

## Avon Athletic Association

**Minutes** of a Management Committee meeting, held on Monday July 26th 2010, at the Civil Service Sports Club, Filton Avenue, Bristol, starting at 7.30pm.

**Those Present:** Gordon Robbins (Chair, Road Running Co-ordinator, Bitton RR); John Deaton (Secretary), Mike Down (Bristol & West AC), Bill Kingston (Life Member), Cy Knibb (Bristol & West AC), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), Lesley Nunn (Avon Schools AA), Stuart Nunn (Yate & District AC); John Robbins (President), Tim Snowdon (Avon Network), Mike Strange (Life Member), Mike Willcox (GWR).

**Apologies :** Mike Andrews (Clevedon AC), Keith Brackstone (CC Coordinator), Andrea Culp (GWR), Rachael Fisher (NSAC), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Pam Gooding (Life Member), Jo Thomas (NSAC), Jim Murphy (Westbury H./Welfare). [Correction: add Gareth Thomas (Thornbury RC)]

**Minutes of Previous Meeting** (May 24th 2010): the next Development Sub-Committee date should have read 21st June. With this correction, the minutes were accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting.

### Matters Arising:

1. Anniversary Dinner: cancelled because of lack of demand. For the presentation of the Life Members awards, Gordon Robbins had arranged a buffet evening on Saturday 16th October at Keynsham Cricket Club. Ticket price £4; John Robbins to make presentations.
2. Welfare: the Government has suspended the part of the VBS system requiring registration of individuals, but the requirement to notify the ISA (via UKA in our case) about individuals about whom clubs/organisations have concerns still applies. All CRB check applications must now be submitted on the new (purple) form.
3. Suggestions regarding T&F Championships: Lesley Nunn confirmed that the Schools AA did not wish to change the current arrangements: Graham Howell felt that advance entry was necessary.
4. Proposed Primary Age Group Championships: Dean Garrett had not made any request for help with officiating: he was basically making enquiries about the 2011 event. The event appeared to be financially self-supporting. The Secretary would contact Dean Garrett again.

**Secretary's Report:** Items covered under other headings.

**Treasurer's Report:** The change of bank account signatories had gone through. There were no outstanding bills.

**Officials Secretary's Report:** (given by the Secretary in the absence of Ray Gooding): Ray Gooding had reported at the last meeting that Natalie Shaw was no longer the EA Officials Coordinator for the Midlands and South-West. The EA website had stated that the Northern rep. was covering the vacant post, but her name too is now replaced by "TBA". If member organisations need to contact EA regarding officials, it might be best to e-mail [officials-msw@englandathletics.org](mailto:officials-msw@englandathletics.org) as before, but expect some delay in response.

Ray had suggested that Avon AA Officials t-shirts should in future only be issued to officials who would be at the proposed Level 2b (County) and above.

**Road Running Matters:** Gordon Robbins stated that the planned 4x5M Road Relay was scheduled for Saturday 3rd April 2011, provided that this did not clash with the Midland 12-stage Relay. On Sunday [correction: Saturday] 25<sup>th</sup> September there will be an South-West Road Running Group seminar for existing and potential road race organisers: this will be open only to those from EA-affiliated clubs. There will be alternative dates in nearby areas for those with conflicting commitments.

**Track and Field Matters:** Dean Garrett was now unable to attend the South-West Inter-Counties Track and Field Championships, but was continuing with selection and notification of the younger age group teams. Jo Thomas (NSAC) had volunteered to assist David Gregory and Ken Holmes with on-the-day duties; Mike Strange would collect the vests from Hilary Nash and take them down to Exeter.

**Cross-Country Matters:** We still needed at least two team managers for the U13/U15/U17 age groups for this winter. If no volunteers were forthcoming by the time of the next Management Committee meeting, a more vigorous recruitment campaign would be needed.

**Sportshall Matters:** nothing to report.

**Report of Avon AA Development Sub-Committee:** The minutes of the third Development Sub-Committee meeting had been distributed with the Minutes of the previous meeting. The Management Committee agreed that:

1. The Track and Field coordinators would plan to make the Track and Field activities of the Association financially self-supporting.
2. The Cross-Country coordinator would plan to make the Cross-Country activities of the Association financially self-supporting.
3. The Road Running coordinator would plan to make the Road Running activities of the Association financially self-supporting.
4. Grants for Coach Education: the meeting agreed that these would be reintroduced after their temporary suspension, but restricted to one third of the course costs. John Deaton considered that a formal procedure for allocation of these grants was needed, and would circulate his proposals for such a procedure.
5. Avon Athlete bursaries: the meeting agreed that the one outstanding application from Winter 2009-10 should be paid, and the system would then be suspended
6. Grants to clubs for equipment would be suspended.
7. The T&F and CC coordinators would be asked to allocate in their financial planning the sum of £100 per year to allow for future restocking of Avon AA and of Avon & Somerset Team vests.

The Sub-Committee made no recommendation regarding amendment of association affiliation fees.

County Event Development Days: Tim Snowdon was satisfied with the response of potential lead coaches and athletes, less so with that of local coaches. Clubs would be asked to submit contact details of their coaches so that he could direct publicity to them. The meeting was content that all the Development Days should be at Bath University should Filton's hire charges remain uncompetitive.

Proposed Composite NJAL team: Tim Snowdon's understanding of the views of the potential member clubs was :

- ... WSM Juniors: no athletes in the required age range, so current involvement not yet justified
- ... Team Bath AC: verbal intimation that they were not interested
- ... Yate AC: Interested if the other main T&F clubs from Avon were involved, but they had submitted proposals incurring significantly reduced costs
- ... Bristol & West AC, North Somerset AC: awaiting decisions from their respective Committees

The meeting agreed that once the B&W/NSAC positions were known, that Tim should convene another meeting to see if any formula for progress could be arrived at.

**Avon Network Matters:** The Network's bid for a second year of funding had been successful. The planning for the County Event Development days was continuing. Tim had instituted a Young Leaders course, taking participants to Coach Leader and Assistant Official (Level 1) status (clubs would be asked to provide coaching/officiating mentors for these): he had arranged with Roger Lee to have some of them act as support officials at the SW Inter-Counties Championships. He had targeted various primary schools, with the aim of having them compete at the Mike Sully meeting and in Sportshall events. He was expanding the Avon Elite training events (invited athletes from years 7/8).

Tim asked for clubs to notify him of their Club Development Officers and Coaching Coordinators (or to identify to him the people who effectively carried out the functions).

Tim was collaborating with John Deaton in the construction of an Avon Network website.

**Avon Schools AA Matters:** The Avon Schools AA had gained three medals at the ESAA Championships, and two athletes had won places in the Schools International.

**MCAA / EA / UKA Matters:** There could be significant changes in the Track and Field calendar for Summer 2011, possibly including changes to the CAU Inter-Counties and ESAA Championships dates. Birmingham Alexander Stadium may be undergoing refurbishment, which could mean venue / date changes for some major events.

**Plans for County Open Track and Field Meetings 2011:** Cy Knibb presented his proposals for a series of three County Open T&F meetings for 2011. The meeting accepted his suggestions in principle, although the dates for the meetings would have to be decided once the timetable for the 2011 season became clearer. Cy also hoped to include a primary schools Quadkids competition at each meeting (the Committee suggested that an entry fee of £4 per team would be more appropriate). Cy agreed to be the overall coordinator for the series of meetings.

**Club News:** The GWR Mob Match on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July had been the most successful to date, with 238 athletes from 9 clubs. Bitton Road Runners will celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011 with a special Saturday evening race and barbecue. Bristol & West AC's Emily Diamond was a finalist in the 200m and 4x100m Relay events in the World Junior Championships. Bristol & West AC's men's team won their semi-final in the BAL "10 in 100" Cup and will compete in the final on Saturday September 4<sup>th</sup> at Copthall; Yate & District AC narrowly missed qualifying for the Midland Area final of the McCain's Young Athletes League.

**Any Other Business:** None.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Monday October 4th 2010, usual time / venue, then Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November. **Meeting Closed** at 9.40pm.

## APPENDIX A

### Changes of Eligibility affecting Avon clubs

James Bird	Sheffield Triathlon Club to Bristol & West AC	e.d. 01/06/2010
Catherine Dulla	Westbury Harriers to Newcastle (Staffs.) AC	e.d. 01/07/2010
Lee Hardy	Team Bath AC to Thames Valley Harriers	e.d. 01/06/2010
Steven Parker	Bristol & West AC to Epsom & Ewell	e.d. 01/06/2010
Joanne Russ[correction: Ross]	Thornbury RC to Great Western Runners	e.d. 01/06/2010
Vanessa Smith	Westbury Harriers to South-West Road Runners	e.d. 01/06/2010