

Avon Athletic Association (Affiliated to England Athletics)

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

At Civil Service Club, Filton Avenue, Bristol.

Held :- 4th June 2007.

PRESENT : 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); Barry SMART (Life Member); Bill KINGSTON (Life Member); Gareth THOMAS (Thornbury Running Club); David COALES (Road Running – Team Manager); Mike WILLCOX (GWR); Andy MULLETT (Team Bath AC).

APOLOGIES : Peter GRIFFIN (President); Andy HEYES (Cross Country Co-ordinator); Pam GOODING (Life Member); John ROBBINS (Life Member); Ian MACINTOSH (Life Member); John CLAPP (Hogweed Trotters); Ann SINGER (Portishead Running Club); Chris JONES (Portishead Running Club); James MURPHY (Westbury Harriers); Lesley NUNN (Avon Schools AA); Hugh BURCHARD (Environment Agency); Colin HICKEY (AXA AC); 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 ACCURACY/ACTIONS / MATTERS ARISING

SECRETARY

Action – Traffic Cones

The Secretary has advised Westbury re the ownership of Traffic Cones.

Action – Clevedon Grant

The Secretary has corresponded with Clevedon (after some confusion whether the Secretary or Treasurer was to deal with this) the outcome was that we discussed and resolved the issue at the AGM.

Action – MCAA Coaching

The Secretary wrote to the Chair of MCAA ref MCC. No reply has been received to date. We believe a similar non response situation exists with EA South West. However Bristol & West AC wrote on the same subject and received assurances that total monies were not being carried to E & W Midlands??

Action – Secretary ‘to continue to request a response’.

Action - Power of Ten Bursaries.

Enquiries bear out that these bursaries to ‘performance athletes’ will also apply to off road activities.

OFFICIALS

Risk Assessment

It was recognised that Gordon Robbins had attended an EA approved Risk Assessment Course (given by Nicola Beattie and held at Gloucester) and that UKA should be duly informed.

Action - Officials Co-ordinator to inform.

AGM Minutes

ACTIONS / MATTERS ARISING

SECRETARY

Action – County Development Plan

A Draft is being prepared but England Athletics would like to see conformity in such County Plans and therefore wish our construction to be in general accordance with their Template. We await the issue of that template.

Action – Secretary (to prepare the Plan when the template is available & present it to the Committee for acceptance)

Others (to make contributions to that Plan)

Action - Ryan Scott achievements.

The Secretary wrote to congratulate Ryan Scott

Action – Clarification ‘Unattached Levy’

The Secretary wrote to Alan Harrison – he assures us in his response that we will continue to receive unaffiliated fees at least until April 2008.

Inter-Counties achievements As a point of order the Secretary asked that the reference to the 2007 Inter-Counties XC

Champs be deleted from the 2007 AGM report. A report was contained in the Jan 29th Minutes (and it will be reported in the 2007 Annual Report for the 2008 AGM). This was accepted.

Action – Bath University Track / UK School Games

The Secretary wrote to Wesport who in turn referred the issue to Bath University. Ron Stewart responded on Bath's behalf commenting that they are aware of general problems but that they are all of a general maintenance nature? Ron also enquired 'Who is the local Athletics Association'?

Team Bath AC assured the meeting that these issues are also a point of discussion between themselves and the University.

Action – County Championship Forms (Track & Field)

The Secretary and Chairman issued these forms widely.

Action – MCAA Champs Entry

MCAA were informed of County Championship winners eligible for free entry to the MCAA Champs.

Action – Viability of Small Clubs

The circumstances occurring with Empire AC and other small clubs has be widely announced, especially to England Athletics.

MAIN MEETING

SECRETARY

County Representatives List

David Hughes (Empire AC) informed the Secretary by telephone that he was the recipient of unsolicited communications from 'Clover House Therapy, Natural Healing for Children, Saltford'. David enquired whether this information emanated from circulations of the Avon AA lists. (A similar situation existed in the past through the MCAA). The Secretary had assured David that this was an unlikely coincidence but also asked the floor whether other Members had experienced such communications. No Member could recall such.

Auditors

The Secretary sought advice on procedures and any necessary changes that might be necessary to our Constitution which states that the annual accounts should be audited. We are advised by the following extract that this 'Audit' can now be termed 'Accounting review'. Extract from our AGM Treasurers Report is hereby attached :

*"Accountants Certificate – In accordance with instructions given to us we have prepared the above Income & Expenditure Account from the accounting records supplied to us. On the understanding that **the Association is not required by law, or its constitution, to have its Accounts subjected to a formal audit**, we have carried out a review of the above Income & Expenditure Account and the underlying accounting records."*

It was considered that this was merely a 'technical difference' and did not require a formal change of rules. It was agreed that the wording be tidied up at next year's AGM.

Action – Secretary to bring forward at 2008 AGM.

MCAA AGM

A very recent communication (3 days) indicated that their AGM would also occur on 4th June? Therefore the County had no time to send a representative.

MCAA Change of Address

This was communicated on the Meeting Notes sent with the Agenda and is also listed in the Appendix to these minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Current Balances

Totals £27,234.36.

HSBC Current - £6,806.07; HSBC Deposit – £10,428.29; HSBC Deposit Bond – £10,000.00.

Unaffiliated Fees Received cheque from the MCAA for £969.00 for Unaffiliated fees

Grant Applications

Training Grants – Ashley Rymer, Joe Dalglish, Harry Webb.

Individual athlete grant application were made by these three Endurance Athletes toward primarily 'altitude' training ventures during the latter part of this year. All athletes were referred to the formal process and the existence of 'performance' standards. Upon returning properly completed paperwork it was agreed that these grants would be supported in accordance with the award amount standard.

It was however further indicated that two of these athletes were resident and competed for another County. In these instances it was moved that we see evidence of the consideration of their home County before committing to our award.

Action – Secretary to Write to each applicant informing the necessary requirements.

COACHING

Talent Squad (Avon)

In response to encouragement from England Athletics and the good practice example of Gloucestershire (referred in Wesport report) it was agreed that we prepare for four occasions in the Autumn / Winter period when squads can be held.

Action – Coaching Co-ordinator

OFFICIALS

UKA Officials Conference

Derek Morrison, Mike Strange, Ray and Pam Gooding attended from Avon AA. All thought it worthwhile and more was learned about the emerging future structure. CRB Check paperwork completion was undertaken during the day for the convenience of those present.

Officials Courses

Two venues hosted Level 2 courses on 14th April (Swindon (field) & Exeter (T/k, field & track)). Mike Strange and Pam Gooding were Tutors but no Avon people choose to be trained.

EDM Course

Courses were held at Exeter and Bath on 31st March / 1st April. John Deaton, Mike Strange, Ray and Pam Gooding attended. Some practical experience needs to be undertaken at matches to complete this qualification module.

South West Officials Forum

Report on the Meeting of SW County Officials Secretaries (Chaired by Keith Reed) at Yeovil on 19th May 2007.

- Yeovil was obviously more popular than Exeter hence increased attendance.
- Level 3 Courses are proposed for Yeovil in October.
- Level 2 Courses are proposed between October & March at several locations including YOSC & Yeovil.
- According to Roger Lee he will shortly be issuing certificates to those attending the EDM Courses.
- The Officials Sec queries the fact that they announced that EDM equipment was in use at Bath University. It is believed that confusion with Photo Finish exists in this instance.
- SW Officials Conference is being proposed for Feb / March 2008.
- Existing rules for re-grading still apply until next year when the new Rule book will be issued.
- SW Inter-Counties scheduled for Exeter on 5th Aug 2007 and our Officials have been asked if they wish to be involved. 5 have applied so far. Provision is being made to obtain assessments. Photo finish, wind gauge and EDM will be in use.
- EA SW intends to supply, foc, polo shirts to registered Officials (with UKA pass and licence) who have also applied for CRB checks. The shirt will be white with red/black trim (Starters - red with black/ white trim) and are illustrated on the Officials Bulletin (Summer 2007). Shirts will be issued at the SW I/c and it is hoped this will encourage more Officials to take part.
- Selected Officials will be invited to gain experience of foreign procedures by joining the Representative track & field team to compete in Belgium on the w/e 17/18/19 Aug.

Endurance Officials

21 new applications and 4 for regrading have been received from Endurance Officials since our last meeting.

County Track & Field Champs

Champs on 13th May was attended by 21 qualified officials and 5 volunteers. This is an improvement on the 17 who turned out last year (W of E & Junior Champs). CRB check paperwork completion on 6 of our Officials was undertaken by Richard Gwyn on behalf of E A

Starters new requirements

It is a new requirement for starters wishing to renew their 'Firearms Certificate' to first obtain a 'Starter's recommendation letter' from UKA in addition to existing procedures.

Confirmation of Level 3/4 Requirements

It has now been confirmed that existing Level 3 & 4 Officials will be retained at that level. However if they have not attained the new Level 3 standard they will not be eligible to Officiate at National or International Meetings. (Two different groups of Level 3 /4 officials could exist).

ROAD RUNNING

SW Championships

The Wimborne 10 Mile race has been awarded the South West Championship. This is the second year of these Championships. All are reminded that Dave Coales is now the relevant Team Manager.

Endurance Officials

A list of endurance Officials is required in circulation so that Race Referees can be nominated locally.

Road Running Workshop

The latest workshop and training run in the Bristol Half Marathon series is scheduled for Bitton's Oldland Common base on June 17th. Steve Cram & Tim Hutchings will be special guest panel members.

Women's Running Network

Following local enquiries it is confirmed that this national group is on the list of EA Affiliated Clubs.

Avon Race Calendar

This compilation of local race promotions will be maintained and it was agreed that it should show all local races including those under the ARC banner.

Web Site A new Road running web site has been set up by the Road Running Leadership Group.

CROSS COUNTRY

South West League

For current plans and dates for the SW XC League reference has been made to the AGM Minutes.

Mike Down further clarified that the A & S Champs would coincide with the 15th Dec fixture and that dates do not clash with Birmingham League or the Cardiff Cross fixture

(Proposed) 'AGM Minute' - South West Cross Country Proposals

Mike Down appraised further developments on Cross Country running in the Region. The South West League will be inaugurated toward the end of 2007 using dates and venues that tie in with previously well established fixtures. The dates are Oct 28 – Exeter; Bristol – Nov 18; Millfield – Dec 15; leading to the South West Inter-counties on 7 Jan 2008

TRACK & FIELD

2007 Track & Field Combined West of England Champs & Avon Junior Championships

The weather was atrocious, possibly the worst on record.

Entries were again up with the Junior Section increasing by 6% and the W of E Section by 5%.

Despite the weather all events proceeded without undue problem. The photofinish equipment was beneficial to the judges on certain difficult occasions.

Bill Kinston moved a vote of thanks to Ray Gooding for the way he structured the work schedule for the Field.

South West Inter-county Championships

Details of the event structure etc for 5th August at Exeter Arena have been issued. It appears that a Wales Team may also be invited to compete.

SPORTS:HALL

Sports:hall – South West Champs – Torbay 3rd March

Once again the Avon Team did remarkably well with the U13 & U15 Boys winning their group. The U13 Girls came second but qualified for the Finals as the best second place Team in the UK.

Sports:hall – National Champs – NIA Birmingham 22nd April

Birmingham dominated this National Final finishing first in all four groupings.

The Under 13 Boys finished in a outstanding 3rd place, U13 girls were 7th and the U15 boys 11th.

SOUTH WEST REGION REPORT

Change of Clubs

England Athletics and the Region are not yet sufficiently established to undertake this task. The MCAA will continue to undertake procedures at least until this Autumn.

South West Council

A replacement following Gordon Robbins' resignation has not yet been made because the next eligible person from the previous Election process has already been co-opted to the Council (Keith Reed).

General discussion ensued on broader issues of Regional Governance some of which are covered widely in the Athletics Press.

WESPORT REPORT

Attended a Development Officers Meeting in Exeter on 8th May

- Roles for ADO's reduced in the light of the increased concentration of activity through Exeter.
- Clubmark will now be delivered at two levels L1 (Senior only) & L2 (Senior + Young Athletes). Therefore this accreditation can now to be extended to Road Running Clubs who have an emphasis on Senior membership. (Thornbury Running Club & Great Western Runners have been invited to consider going for L1 Accreditation when conditional detail emerges).
- Grant awards of circa £200 for L1 & £300 for L2 will be instituted.

- Neil Parsley has funding proposals for South West clubs and should be consulted as a first port of call with any bid proposals.
- Neil Parsley is coming to each area to present Workshops on Clubmark and on Funding.
- Each club can go for funding after first identifying a need. Keep your remits clear.
- EA at last has issued at least the first stages of its competition strategy – initially these serve Primary & Junior Schools.
- Youth Games proposals have now been shelved as they do not fit into EA's targets.
- Disability Champs for Under 20's are to be held at Exeter in May
- It was verified that L1 Officials are fully qualified officials as noted in the Rule book. However in some Leagues this level does not earn points for competing teams?
- Coach renewal – presently credits are not required but a renewal of CRB is a requirement.
- If Meeting Managers / Organisers are not defined at a match then Officials verification can be signed off by a Chief.
- 3 year funding has been found for 4 part time (20hrs / week) Regional Coaches are being appointed. The Appointments will be direct with England Athletics.
- Level 3 UKCC coach education will commence shortly (October) bringing in a new phase of Coach Qualification this time recognised properly by Sport England.
- Mentoring Workshops are now being developed using David Hemery & Les Duggan as Tutors. This scheme will be aimed at existing L3 Coaches. Courses in July, October 2007 and Feb 2008.
- A Strength & Conditioning Workshop will be held at UWE toward the end of June. 9am to 1pm – small fee.
- Regional talent activities will continue using the 5 ring model of Movement, Technical / Tactical, Psychology, Lifestyle and Conditioning.
- A sound County talent squad proposal used for Gloucestershire was outlined by Lorraine Shaw. Passed on to Hilary Nash.

AVON SCHOOLS AA

Track & Field Champs

These are due to be held on 9th June at Y.O.S.C. A plea went out for County Officials to attend. Field events commence at 10am and Track at 11am.

CLUB NEWS

Team Bath AC

This Club began operation under the Team Bath name after passing a supportive motion unanimously at their Special General Meeting.

Great Western Runners.

GWR alerted the meeting to their annual Inter-Club match and asked for confirmation that we would continue with our grant support to the event.

Proposed - Mike Strange, Seconded – Hilary Nash ‘that we cover costs up to a maximum of £130’. This was carried unanimously.

Bitton Road Runners

Sodbury Slog entry forms are in circulation and the race is already half full.

On Sat 16th June Bitton RR will be holding a Social evening, with live music. People are invited to attend – tickets will be £6 each (bring your own food – bar on site).

Clevedon AC

Clevedon AC thanked Avon AA for the Grant contribution toward their ‘Chip System’. This system would be used for their 10km race (a County Championship) on June 12th.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

County Records

Further adjustments have been made the initial list of County T & F Records. A list was made available to the Meeting. The outstanding but very doubtful 1500m time of Bethan Davies had been omitted although it would be interesting to actually know what her real time was on that occasion.

MEETING CLOSED At 9.18pm

Next Meeting Date – Mon 30th July 2007.

[MINUTES APPENDIX omitted, as for some reason this has been causing problems with the Webmaster's software. If you particularly need to refer to it, please contact the Secretary]