

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday July 11th 2011, at the Civil Service Sports and Social Club, Filton Road, Bristol, starting at 7.30pm.

Those Present: Stuart Nunn (Chair, Yate & District AC), Keith Brackstone (CC Coordinator), John Deaton (Secretary), Mike Down (Bristol & West AC), Rachael Fisher (North Somerset AC), Chris Hopes (Southville RC), Bill Kingston (Life Member), Cy Knibb (Bristol & West AC), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), Lesley Nunn (Avon Schools AA), Gordon Robbins (Road Running Co-ordinator / Bitton RR), John Robbins (President), Tim Snowdon (Avon Network), Mike Strange (Life Member), Gareth Thomas (Thornbury RC),

Apologies : Pam Gooding (Life Member), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Jim Murphy (Westbury H. /Welfare), Mike Willcox (GWR).

Minutes of Previous Meeting (May 23rd 2011): accepted.

Matters Arising:

1. Avon AA Mob Matches: The meeting expressed its thanks to Bristol & West AC for the sum of £377 raised from the Mob Match incorporated in the Bridge Inn race on June 28th. Members were reminded about the Mob Match incorporated into GWR's Towpath 10km race on July 22nd.
2. Avon AA Banner: We had now received this: the cost was £193-20.
3. Town and Country Harriers: we had received their affiliation fee, so they were now recognised as members of the Association.
4. Pam Gooding: Pam had recovered sufficiently for Ray to be able to take her on holiday. She had thanked members for their good wishes during her illness.
5. South-West Council: the meeting thought that a meeting with Chris Mallender (with Nigel Rowe as well, if available) would be the best progression. Cy Knibb would contact Chris Mallender to invite them to the next meeting, or to agree an alternative date.
6. Avon AA Open Meetings: the first meeting was on June 22nd, with over 100 athletes in attendance, and 196 event entries. The gross income was £419; the next meetings were on July 13th and 3rd August. The meeting was well supplied with officials.

Secretary's Report: Items covered under other headings.

Treasurer's Report:

Hilary Nash distributed his report (copies available on request). The Current Account balance of £3660.97 includes a balance of £480.48 held for the Team Avon Composite team; the Deposit Account balance at 16 April 2011 was £ 3617.27. The High Interest Deposit Bond of £16,000 will mature on August 24th: Hilary was given discretion over the re-investment of this sum.

Affiliation fees: Clevedon AC and Portishead Running Club were in arrears: the outstanding fee from Somer AC would be deducted from their Coaching Course subsidies.

Coaching Course subsidies: Subject to certain clarifications from WSM Juniors, the outstanding applications for subsidies were cleared for payment. The total subsidy paid for 2010-2011 was £1130 (within the budget); the subsidy limit for the subsidy year May 2011 – March 2012 was set as £1500. The Secretary had redesigned the subsidy application form and would send it out to clubs.

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Subsidy year May 2012 – March 2013: the meeting upheld their decision that applicant clubs would need to have attended at least two of the Association's meetings between May 2011 and March 2012 inclusive to receive a subsidy in 2012-3, and agreed that the AGM plus any following abbreviated committee meeting would count as a single attendance. The Secretary would remind clubs of this ruling.

Officials Secretary's Report:

Ray Gooding had nothing to report. Other news: There would be a Level 3 Officials course on Saturday October 15th, and a Level 4 Officials course on Sunday October 16th, both at the UKA offices in Solihull. The former BARR Level 5 Race Scrutineers had been reclassified as UKA Level 3 Endurance officials.

Road Running Matters:

1. The Clevedon 10km (incorporating the Avon AA Championship) had gone ahead successfully but the Secretary had not received the Avon Championships results (Gordon Robbins would chase these up).
2. The Bristol & West AC Mob Match had gone ahead successfully, although Gordon Robbins recommended that the start and turning points be moved a few metres to limit congestion at the start.
3. The Oldbury Power Station 10 Mile on October 2nd would be recognised as the Avon AA 10 Mile Championship race.
4. Gordon Robbins will shortly be issuing an updated Avon AA Road Race listing.
5. Entries for the 2011 Sodbury Slog had reportedly closed already. John Deaton asked to be kept informed of any other races for which entries closed prematurely.

Track and Field Matters:

1. T&F Championships 2011: Graham Howell had submitted his report (copies available on request) – finalised accounts (as provided by Hilary Nash) showed a surplus of £400-35. Graham noted that entries were disappointing in most categories; he stressed the importance of a firm closing date for entries.

Graham Howell ended his report by stating that, after 20 years of Championships organising, he planned to step down from the role. John Deaton would send a letter of thanks to Graham for his service. Ben Redwood (Yate & District AC) had volunteered to take over the role: Ben has already organised Air Training Corps athletics meetings. Stuart Nunn would liaise with Graham and Ben.

2. There was uncertainty among some Under-20's whether they were required for the South-West Inter-Counties competition on Sunday July 17th. Hilary Nash would liaise with Ken Holmes.

Cross-Country / Trail / Fell Running Matters:

1. Tamsin Chick (Westbury Harriers) had sent a letter expressing disappointment that the Avon and Somerset Senior Women's team at the 2011 National Inter-Counties Cross-Country event was incomplete although there were apparently plenty of runners available to compete. John Deaton had replied pointing out that for Senior Men and Women's teams, counties could only nominate 15 athletes, with 9 to run; Mike Down responded that all Avon clubs had been contacted about the event, and that if athletes dropped out with little or no notice there was not much that Team Managers could do.

Tamsin had also suggested that the team medals for Seniors should be awarded on the basis of four finishers to score: this would be considered alongside the suggestion that the team competitions should be on a tri-County basis.

2. Keith Brackstone reported that the McCain's Cross Challenge series would now involve a fifth meeting, at Ashton Court, Bristol in November. The only available Sunday on which the park was available was the 13th, which meant there would be a direct clash with the Gwent CC League race at Bath University.

Sportshall Matters: Nothing to report.

Avon Network Matters:

1. Tim Snowdon urged members to persuade unattached adult distance runners to register with the “Run England” scheme: such registered runners would be considered among the participants in the sport, thus possibly helping athletics to gain extra funding.
2. Various network Coach Development courses were in the planning stage, including one on preparation for Half-Marathons and Marathons.
3. The Team Avon NJAL team had finished third in their Round 3 fixture at Cheltenham, but barring freak results would qualify for the Midland Area Promotion match on Sunday August 28th at Derby.

Avon Schools AA Matters: Avon AA Schools athletes had gained three Bronze medals at the recent ESAA Track and Field Championships.

Stoke Gifford Stadium Ltd. Matters: There were still internal communication problems with Filton College, and finding the fixture and training requirements for football. There were still problems in allocating track time to individuals and small groups.

MCAA / EA / UKA Matters: None.

Club Matters:

1. Bristol & West AC had run a successful “Go For Gold” scheme attracting 116 applicants, although some were already members of other clubs.
2. Bitton Road Runners celebrated their 25th anniversary in July with an MT race and social event.

Any Other Business:

1. Entry forms for the Bristol Road Mile and the Bristol Street Sprints (Under-11's) on Saturday September 10th would be available shortly.
2. Athletics 365: Videos relevant to stages 1 – 10 of the Athletics 365 programme can now be downloaded from the website <http://coaching.uka.org.uk/resources/athletics-365/> [Update: videos for most of the remaining stages are now available].

Date of Next Meeting: Monday September 19th, then Monday November 14th [ERROR: this should have read November 21st] ; both at the Civil Service Sports and Social Club.

Meeting Closed at about 9.20pm.

APPENDIX A.

Changes of Eligibility affecting Avon clubs (May)

Martin	Davies	Bristol & West AC to Newport Harriers	e.d. 01/06/2011
Jade	Ellans	Yate & District AC to Bristol & West AC	e.d. 01/06/2011
Ken	Ham	GWR to Thornbury RC	e.d. 01/06/2011