

# Avon Athletic Association

## (Affiliated to England Athletics)

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### MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Held :- 1<sup>st</sup> June 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); Ray GOODING (Officials Co-ordinator); James MURPHY (Westbury Harriers / Welfare Officer); Gordon ROBBINS (Road Running Co-ordinator); John DEATON (Webmaster); Bill KINGSTON (Life Member); Lesley NUNN (Avon Schools AA); Stuart NUNN (Yate & District AC); Mike WILLCOX (GWR); Gareth THOMAS (Thornbury RC); Steve COGHLAN (North Somerset AC).

**APOLOGIES** : Pam GOODING (Life Member); Neil MILLER (EA SW Council); Dave COALES (Road - Team Manager / Team Bath AC); Mike ANDREWS (Clevedon AC); Jackie HILLEARD (Wesport); Derek WOLFE (Bristol & West 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

Interviews have been undertaken for the important role of Network Co-ordinator and an offer has been made.

The Chair has sent out the Plan to all Avon AA Clubs requesting that they highlight their priorities. From this some direction can be set out for the initial targets of the Co-ordinator.

It was also asked that 'Partners' confirm the contributions that they are to commit to this venture.

Graham asked the Clubs to discuss and feed back.

The three current representatives on the Network Steering Committee are Graham Howell; Ken Holmes & Stuart Nunn. It was confirmed that these representatives' will share responsibility with others so that unreasonable commitments are not thrust on any set of people.

Dave Travis has been asked to Chair this Committee.

#### EA Affiliation

The EA Certificate of Affiliation for 2008/9 has been received and the one for 2009/10 is in process.

#### County Vests

This order is now complete and the total invoice value was £ 1,606.24

### OFFICIALS

#### Firearms Certificates for new Level 2 Starters

Some information on Firearms now appears on the UKA website and answers some outstanding questions raised. A scheme for 'borrowing' guns from UKA will be established but no route to Level 2 Starters legitimately holding licences has yet been established.

### ROAD RUNNING

#### London Mini Marathon Trials

This event hosted by Bitton Road Runners was rearranged from 7<sup>th</sup> February for Health & Safety reasons due heavy snowfalls. It was eventually held on 14<sup>th</sup> March and the outcomes were all positive.

The Committee thanked the Club for their excellent organisation.

### Main Meeting

#### SECRETARY

##### ISA / VBS

All clubs are advised to seek information on the 'Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) and the Vetting & Barring Scheme (VBS)' which can be found on the UKA web site. This scheme will eventually supersede the CRB Check scheme in the distant future..

## **Communication**

A letter was received from the Westbury Harriers Team Manager Tamsin Chick concerning the lack of communication around the annual Cross Country Championships and the subsequent Team Selections.

The Secretary acknowledged that communication could be better but also referred her to her own club's communications as the organisers of the event over the past two Championships .

## **Jean CHESTERMAN (nee WEBSTER)**

Dave Turner had informed of the recent death of Jean Chesterman. Jean was a former Starter and was Chair to Avon Schools AA. She was well known in athletics circles in the past and was a PE Teacher at Wellsway School, Keynsham. The Funeral was due to be held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June at Weston Crematorium.

## **TREASURER**

### **Current Balances**

Total £ 25,820.13

HSBC Current £ 4,479.21                      HSBC Deposit £ 21,340.92

The Bank Accounts details were now up to date with outstanding un-presented cheques sorted.

## **Affiliations**

Only a handful of Clubs had renewed their current affiliations.

**Action : Treasurer to write to errant clubs.**

## **Dealings with Somerset County AA**

Outstanding payments were queried along with understandings with Somerset on a who pays what basis for joint team arrangements. Vest purchase and transport costs to a value of £ 2,743.88 were in question.

**Action : Treasurer - to write to Roger Lee (the Somerset Treasurer).**

## **Grants**

### **Schools Association**

Lesley Nunn enquired whether to Schools Association might be allowed a grant again this year toward the cost of attending their English Championships. The Track Champs are in Sheffield this year and an increase in Coach costs from £1,450 (previously) to £1,845 was expected. The athletes selected are being asked to increase their contribution from £35 to £40 this year.

**Proposal – “That the Schools Association be awarded a grant of £400.00”.**

**Proposed – Mike Strange; Seconded – Bill Kingston; Carried unanimously.**

## **Equipment - B&W AC**

Bristol & West AC put forward a grant request for vaulting poles for one of their athletes. The Secretary had written to inform that individual grants were now considered under a performance criteria and that those for the current track season would be considered in September.

## **Web Site**

The Webmaster offered to put these Personal Performance Grant Forms on the web site along with qualifying conditions.

**Action : Secretary or Chair to furnish details to the Webmaster**

## **Funds**

Uncertainty about how long the County can survive if it supports the Network Co-ordinator and continues a grant policy whilst supporting Championship events was aired. It was felt that we should re-commence enquiries about NGB Grants and that the first port of call should be through the South West Council.

**Action – Secretary to enquire on grants available through EA SW**

## **OFFICIALS**

### **County Championships**

The meeting was again successful with adequate Officials available. Of the 18 Officials 5 were unqualified and a further 8 assistants participated.

### **County Schools Champs**

Dave Turner had written requesting help at the Avon Schools Champs on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June. At present only 13 people have committed to help and many of them are not graded. The problem can be emphasised in seeing that track is covered by 1 Track Judge & 1 Timekeeper?

The Officials Secretary commented that he had been asked to find Officials at a late stage and had provided all that he could. Lesley Nunn asked that a mix with teaching staff be used as in past years.

## **Level 1 Education**

The Level 1 Officials Course is being re-vamped and will be re-launched in the Autumn. The new target is 14 to 19 year olds in recognition that the average age of Officials is gradually increasing.

## **COACHING**

Coach Education Courses will remain unchanged until September after which there is likely to be an announcement about changes. At this time it is expected that the UKCC Courses will start to be introduced.

## **ROAD RUNNING**

### **Risk Assessment**

It is planned that new RA Courses for Road Running & Multi-Terrain (not Cross Country) will be introduced before the end of this year.

### **Race Directors Road Show**

A Road Show designed to inform Race Directors of the latest thinking from the RRLG will be visiting the South West shortly. UKA are really pushing the 'Real Buzz' proposals.

### **South West Road Running Champs**

The SW Road Running Champs are planned to be held in the Autumn in Devon. It is hoped that the County can be represented this year after a poor following in the past two years.

## **CROSS COUNTRY**

### **Gwent League**

Neil Miller reported that he was at the Gwent League AGM on May 29 and notes that we will be well served with Cross Country Races this coming Winter. The second of the race series on the 8<sup>th</sup> Nov will be at Bath University (Team Bath hosting), the third race will be at Wells/ Taunton and the fifth race hosted by Westbury Harriers on 6<sup>th</sup> March at Blaise.

### **Avon & Somerset Champs**

The race at Wells / Taunton will serve as the Avon & Somerset Championships.

### **SW XC Relays**

The SW Association plan to hold Road Relays at Kings College, Taunton on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October.

## **TRACK & FIELD**

### **Avon Track & Field Champs**

The 2009 Champs were deemed reasonably successful although a healthy wind did nullify some outstanding sprint performances.

Officials were supported by a good deal of help particularly from parents which helped things to go smoothly.

Some discussion surrounded the free entry for young athletes which was designed to pull in School entries. Some districts elected to use this as a selection for under 17's toward their own County Champs. However it was observed that in the main only club based athletes actually competed. Schools seemed to put names down with no expectation of athletes turning up. Infact 56% did not turn up? It was suggested that we go back to a 'pay for all' stance in the future. On detail it was observed that a 7m board (mark) should be used in the Women's Triple Jump for the future.

## **SOUTH WEST REGION REPORT**

### **Council**

Neil Miller who was unable to attend the meeting due to being the Race Referee at Blaise sent in the following report. England Athletics have now formalised an agreement with the MCAA to provide Competition and it looks like as a result that clubs will no longer be required to affiliate to MCAA in the future. (MCAA may of course take a different view on this?)

### **Funding**

£9,000.00 has been allocated to the South West to support competition in the area, recognising that some of the Counties therein may be geographically challenged. This funding will be administered through the MCAA.

(Note : the discussion and proposals to seek funding from the SW (see Treasurer's report) emanated from this discussion).

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Avon AA Dinner**

The President, Peter Griffin floated the idea of repeating the very successful 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner next year when the Association will have been in existence 35 years. After some discussion Peter offered to once again make arrangements and keep the Committee posted. The suggestion of Redwood Lodge as a venue was accepted.

The suggestion of a Dinner was unanimously accepted by the Committee.

### **Lesley Nunn**

The Committee wished Lesley well for her impending 'Hip Operation' and look forward to seeing her back in circulation soon.

## **Packers Track**

Mike Down highlighted a brighter prospect on progress toward a track facility at Packers Ground in Bristol. A chance meeting at a function enabled him to speak to Councilor Simon Cook who recently after a change in Council retook his previous responsibility as Executive Member for Leisure. Councilor Cook pledged that the track would become a reality in the near future and apologised that impetus seemed to have gone out of the project in the time that he was not responsible for the Leisure Post. Despite Council procrastinations over the Hengrove Park Project he said that Packers was a priority and the money to build it would be found.

It should be noted that an article in the Evening Post had recently highlighted the plight of Athletics in Bristol. This was substantiated by local schools choosing to boycott the facility favouring alternative venues for their School Sports this year.

Councilor Cook did not know what progress there was toward the Filton upgrade project.

## **Avon AA Web Site**

The Webmaster, John Deaton stated that the website was available for more current information to be published and urged for people to use it. He had recently included more links one of which was a bit diverse!

## **AGM**

The new Committee elected at the AGM is shown in the Appendix.

## **MEETING CLOSED**

At 8.58 pm      Next Meeting Date – Mon 27<sup>th</sup> July 2009.      Following Meeting Date – Mon 28<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

## **APPENDIX**

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

#### **England Athletics, January 2009**

##### **Applicable from 01/02/09**

From Team Bath AC to Windsor Slough Eton & Hounslow AC – Sophie UPTON

From Great Bentley RC to Bristol & West AC – David GREEN

From Team Bath AC to Yeovil AC – Alice MURRAY-GOURLAY

From Bitton RR to Yate & District AC – Adam WILSON

#### **England Athletics, February 2009**

##### **Applicable from 01/03/09**

From Barnsley AC to Bristol & West AC – Andrew DEAN-YOUNG

From Exmouth Harriers to Bristol & West AC – Tom MERSON

#### **England Athletics, March 2009**

##### **Applicable from 01/04/09**

From Team Bath AC to Southampton RC – Natalie BURKE

From Thornbury RC to Bristol & West AC – Phil LUCKER

From Cornwall AC to Bristol & West AC – James TUGWELL

From Team Bath AC to Birchfield H – Danny TALBOT

#### **England Athletics, April 2009**

No Avon Movements

#### **England Athletics, May 2009**

##### **Applicable from 01/06/09**

From Yate & District AC to Newham & Essex Beagles AC – Ryan SCOTT

## **AGM**

Current Officers (as elected at the AGM) are:

President	Peter GRIFFIN
Chair	Graham HOWELL
Vice Chair	Mike DOWN
Secretary	Mike STRANGE
Treasurer	Hilary NASH
Coaching Co-ordinator	Keith BRACKSTONE
Officials Co-ordinator	Ray GOODING
Road Running Co-ordinator	Gordon ROBBINS
Cross Country Co-ordinator	Vacant
Track & Field Co-ordinator	Graham HOWELL
Sports:Hall Co-ordinator	Dave TURNER
Welfare Officer	James MURPHY

