budget to be divided into two half yearly award totals.

Set age group / event performance standards. ***The lowest age group for Awards is U15.***

- For Track & Field these will be definitive and based on AAA Standards.
- For Road Running standards apply for popular standard distances eg 10 Km; Half Marathon; Marathon, et
- For Cross Country top positions achieved in National, ***Regional*** / Territorial & National Schools Championships.

A two tier level of awards apply and the initial grant shall be Level 1 £100 and Level 2 £50.

Grants must be applied for on the standard Avon AA 'Personal Grant Request' form and all relevant information must be completed.

Accepted requests will be based on performance in the preceding relevant competitive season. ie Summer Season (Track & Field) April – September & Winter Season (Indoor, Road & Cross Country) October – March.

Personal Grants will be processed twice a year in the Executive Committee Meeting following each defined competitive season.

The level of total grant awards shall not exceed the total half yearly budget allocation. If this limiting situation occurs then each grant figure will be reduced pro-rata to accommodate.

The rationale shall be to limit the number of grants from Avon that an individual can receive.
(Two grants cannot be awarded to one athlete in a single year.) (note added qualification)

Continuity of grants annually will be on the basis of individual performance improvement.

Above proposal (less 'two grants in one year' qualification) – **Proposed Graham Howell, Seconded Gordon Robbins, approved unanimously**

Hardship Grants

Following on from the above item Gordon Robbins also urged the Committee to maintain considerations for grants where financial hardship was occurring. Gordon agreed to draft a specific form relevant to hardship for the Committee's consideration at the next Committee Meeting.

Action – Gordon Robbins to draft a 'Hardship' Grant Form.

Grant Applications

GWR – Start / Finish Gantry

A request was received from Great Western Runners for assistance toward the purchase (full price £2,039) of an inflatable 'Start / Finish Gantry' for use in Road & Cross Country Races. The use of a Gantry is required to comply with BARR Grading Standards 2.12 & 5.3 and would be used primarily for the GWR Towpath series. It was indicated that the equipment could also be loaned to other local affiliated clubs by agreement. (It had previously been suggested to GWR that Avon AA could agree to purchase this item outright, to be held by GWR but for universal use in the County – this suggestion was not pursued by the club).

Proposed Mike Andrews, Seconded Peter Griffin, passed unanimously – "that Avon provide a Grant of £500 (approx 25%) toward this equipment."

COACHING

South West Coaching Conference

This annual Conference was held this year at Bath University on 26th July and was well attended by Avon AA Members. The varied programme covered many aspects of coaching and EA SW presented Workshops on their future schemes. One Workshop on Talent Squads brought out guidance for our own County Squad proposals.

Forthcoming Courses

Listed in Appendix

OFFICIALS

Technical Officials Courses

England Athletics have planned to hold Level 2 Courses for all disciplines at YOSC on 8th Dec. The Officials Co-ordinator wishes to know of any Clubs who wish to put names forward.

Endurance Officials Courses

Through efforts from this County, England Athletics are planning to hold an 'Endurance' course at YOSC on Sun 28th Oct 2007. A 20 place limit has been set for attendance and it is foreseen that all of these places will be filled by Avon Officials.

Officials Focus Group

The Officials Co-ordinator will be attending this group meeting at Exeter prior to the start of South West Inter-Counties Champs on 5th August.

Polo Shirts

Polo Shirts were handed to the Officials Co-ordinator prior to the meeting (he had expected them to be handed over at the above meeting). Some frustration was created by the fact that the distribution did not comply with the requested quantities or sizes.

South West Inter-Counties Champs

Seven Avon Officials have indicated their availability to Officiate at these Champs : Barry Smart, Tony Jefferies, Bill Kingston, Chris Preston, Mike Strange, Pam Gooding & Ray Gooding.

UKA Courses (Tutors)

Course Tutors presentation materials are being revised by UKA. Ray Gooding appears to have been omitted from the current list of accredited Tutors? Enquiries are taking place.

CRB Checks

The Officials Co-ordinator would like to know who has received their CRB clearance from UKA. He is only aware of his own. This will assist greatly in bringing his records up to date.

Murray Grant (Bristol & West AC)

Murray who lives in Frome and is a member of B&W AC has been an Official but is now unregistered. However he attended a Level 2 Field Judging Course at Gloucester recently and is now satisfying the practical requirements of the qualification.

David Saker

David's application form has been forwarded to UKA but it is known that there are considerable delays currently in the issue of licences & passes.

Officials Mentoring Courses

Planned dates for these courses are : 20/21 Oct – Exeter & 16/17 Feb - Yeovil

ROAD RUNNING

SW Championships

It is clear that a clash of fixtures sees the Wimborne 10 Mile (the South West Championship) planned for the same day as the South West Cross Country League to be held in Bristol (November 18th). Mike Down felt that bad planning had occurred and he had protested at the South West Council but stressed that unfortunately he was absent when the final decision to proceed had been made. Mike felt that a letter should be sent to the South West Regional Manager expressing the concerns of this County and requesting that good thought goes into future fixture planning. A call for this County to boycott the Road Champ was not upheld although a preference that Avon athletes decide to do the XC event was understood (although it was accepted that athletes do actually have a free choice to race where they prefer). Dave Coales our relevant Team Manager was absent from this meeting and it was asked that viewpoints be put to him.

Action – Secretary to convey our concerns to the SW RM.

Action – Secretary to speak to Team Manager.

Road Running Licence System

Proposals on this new system are outlined in the Athletics press and by communication from UKA to the clubs. The full picture is gradually emerging and some consternation on the benefits to smaller club races have been expressed. Members were urged to feed back their reservations to the co-ordinator of the RRLG or UKA directly.

Road Running Leadership Group

A meeting to convey 'Our Vision of the Future', communicating within a consultation process, is planned for Tuesday 4th Sept at the UKA Offices in Solihull. The Secretary will be attending primarily on behalf of the Bristol Half Marathon.

Half Marathon Seminar

The final Seminar including a breakfast run advising new runners in their approach to the Bristol Half Marathon is planned for Sun 19th Aug at Henbury Leisure Centre.

Association of Running Clubs (ARC)

Some clubs who have become established race promoters and whom incorporate Avon AA Road Championships within their races have recently chosen to access their Race Licence through ARC. The floor was asked for comment on this issue and no negative opinion arose. It was therefore accepted that this approach could be adopted for the future.

CROSS COUNTRY

South West League

Opinions on the clash of dates on November 18th have been expressed above.

Avon XC Champs Nov 11th?

It appears that rumours of plans to incorporate the Avon XC Champs with the Gwent League Races at Bath University on Nov 11th are unfounded? The Avon Champs are to be hosted by Somerset this year.

TRACK & FIELD

South West Inter-Counties Champs

Alan Thomas is unable to fulfil the Ladies Team Manager's job this year and Leslie Nunn is currently fulfilling that role along with the other Team Managers Hilary Nash and Ken Holmes. Full information is contained on the England Athletics web site. A Coach has been arranged to provide Transport.

This important fixture is planned for a weekend when other club fixtures are occurring. Mike Down again raised the issue of fixture planning and requested that the thoughts of our Committee be conveyed to the Regional Manager. Representative selection should not be denied to top athletes who are unable to compete at two fixtures on this weekend.

Action – Secretary to convey Avon's observations to the South West regional Manager

Representative Match – Belgium

Winners of the Senior / Under 20 events at the SW I/c will be invited to compete in an Avon Representative Team destined for Belgium on 17th August. The County has also been requested to forward the names of Officials to participate in this match and travel with the Team.

County Championships / Schools County Championships

Lesley Nunn expressed her concern that these two Championships with the same relevance and meaning were held in the early part of our Track season. This thought needs to be aligned to the problems of over exposure to competition for younger athletes. Leslie is currently preparing a paper that will suggest that future County competition policy might recognise this issue and asked that the Committee consider holding a Senior Championships alongside a Multi-events Champs for children of School age.

Action – Committee to reflect on this proposal.

Street Athletics

This annual event is now planned for Thurs 26th July (re-arranged date) at St Paul's Sports Centre, Bristol with the finals in Manchester on Sat 15th September. Ruth Dean from Team Bath AC is currently National Champion at Under 15 level.

AVON SCHOOLS AA

ESAA Championships

The Avon Schools Team once again achieved a high level of success at these Championships in Gateshead. They achieved 6 medals (Emily Diamond, Tony Hillier & Sade Thompson, Silver and Hayley Pitman, Adam McBride & Simon Merrill, Bronze) and 21 top 10 placings from a Team of 34.

Tony Hillier & Emily Diamond were subsequently selected for the Schools International but Emily was unable to accept due to prior Holiday arrangements.

UK School Games

Lesley Nunn has been invited by England Athletics to become a Team Manager for this year's event in Coventry.

SOUTH WEST REGION REPORT

Regional Council

Mike Down is currently the only representative of Avon on the South West Council and he expressed a growing frustration at the democracy of decisions made within that group. The fixture clashes expressed earlier in this meeting and the failure

to properly support the South West Cross Country League exemplified the causes of frustration. It was observed that if Mike chose to withdraw from the Council then Avon would have no voice on that body.

Workshop

A workshop by Neil Parsley on Funding & Club:mark Accreditation is planned for YOSC on 17th Sept at 6.30 pm.

MCAA

Emanating from discussions on the RRLG it was mentioned that the funds of MCAA are reducing and they have no apparent income except from entry fees to their promotions. One Club had recently applied for assistance for an athlete selected to represent the Midlands but were informed that no funding was available. It was questioned whether the MCAA 'Competition Budget' had been completed and published. This budget we believed was to go to England Athletics for their consideration to funding assistance. We seek feed back on the current circumstances of MCAA.

WESPORT REPORT

Sarah Hawkins

The above mentioned workshop is being co-presented by Sarah Hawkins who is employed by Wesport and is available to assist clubs in their preparation of Club:mark bids. Sarah is the person arranging the generic training that we publicise regularly. The next batch of these will be announced shortly.

CLUB NEWS / ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Clevedon AC

This club reminded all present of the impending 'North Somerset Relays' on Sun Sept 16th. This is also to be an Avon AA Championship event.

Yate AC

In their promotion year to the Midland Premier Division of the Young Athletes League Yate did exceptionally well to finish 5th.

Portishead Road Runners

This newly formed club is now contemplating developing a Junior section.

Bristol & West

The annual road Miles will again be held on College Green, Bristol and this year will incorporate street Sprints for Under 10 athletes. Date 8th September.

MEETING CLOSED

At 9.43 pm

Next Meeting Date – Mon 1st October 2007.

MINUTES APPENDIX

IMPORTANT MEETINGS/ EVENTS

26th July – South West Coaching Conference – Bath University – All day.

26th July - Street Athletics – St Pauls Sports Centre – 12 noon registration.

31st July - Discuss the 'Formation of a Club in North Somerset' for Young Athletes at Nailsea – Four Oaks, Silver Street. 7pm

5th August – South West Inter-Counties – Exeter Arena 11am onwards. See EA – SW website for info & standards. Team Managers - Ken Holmes, Hilary Nash & Lesley Nunn.

17th August – South West Team to Belgium – Week End

17th September – England Athletics Funding & Club:mark Workshop – YOSC 6.30 till 9.30pm

You are guided to read the appraisal in Athletics Weekly July 12 'Road Running Licence system' etc.

CHANGE OF CONTACT DETAILS

Contacts

Mike DOWN (Vice Chair) – [28/09/07](#) (on e mail at last)

Andy Mullett (Chair - Team Bath AC) – [28/09/07](#)

Jim STRUDWICK (AXA AC) – [28/09/07](#)

8, Chevening Close, Stoke Gifford, Bristol. ~~B&B~~ Tel 0117-969-7656

Mike STRANGE (Secretary) – [28/09/07](#)

The other e mail address that was published is about to be discontinued.

FIRST CLAIM CHANGES

MCAA, Meeting 21st May 2007

Applicable from 01/06/07

No applicable Avon movements.

MCAA, Meeting 25th June 2007

Applicable from 01/07/07

From Westbury H to Thornbury RC – Jeremy CLOTHIER

From Westbury H to Bristol & West AC – Richard PETERS

From White Horse H to Bristol & West AC – Steven McGUIGAN

From Wessex & Bath AC to Team Bath AC Daniel BAINES