

# ***Avon Athletic Association***

## **(Affiliated to England Athletics)**

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### **MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING**

Held :- 28<sup>th</sup> July 2008.

At Civil Service Club, Filton Avenue, Bristol.

**PRESENT** : Graham HOWELL (Chair); Mike DOWN (Vice Chair); Mike STRANGE (Sec); Mike ANDREWS (Treas); Ray GOODING (Officials Co-ordinator); Andy HEYES (Cross Country Co-ordinator); Gordon ROBBINS (Road Running Co-ordinator); John DEATON (Webmaster); Bill KINGSTON (Life Member); Barry SMART (Life Member); Lesley NUNN (Avon Schools AA); Gareth THOMAS (Thornbury RC); Stuart NUNN (Yate & District AC); Richard GWYN (England Athletics).

**APOLOGIES** : Peter GRIFFIN (President); Keith BRACKSTONE (Coaching Co-ordinator); Pam GOODING (Life Member); James MURPHY (Westbury Harriers); Neil MILLER (EA SW Council).

### **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

#### **Acceptance**

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

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

#### **SECRETARY**

##### **Facilities – Nailsea School**

EA had no knowledge of a track development at Nailsea. Dave Turner comments from his knowledge of the school that this facility is planned but as a Grass Track.

It was further noted that a 'facilities in North Somerset' meeting was planned for Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Aug and it was hoped that interested parties from the area would be attending and contributing to discussion.

##### **County Vests**

The Secretary put this matter back to the floor. A photograph was produced of a runner in the Avon vest and through discussion it was agreed that the colours etc were sufficiently prominent and that a change was not required. The need for a top up of the current stock of vests was reaffirmed with particular emphasis on XL & XXL sizes.

It was agreed that we assess current stocks after their use at the SW I/c Champs and then make recommendation to place an order with our past supplier, Ridgeway Textiles.

**Action - Secretary to arrange an audit of vests. Secretary to recommend further purchases to committee.**

#### **TREASURER**

##### **Avon AA Affiliation**

The following were noted as clubs that were still in arrears in respect of payment of affiliation fees : Avon & Somerset Tri Club, Axa AA, Nailsea Running Club, Westbury Harriers, Yate & District AC & Team Bath AC.

##### **Performance Grant**

A request for a Winter 'Performance Grant' to Joe Dalglish, (a Gloucestershire athlete who competes for Westbury / Yate) was queried. The Chair said he would speak to the athlete about the matter.

**Action - Chair**

#### **OFFICIALS**

##### **UK School Games**

We finally established with UKA that there should be a local presence of 2<sup>nd</sup> tier Officials at **UK School Games**. Jobs : Field Spotters, Track Steward, Timekeepers Steward and results Official have been allocated our way. That is beyond of course the principle Officials : Barry Smart, Derek Morrison, etc allocated to the meeting.

**Territory** – The area called Central (last Committee) has now reverted back to Midlands by EA. So the South West comes within an area again called Midlands & South West. The other two areas remain as South & North.

#### **ROAD RUNNING**

##### **Bristol Half**

Money for the 2007 race has been paid

## **RRLG Elections**

Response received from Mike Summers at England Athletics to the question raised about a vote for County bodies.

Q) I see from AW today that RRLG Elections are taking place currently. As Avon AA (a properly affiliated organisation) have not been notified can I assume that we do not qualify for a vote?

Mike Strange

A) The only groups that qualify for votes are (i) representatives of affiliated clubs with a declared affiliation for road running and (ii) directors / promoters of UKA-permitted races. County associations do not qualify in their own right.

I hope this clarifies.

Best regards Mike Summers

## **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE AGM**

**Committee** – Keith Brackstone has offered to fill the position of Coaching Co-ordinator.

**Proposal - that we co-opt Keith Brackstone as Coaching Co-ordinator**

**Proposed Mike Strange, Seconded Graham Howell, passed unanimously.**

Keith who was not present due to holiday commitments wrote:

If appointed in my absence to be Coaching Coordinator on 28 July I would like to propose setting up BEAST (Bristol Endurance Athlete Specialist Training). I would like to try and get the Endurance Coaches and their squads from in and around the Bristol Area on a regular but not too frequent basis to meet up for training and to exchange ideas and information. For example: I think it would be useful for year 11 and 12 pupils to be able to speak to athletes already at University about what influenced their choice of where to go, what it's like to settle in during the first-year, how the student life-style can impact on training and these sorts of issues. I would also try and get specialists along to talk about strength and conditioning for endurance athletes; advice on nutrition etc.

Anyway just an idea - I would be grateful if you would see what the committee thinks.

Regards. Keith

Committee were pleased to welcome Keith aboard and were pleased to note his initial objectives. It was of course pointed out that we are an 'Avon' body and not merely a 'Bristol' body as in BEAST.

## **Constitution**

The Secretary indicated that he was still preparing background on what he felt should be the necessary modifications to the Constitution in view of the demise of MCAA and our duties delegated down through them. It would appear at this stage that we are on a par with any club in the Country and without any special status. The Foster Report suggests that County bodies have no status in the new hierarchy but it is known that EA South West put great worth on maintaining an active County structure.

EA have not yet been formally consulted.

**Action – Secretary to obtain an 'Official' line on this matter and to resubmit a revised constitution to the 2009 AGM.**

## **Officials**

### **Ammunition**

The Officials Co-ordinator reported on progress in his enquiry of EA in reference to how L2 Starters would legally procure ammunition in the future. It was accepted that the new guidelines were in accordance with new Home Office regulations but still the applicability to grades lower than L3 remained in question. It was noted that Keith Reed would pursue this query through EA SW.

### **Club:Mark**

Richard Gwyn indicated that he or Sonya Ellis would be the best people to speak to the Committee of GWR to convince them of the merits of a club without juniors pursuing Club:mark accreditation.

## **MAIN MEETING**

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

#### **Life Member**

It is with regret that we record the death of Life Member Joyce Jackson. The Secretary attended the Funeral on behalf of the Association.

#### **President**

You will know from previous communications that our President, Peter Griffin slipped and fell in Keynsham a few months back. Peter fractured his femur which was complicated by the fact that he has two artificial hips. Peter is now back at home after a long period in Hospital and is back on the road to recovery and 'mending well'. We all wish him well.

## **UK School Games**

From frantic last minute notes circulated it will be realised that there was some difficulty in obtaining Athletics specific Volunteers for this prestigious Games at Bath Univ on 30<sup>th</sup> / 31<sup>st</sup> Aug. With a major contribution from Yate AC it is now noted that 22 young volunteers have now come forward.

## **Club:Mark**

We congratulate Bitton RR & Team Bath who have been awarded their Club:mark Accreditation.

## **Contacts**

The Secretary informed that he has (at last) up dated the lists of Officers, Team Managers & Club Contacts (Secretary's in most cases).

## **FESCO**

Geoff HOLLOWAY, one of the first of the Governments new Further Education Sports Co-ordinators has taken up a position at Filton College. One of his primary tasks is to set up an Athletics Academy at the WISE Campus. Andrea Lock, an active Avon athlete who works at WISE, we are informed will have some inputs into this. It is important that there are links to Clubs here. Geoff unfortunately was unable to attend to outline his plans to this Meeting.

## **Olympic / Paralympic Games**

### **Kate Reed, Zoe Derham & Ben Rushgrove.**

We are pleased to record that Kate Reed & Zoe Derham have been awarded a place at the forthcoming Olympic Games. Kate at 10,000m & Zoe in the Hammer.

Ben Rushgrove of Team Bath has been selected for the Paralympic sprints. At the Trails in Birmingham some of you might have seen him break the European Record for 100m (in his disability category) with a 12.44, 100m clocking into a -0.9 wind.

Kate Grey, formerly a High Jumper with Yate AC has also been selected to swim in the Paralympics.

## **Facilities**

### **Regional Manager**

Richard Jenkins has succeeded Bob Ivory as Regional Manager for Track Assessors.

## **Bath Univ**

This venue appears to be desperately striving to complete works to the Hammer / Discus Cage and to the Pole Vault in preparation for the UKSG. No track repairs are expected to be undertaken.

## **Whitchurch**

A report that indicated the high cost of maintaining the track for an extended period was presented to a Bristol City Council Leader's briefing recently – those in attendance accepted that it would be pointless to make further investment in Whitchurch.

## **Packers**

The latest situation appears to be - The findings of the above report alerted a flurry of action relating to the sites at Packers and Filton that will ultimately fulfil the alternative obligations of the Council.

Of the presented options, the one to proceed at Packers was accepted. With phase 2 of Hengrove Park being a few years away it was necessary to look at funding routes in the interim. The Officers and Councillors have gone away to seek ways and means of securing that Funding and reconvene on Aug 14<sup>th</sup> hopefully to provide an answer.

The project cost estimates of £ 1.2 M are being reconfirmed, planning procedures are underway and a 'Consultation' with residents and interested parties has been held. The consultation drew no adverse comments (against the project).

'IF!' the project could proceed in August it believed that a track could be in action by mid 2009. IF!

## **Filton WISE**

The upgrading of this facility remains as a commitment for Bristol City Council.

## **YOSC**

The operators should check out adverse comments purported to come from the regional track assessor recently "that the YOSC Track does not have a current 'Competition Certificate' issued by UKA".

Therefore events should not be held there!!

It is believed that this replicates a situation that exists with UKA & Whitchurch Track?

## **Awards EA**

Ray Jaekels is being put forward by Bristol City Council to England Athletics as 'Volunteer of the Year'. Clubs were asked to put forward their nominations in all categories to help to emphasise the work that goes on and the accomplishments of this County.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

### **Current Balance's**

Total £ 32,091.47

HSBC Current £11,023.26; HSBC Deposit £ 21,068.21. No HSBC Deposit Bond

### **Unaffiliated Fees**

£ 290.75 was received from England Athletics for the period April 2007 to 31 March 2008. Monies that should be due to Avon AA in respect of the previous Bath Half Marathon are covered in the Road Running report.

### **Grants**

#### **Performance Grants – 2007**

The Treasurer confirmed that the cheque for a 'Performance Grant' to Zoe Laing (Bristol & West AC) had been cashed. The athlete had been querying receipt of such.

#### **Athlete Grant**

Consideration of a Grant to Pat Gallagher had been requested. The Chair stated that he preferred all grants to come under the category of 'Performance Grant' for the future but in this case we had a high level 'Masters' athlete seeking help to compete for Great Britain but not qualifying within the 'Senior' criteria established for athletes in the County.

It was agreed that a grant of £100 be made to this athlete.

Proposed Graham Howell, Seconded Mike Down, Passed unanimously.

#### **Inter-Counties**

A request was considered from Gustav Klingstedt in respect of expenses incurred to compete for Avon at the CAU Inter-Counties in Bedford. It was agreed that he should be awarded £100 under the 'Performance Grant' criteria.

#### **Coach Ed Grant**

Thornbury Running Club requested consideration of a grant towards holding a UK Fitness in Running & Walking course in Thornbury. A grant of £250 was agreed under the Coach Ed Course standing orders criteria.

#### **Coaching grant**

The Treasurer confirmed that 50% Coach Education Grants to Alan Thomas L4 - £50, Paula Hill & Jamie Brock L1 £30 each (all Yate & District AC) had been settled.

#### **Grant Expenditure Generally**

It was felt that with no direct income being forthcoming in the future and with England Athletics not apparently being supportive to Counties in respect of their Grant systems, that this County would need to very carefully review its policy to support clubs and athletes. Whilst the present Bank balances were healthy in the short term reserves would quickly be consumed if we continued to assist athletics at our present level. For the record expenditure in 2007 was circa £12k compared to circa £6.5k in 2006.

It was asked that the Secretary write to England Athletics to see whether such grants could be supported in some way be EA in the future.

**Action – Secretary to write on our concerns to Sonya Ellis at EA.**

## **COACHING REPORT**

### **Coaching Co-ordinator**

We welcomed Keith Brackstone to this appointment earlier in our Meeting.

### **High Jump Course**

It was noted that a Coaching Course for High Jump was planned for Bath University on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Aug. Mike Dolby would be heading this course which had been arranged by EA SW as a part of a Coaching tour of the South West.

## **OFFICIALS**

### **Parking for Starters**

The Officials Co-ordinator referred to a recent confrontation at Bath University where he, as the Starter, was confronted when he attempted to park in a less vulnerable location within the track area at Bath. It was agreed that it should be stressed to track operators that a need exists for starters with guns & ammunition to park safely at tracks. (As closely to the track as possible).

**Action - Secretary to write to track operators & to England Athletics.**

### **Rule Books**

Rule Books purchased by the Association have been distributed to active Officials as agreed

### **Focus Group**

Richard Gwyn has now taken over responsibility for Officials at EA SW and will in future head up Focus Group meetings.

### **L2 Education Course**

A course is planned for YOSC in Feb 2009

### **Child Protection**

All Officials operating at the UKSG are obliged to attend a Child Protection Course. UKA are arranging for a Course to be held at Bath University on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> Aug. on the eve of those Games.

### **South West Inter-Counties**

Local Officials have committed themselves to working at this event on Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> August although some have subsequently withdrawn due to the clash with League fixtures.

## **ROAD RUNNING**

### **Unaffiliated Fees**

The Road Running Co-ordinator is currently pursuing with England Athletics the question of levy payment for races within the County up to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008. It would seem that payments received by EA after 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008 would not be passed on to Counties? EA has drawn this demarcation on an arbitrary basis and the race concerned with late payment is the Bath Half Marathon. (A payment of considerable value).

John Temperton in re-iterating the policy does write "I accept the point about the Bath Half Marathon and will talk with Nigel (Rowe) about this". So far we have received no further response on this matter.

### **Licence Officers**

The Road Running Co-ordinator is in correspondence with EA about payments being made to the Licence Officer (previously known as the Permit Officer) in respect of Licences issued. It would seem that these payments to Volunteers (£10 for each Licence) are not being made to County Associations and are therefore taxable when paid on a direct basis to these officers. Gordon feels that he works as a Volunteer on an equal basis to many other Volunteers on behalf of Avon AA and that any payment should be accepted as payment to the Association.

### **Police – Public Safety Policy**

A document outlining the Police's public safety policy was offered to the meeting and it provides guidelines that should be followed by organisations in relation to Road Races.

## **CROSS COUNTRY**

### **County Champs / Gwent league**

Neil Miller on behalf of Westbury H. has been in discussion with the XC Co-ordinator and it is to be proposed to the Gwent League that our Avon & Somerset County Champ be held in conjunction with their fixture at Blaise on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2008.

## **TRACK & FIELD**

### **South West Inter-Counties**

An Avon AA team will travel to Exeter for this annual match. However it is recognised that some athletes may choose to compete for their clubs particularly in view of the clash with Midland League fixtures. Originally the Secretary wrote to the MCAA and to EA SW on the clash but neither was flexible. It is however the responsibility of clubs to seek to make adjustments with Leagues if clashes occur and the feeling is that this was not done.

It was moved from the floor that the County felt that the clash with the designated League weekend was unacceptable and that the status of the event was devalued by the lack of top athletes who would given the option have competed in both events.

**Action – Secretary to write to EA SW outlining our feelings on the clash.**

### **Representative Match - Belgium**

A team from the South West will once again travel to Belgium for the Annual SW fixture. A charge to all involved will be £150 per person. Admission to the Van Damme Grand Prix in Brussels is planned for the party in addition to travel, accommodation and competition.

Qualification for team selection for this senior match will include "the 'A' string winner from the SW I/c" plus other selections from notable athletes wishing to be considered.

## **SPORTS:HALL**

### **Sports:hall**

The successful Under 13 boys and girls teams qualified for the finals from the SW Regional final. These finals were held at a new venue, the NEC in Birmingham but turned out to be farcical. Due to the slippery surface no running events could be held and the results were not meaningful.

## **AVON SCHOOLS AA**

### **South West Championships**

The team performed well at Exeter in this annual match and finished 4<sup>th</sup> overall.

### **ESAA Champs**

Again great success was achieved by the Schools athletes at Gateshead with 2 gold; 3 silver; 1 bronze & 5 other placings. 13 National Standards were achieved.

## **SOUTH WEST REGION REPORT**

### **Council**

Neil Miller was duly elected to serve on the Council but unfortunately he was unable to attend our Committee Meeting.

His recent written feed back the following from the 2<sup>nd</sup> July SW Council is as follows :

- South West Athletics is now supporting a 'Flying Coach' program, much like the Midlands Flying Coach program. Contact Matt at South West Athletics if you would like a visit from a specialist coach to turbo-charge your group (my words, not theirs).
- There was some debate about the ever-increasing average age of officials, and the need to get youngsters involved in officiating (just as football is now active getting youngsters involved with refereeing). Any thoughts?
- UK:A are replacing the regional newsletters with a national newsletter with regional inserts (mostly electronically distributed). This is to my mind a bit of a shame, as the South West newsletter did a good job at highlighting local activities.
- 'Jog England', which is about to be/has just been launched, will be coupled with the promotion of jogging by local groups (e.g. based around sports centres – not necessarily based around existing clubs). The long-promised 'Fitness in Running and Walking' level 2 and possibly level 3 courses "are still intended", but have been delayed by this and other activities.

For my part, I am trying to get a summary of cross-country leagues and fixture dates (ideally harmonised) on the South West Athletics' web-site. I also highlighted the recent 'Run for the Children' event in Blaise Castle, and the popularity of the separate children's event in the Oldbury Fun Run, as evidence that there is no shortage of enthusiasm for running amongst youngsters.

### **XC Relays**

Mike Down added to this report by noting that plans existed for Regional XC Relays to be held for all ages on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Oct 2008 at Kings College, Taunton. Scoring will be 3 per event (4 for seniors).

### **Appointments**

Matt Foad has now joined the EA Staff at Exeter as Regional Performance and Development Co-ordinator.

Tracey Linstead has departed from the position of Administration Assistant and has been replaced by a lady called Di who is a member of Sidmouth Running Club.

Peter Sneary (jumps); Ken Holmes (throws); Dave Rowland (speed) and Mark Brace (endurance) have joined the South West team on a part time basis as Regional Event Group Coaches.

## **MCAA**

Nothing to report

## **WESPORT REPORT**

### **AGM**

The AGM was held without the need for particular comment except that good progress is being made in the development of this County Sport Partnership and it is viewed as a leading light in the South West.

All eyes are now on the knock on effects resulting from Sport England being completely re-organised!

## **CLUB NEWS / ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Nothing to report.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Web Site**

The webmaster noted that the Web System had been completely re-written and was up and running.

### **Dates for Meetings**

In view of difficulties in finding dates available for our meetings it was decided that we should wisely book at least two meetings ahead. Therefore our forward meeting date will be Mon 24<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

## **MEETING CLOSED**

At 9.28 pm

Next Meeting Date – Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Sept 2008.

## **APPENDIX**

### **FIRST CLAIM CHANGES (can also be found on the EA and MCAA web sites)**

#### **England Athletics, February 2008**

##### **Applicable from 01/03/08**

From Wessex & Bath AC to Shaftesbury Barnett Harriers – Douglas CURWEN-REED

From Exeter Harriers to Bristol & West AC – Andrew CHAMBERS

From Great Western Runners to Westbury Harriers – Carle GREEN

#### **England Athletics, March 2008**

##### **Applicable from 01/04/08**

From Wessex & Bath AC to Woodford Green & Essex Ladies AC – Elaine O'NEILL

Bristol & West AC to Yate & District AC – Liz TIPLER

#### **England Athletics, April 2008**

##### **Applicable from 01/01/08**

From Bitton Road Runners to Westbury Harriers – Tyrone JAMES

From Great Western Runners to Bristol & West AC – Andrew HARRISON

#### **England Athletics, May 2008**

##### **Applicable from 01/06/08**

From Bristol & West AC to Newham & Essex Beagles – Frank BADDICK

From Bristol & West AC to Bitton Road Runners – Helen HINSLEY

From Wessex & Bath AC to Bristol & West AC - Martyn MORANT

From Bitton Road Runners to Yate & District AC – Robert PHILLIPS

#### **England Athletics, June 2008**

##### **Applicable from 01/07/08**

From Bristol & West AC to North Somerset AC – Chris MILLARD

## **Information**

### ***Some dates for your Diary***

1<sup>st</sup> August – High Jump Day with Mike Dolby – Bath Univ.

3<sup>rd</sup> August – SW Inter-counties @ Exeter – Clashes with Midland League?

17<sup>th</sup> August – Team Bath Open Meet & Quad Kids Competition. – Bath Univ

30 /31 August – UK School Games – Bath University

13<sup>th</sup> September – Mile Races – College Green Bristol

14<sup>th</sup> September – Bristol Half Marathon – Bristol City Centre