

Avon Athletic Association

(Affiliated to England Athletics)

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Held :- 27th July 2009.

At Civil Service Club, Filton Avenue, Bristol.

PRESENT : Peter GRIFFIN (President); Graham HOWELL (Chair); Mike DOWN (Vice Chair); Mike STRANGE (Sec); Hilary NASH (Treas); James MURPHY (Westbury Harriers / Welfare Officer); Gordon ROBBINS (Road Running Co-ordinator); John DEATON (Webmaster); Bill KINGSTON (Life Member); Mike WILLCOX (GWR); Gareth THOMAS (Thornbury RC); Barry SMART (Life Member); Cy KNIBB (Bristol & West AC).

APOLOGIES : Ray GOODING (Life Member); Pam GOODING (Life Member); Neil MILLER (EA SW Council); Dave COALES (Road - Team Manager / Team Bath AC); Dave TURNER (Sportshall Co-ordinator); Keith BRACKSTONE (Coaching Co-ordinator); Mike ANDREWS (Clevedon AC); Lesley NUNN (Avon Schools AA); Stuart NUNN (Yate & District AC); Andy HEYES (Clevedon AC); Steve COGHLAN (North Somerset AC).

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Acceptance

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

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

SECRETARY

Avon AA Network

Tim SNOWDON has been appointed to the position of Avon Network Co-ordinator and commences this appointment on 1st Sept 2009.

It is understood that the next meeting of the Network Group will be on Sept 9th.

The Chairman has invited Clubs to prioritise from the wide tasks within the Plan so that so short term direction can be indicated to the Network Co-ordinator.

It was requested that Tim be invited to the next Committee Meeting on 28th Sept.

Action - Secretary

TREASURER

Affiliations

The Treasurer intends to write to errant clubs as only a handful have renewed their current affiliations.

Action : Secretary to supply a list of Member Clubs & Treasurer to write to them.

Dealings with Somerset County AA

The Treasurer has written to Somerset AA enclosing an invoice for 50% of costs. A reply is awaited.. Off the record their Secretary Roger Lee is intending to refer the matter to his Committee shortly

Action : Treasurer - to continue to chase the Somerset Treasurer.

Performance Grants

Personal Performance Grant Forms are now on the web site.

Grants

Schools Association – Reaction from Tony Hurley

Mr Hurley wrote to suggest that the Association increase their Grant commitment to cover 50% of the Schools Association outlay in future years?

It was the meeting's view that this should remain under consideration when the Schools seek grants in the future and that we should also give consideration to our financial position at that time.

Funds

The Secretary noted that the e mail for Nigel Rowe that he normally used was currently unavailable and therefore he had put our point to the South West through Neil Miller. A reply is awaited.

In conversation with Matt Foad the Secretary was informed that no funds were available from EA.

TRACK & FIELD CHAMPS - Schools involvement

Dave Turner wrote to thank Officials who supported the Schools Association Champs following a request through our Minutes. Dave reflected that he is carrying out his own survey of Schools entries and suspects participation is reaching low levels!

CROSS COUNTRY

Avon & Somerset Champs

The date of the Avon & Somerset Championships was confirmed as Sunday 6th December 2009 at Taunton..

South West XC Relays

For clarification it was noted that these Relays will be organized by the 'old' SW Association as opposed to the England Athletics SW Region.

A.O.B.

Packers Track

A recent meeting arranged by Bristol City Council on the proposed track was reported on. Members of this Association Hilary Nash & Barry Smart were in attendance. The principle subject of the Meeting was to settle the track layout details and key aspects are noted thus : The City Academy (leasers of the site and the facilities) were keen to retain all aspects of the draft proposals, however to accommodate Horizontal Jumps and Pole Vaulting it would be necessary due to space limitations to cut down one of the 8 lane straights to 6 lanes. Jumping and vaulting beds would be accommodated in a safe storage construction rather than be covered with a pull over steel covers (despite protests that it would take an eternity to set out these beds and thus they would possibly never be used?). It was agreed that screening would be included so protecting the facility from Cricket activities. Investigation into the coverage of floodlighting on the jumps areas will be undertaken. Some land transactions with the neighbouring school still need to be made and finance for the scheme remain unresolved.

Mike DOWN reported that his planned meeting with the relevant Councillor Simon Cook had been delayed

Main Meeting

SECRETARY

Performance Grants

These half yearly individual grants will be considered at the time of our next Committee on September 28th. A reminder will go out through the Clubs.

Action - Secretary

TREASURER

Current Balances

Total £ 25,115.73

HSBC Current £ 3,774.81 HSBC Deposit £ 21,340.92

A 12 month term investment has not yet been submitted.

Affiliations

This remains an area of concern and clubs are being chased. *See note under matters arising.*

Those who have yet to pay are : Bitton Road Runners, Clevedon AC, GWR, Hogweed Trotters, Nailsea RC, Portishead RC, Sole Sisters, Somer AC, Thornbury Running Club and Bath University.

Large Purchase

The Secretary indicated that the Club Copier was out of Toner and requested agreement that he purchase a new cassette at circa £78. There was agreement.

OFFICIALS

Polo Shirts

The Officials Co-ordinator (who tendered his apologies following illness) requested permission to purchase further 'polo shirts' for new Officials. The request was for 5 shirts but the Committee elected to go with a quantity of 10 in view of the £1 discount available.

Endurance Officials Qualifications

These are now being re-vamped and will run from Level 1 up to Level 5 and be module based.

COACHING

No items were reported.

ROAD RUNNING

North Somerset Relays (Avon AA County Champs)

These long standing races due to be held on 29th September have unfortunately been cancelled for this year.

There is a possibility that Bitton RR may pick up and continue this County Champs event up for the future.

Run Britain Road Show

The local (South West) Road Show will be held at Taunton on 3rd of September and Members are urged to attend. It is also noted that some local representatives intend to attend a similar Road Show in Solihull a couple of weeks earlier.

Risk Assessment Course

No date has been announced yet for these Courses.

Race Directors Open Forum

The forum developed by the South West RR Group is being launched by EA to a wider geographical area shortly. It is anticipated that the Avon Forum will be hosted by Bitton RR. A grant application for £2,000 to embrace courses covering various modules of race officiating, has been lodged with EA.

Risk Assessment Course

No date has been announced yet for these Courses.

South West Road Running Champs

The SW Road Running Champs will be held on October 18th at Newton Abbot Race Course as part of the Dartmoor Vale Half Marathon. Teams will comprise 4 Men & 3 Women. It is important that Avon are represented on this occasion.

CROSS COUNTRY

Road Running Co-ordinator

It was suggested that Andrea Culp from Great Western Runners was interested in taking on this vacant position. Neil Miller who is presently in contact will be asked to follow up.

Cross Country Champs

Gordon Robbins enquired whether it was in order to purchase medals for this event and was given a positive indication.

TRACK & FIELD

SW Inter-Counties

This event will be held on Sun 23rd August 2009 at Exeter. Hilary Nash is co-ordinating the Team Managers and Dean Garrett has been invited to look after the U15 / U13 Girls age groups.

Bill Kingston is now available to Officiate at the event so the Secretary agreed to inform the organisers.

Belgium Trip

It is believed that there will not be a trip to Belgium this year for leading competitors.

SPORTSHALL

The SH Co-ordinator, Wesport, Sportshall UK, Hilary Nash & Dean Garrett met recently to discuss a co-ordinated approach to next year's programme. Following the success of working with Wesport it is intended that with a few small variations a similar pattern of activity will be followed.

WELFARE

Child Safe Seminars

Leaflets were circulated concerning a series of free 'Child Safe' seminars to be held in South Gloucestershire. The relevant courses are to be held on 22nd August 2009 at Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre & 14th October 2009 at The Ridgewood Centre, Yate.

ISA / VBS

This topic was discussed briefly but no further information had been received since the last Meeting so clarifications could not be made.

SOUTH WEST REGION REPORT

Council

Nothing to Report

CLUB NEWS

Club Contact

North Somerset AC – Secretary

Mrs Tina PIERSON, 2 Westbrook Road, Weston-Super-Mare, BS22 8JU

Tel : 01-934-633523

e mail : tina.pierson@tesco.net

Bristol & West

are the organisers of the City Centre Road Races on 5th Sept. Entry Forms (free entry) are available on web sites and the Club would be pleased for people to publicise.

Clubs are reminded that the 50th running of the Mike Sully XC races will be held on the Bristol Downs on Sunday 22nd November 2009 and B&W AC would welcome increased participation from local clubs.

Westbury Harriers

noted that their next 'Blaize Blazer' will involve a match between Bitton and the host club.

Great Western Runners

announced the success of their Inter-Club Towpath Race on 24th July.

Westbury Harriers won the team event from Bitton RR, 216 runners took part and the competition was good.

Thornbury Running Club

The Avon Champs race, the Oldbury 10 miles will be held on 4th October. Competitors are warned that new security procedures at the venue (Oldbury Power Station) will be slightly intrusive with searches likely to take place.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Avon AA Dinner

The President, Peter Griffin consulted the floor in order to establish most appropriate date to hold the function. Event dates to be avoided were County AA & County Schools Champs, SW Inter-County Schools Champs, Welsh Castles Relay & Midland (Track) League fixtures. The Redwood Country Club, Bristol remains as the Venue preferred choice. The President stressed that costs associated with awards were not set against the costs of the Dinner 5 years ago. This should remain the case for the 2010 function.

Life Member Awards

The President after consultation with other Life Members requested that the following persons be considered at the 2010 AGM to be honoured as Life Members. Those people are 1/ Life - Vice Presidents : Gordon ROBBINS; Hilary NASH; Tim SNOWDON & Mike STRANGE. 2/ Life – Honorary Members : Raymond BRIGDEN; Anthony JEFFERIES; David HUGHES; Diana VILES; Patricia JEFFERIES; Patricia GALLAGHER & Stuart NUNN.

It was requested that the Secretary inform those to be honoured so that they might reserve a date in their diary to attend and receive their award (when the date of the Anniversary Dinner is fixed of course).

Avon Schools Champs

It was noted that the Schools Association intend to seek the assistance of the Officials Co-ordinator in a more timely fashion in 2010.

Cy KNIBB

The Committee welcomed the return of Cy (a past Vice-Chairman of the Association) following his return to the area after some years in the East Midlands.

MEETING CLOSED

At 8.53pm Next Meeting Date – Mon 28th September 2009.
Following Meeting – Mon 30th November 2009.

APPENDIX

FIRST CLAIM CHANGES (can also be found on the EA & MCAA web site)

England Athletics, June 2009

Applicable from 01/07/09

From Westbury Harriers to Great Western Runners – Philip GITTINS

From Great Western Runners to Bristol & West AC – Jonathan GOODLAND

From Bristol & West AC to Votwo.co.uk – Nigel LEIGHTON