

Avon Athletic Association (Affiliated to M.C.A.A.)

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

At Civil Service Club, Filton Avenue, Bristol.

Held :- 16th May 2005.

PRESENT : Peter GRIFFIN (President); Graham HOWELL (Chairman); Mike DOWN (Vice Chairman); Mike STRANGE (Hon Sec); Bill KINGSTON (Hon Treas); Gordon ROBBINS (Road R Co-ordinator); Hilary NASH (Coaching Co-ordinator); David COALES (City of Bath AC); Lesley NUNN (Avon Schools AA); Mike WILLCOX (Great Western Runners); Keith BRACKSTONE (University of Bristol AC); Stuart NUNN (Yate & Dist AC).

APOLOGIES : Ray GOODING (Officials Co-ordinator); Colin HICKEY (AXA A.C.); James MURPHY (Westbury H); Ian MACINTOSH (Life Vice-President); Karen WALSH (Sole Sisters); David HUGHES (Empire AC); Martin RUSH (Bath HPC); Pat SWINBANK (Team Manager); Neil MILLER (Westbury Harriers); Nigel COX (A&S Tri).

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

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

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Hub Consultation Process

Jack Buckner was responsive and understanding in respect of our letter highlighting the unfortunate choice of 19th Feb 2005 for the South West's Hub Consultation meeting. He did offer to hold a more local meeting especially for the County but by the time the feedback had materialised most of Avon's officers had arranged to attend the original venues.

Avon Association Ties

Our President, Peter Griffin placed our order for neckties.

Bath Half Marathon

Bath Half organisation appears to have straightened itself out at the last minute – permits issued and went ahead. The Road Running Co-ordinator reports that problems still were experienced with the Start area.

Officials (Appendix)

Hilary Nash noted that his pass mark in the reported Officials Exam was infact 85%, not as reported.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE AGM MINUTES

TREASURER

The Treasurer confirmed that the 2004 Accounts still awaited Audit.

[Action – Treasurer]

ROAD RUNNING

Unattached Levy

This continuing matter was thoroughly discussed – the consensus view was that the MCAA should not have imposed such changes without taking aboard considerations and objections from Counties & Clubs. Clevedon AC & Thornbury RC (not present at this meeting) had sent in letters pointing out the problems presented to smaller clubs promoting smaller races. It was the unanimous view of the Committee 'that this Association is unable at this time to comply with the instructions of the MCAA to increase the unattached levy' until reasonable discussion has been held by the MCAA with all interested parties. It was felt that the opinion of our RRC had been totally ignored. Furthermore the Committee sought to clarify who the ERRA are and what their links with MCAA might be (it being believed that the idea of increasing the levy had come from this body.)

[Action – Hon Sec (to write without delay to express our formal views and decision wrt applying the increase to Geoff Durbin, Chairman MCAA)]

Proposed Mike Willcox – Seconded Keith Brackstone.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Sports West Development Plan

This Plan has now been approved and is now up & running. £ 23,612 available to spend within the realms of that Plan. Appointments are being made to fulfil key positions in the set up. This scheme is a 'Whole Sport Plan' and is administered through Sport England and AAA of England.

Life Members

Letters of thanks have been received from the following who were recently installed as Life Members Mervyn Kemp, Barry Smart & Dave Turner.

Letter from Di Viles

A letter from Diana Viles expressed her concerns for City of Bath AC over their continuing restrictions with the use of the Bath HPC facilities. This matter was discussed. Whilst speakers indicated were sympathetic with the situation as expressed it became clear that the Bath club felt that were in control of the situation and were dealing with the Bath University authorities on an amicable basis. The Association indicated that the club could call on its support should they deem it necessary.

Hub Structure

A S.W.O.T. Chart was circulated to Members to promote thought on the implications of the proposed new structure and of moving to the South West or West Midlands 'Hub'. Feed back from this process will be reflected in a revised Chart.

A further meeting on progress on the subject with the Jack Buckner Team will be held at Taunton on Fri 24th June.

Facilities

Each of the 3 local tracks are scheduled for re-inspection in the near future.

Physio

David Hughes brings to our attention the Physio. services of Knightswood Clinic, in Bristol. The Hon Sec is holding contact details.

You are also reminded that one of our Membership, Jim Murphy, can also provide a similar service.

Club Awards

Tom Watson, Westbury Harriers, featured as recipient of Coach of the Year (Performance) at the Annual Awards of the South West Area. We congratulate Tom on this achievement.

The following also made the Nominations short list in other categories :

Volunteer - **Mike Adams** Bristol & West AC

Development Coach – **Neil Miller** Westbury Harriers.

Emerging Coach – **Gareth Moir** Bath University.

Insurance

UKA have circulated separate Insurance Cover leaflets under the following headings : Athletes, Coaches, Technical Officials, Team Managers & Clubs / Club Officers. These have also been circulated to all clubs but copies are available from the Hon Sec.

Contact list

Avon AA Contact Lists have been updated up-dated and are available.

Welfare

The Hon Sec is now aware of a suitable person who may undertake the position of Welfare Officer in the future. (After September).

SW Web Site

It is reported that South West 'Hub' has set up a Web Site.

First Claim Moves (As Appendix.)

TREASURERS REPORT

Current Balance

£xx,xxx.xx (excluding cheques written just prior to this meeting).

The unaffiliated levy money paid to the County amounted to £ 5,139.00 for the January to April period. (The money covered 12 races - the major amount was in respect of the Bristol Half Marathon).

Grant requests

Portable PA System

Ray Gooding submitted an application for the purchase of a PA System for the use of Starters.

Cost £ 360. Existing wired equipment is now unmanageable (bulky & heavy) and difficult to carry in a car & store when not in use.

(This application was not considered by the Committee as the documentation was delayed by complications through the e-mail system.)

However, out of Committee it was decided by members of the Executive that this should be considered as an item to be purchased by Avon AA and available for use generally by Starters at Avon matches.

The equipment has infact already been purchased and it is felt therefore that this decision should be endorsed at the next Management Meeting.

[Action – Next Committee Meeting]

Bitton Road Runners - Sprint Training Equipment

Bitton submitted a Grant request for consideration for the purchase of starting blocks for use by their 'Junior' squad whilst training at YOSC.

[Action – Grant rejected, it was indicated that track starting blocks are available at YOSC and that it is commonly accepted that Athletes buy their own blocks.]

Sole Sisters – Coach Training (Women target group)

Karen Walsh submitted a Grant request with a particular focus on their annual Louise Stratton Memorial Run - to finance training, promote & publicise women's running & finance further Coach Education. Karen notes that the second point is in line with aims within UKA guidelines.

[Action – Grant request was rejected, the particular race is does not appear to require financial support (is a straight forward run around a Sports Ground) and Avon does already make a 50% grant towards all Coach Education.]

Anthony Mattis - Medical Costs.

Following a contribution of £ 100 from his Club AM requested that Avon consider a further contribution toward a Scan (total cost £ 250) required on his ongoing ankle injury.

It was decided to match his Club's award.

[Action – Award £ 100]

Lloyd Rice – Costs generally for Travel

Lloyd (who has aspirations to join the elite Sprinters in the near future) requested that Avon consider a Grant to assist with his potential Travel & accommodation costs for the forthcoming season. It was felt that a precedent would be set by making an advance, and of course there would be no come back if Lloyd subsequently lost the season through injury. It was suggested that Lloyd goes first to his own Club and requests their consideration. It was suggested that they might consider an interest free loan to be confirmed as a grant at the completion of the season.

[Action – Grant not awarded, such awards will only be considered in retrospect.]

Avon Schools AA – County Clothing.

The Avon Schools Athletic Association requested consideration toward a Grant for Tracksuit bottoms to complete a presentable uniform whilst in attendance at the ESSA Champs. Total Cost £1,056.56, Grant requested £ 500.

[Action – Decision Grant Approved]

(Midlands Grant – It was decided that our application for a £ 500 grant from the MCAA for young athletes should now be aimed at our assistance to Avon Schools AA.

[Action – Hon Sec])

Pole Vaulting / Coaching Squads – Coaching Library

Mike McCarthy submitted a double request for Grants around some very good suggestions and the general benefit of the County.

Centre of Excellence / Squad Coaches.

Mike stated his support for the principle of Centres of Excellence for a number of events. He particularly outlined a stage 1 objective for Pole Vault, Triple Jump & High Jump and a stage 2 objective for heavy Throws, Sprinting, Hurdling, Middle Distance and Steeplechase.

Specifically Mike supported the Pole Vault Squad operating at Bath HPC and requested that Avon support with a Grant of £ 500 towards 2 Vaulting Poles.

After discussion it was decided that Mike's idea in fact complimented the objectives set out by the South West Coaching Group. Hilary Nash represents the Association in implementing this Plan and similar ideas are in process.

[Action – Inform Applicant, Grant requirements superfluous]

Coaches reference Library

Mike suggested that a Grant of £ 250 be awarded in order to establish a central library of coaching material comprising books & videos.

[Action – Inform Applicant, the idea is worthwhile and the Hon Sec should investigate a location for the library. Suggestions Bath HPC, Bristol Univ, UWE, City Libraries, and similar.]

COACHING

No comments

OFFICIALS

The Officials Co-ordinator gave **apologies** – a written report was considered in his absence.

Officials List

10 new (mid qualification) Assistant Officials and 7 Grade 'C' Road Running Officials have been added to our County list.

Avon / West of England Championships

Ray felt apprehensive after only 50% of his availability forms were returned and 50% gave a negative response. However 5 Officials attended from Wiltshire on the Sunday to ease the burden.

The analysis :- **Timekeepers** – OK on both days; **Start Team** – OK on Sunday with the assistance of 2 from Wilts – would have benefited from a Marksman on sat; Field – Just about managed with all Judges working continuously; Track – Barry Smart + help from the spectators on Sat – Barry + 3 late replies on Sun. (a narrow margin of success but creating a good deal of concern).

On behalf of all officials Ray says 'thanks for the very nice lunch packs' provided on both days.

John Deaton

After much discussion the MCAA accepted that John was qualified and active as a Grade 4 Field Judge and they finally accepted the recommendation that he be upgraded to Grade 3.

Val & Mike Eustace

Both have informed that they no longer wish to be on the Officials List and have informed UKA of this decision. Ray comments that even more officials appear to be reluctant to attend meets this year. This trend is not just confined to Avon.

Officials Qualifying

Examinations were held in April after the MCAA failing to support the planned 18th March date (they forgot to send the exam papers). Of the 5 people invited to participate 2 accepted, 2 declined and 1 failed to respond. The outcome was that Pat Jefferies passed with 70% to become a Field Judge Grade 4 whilst Rosemary Baldwin did not pass.

Assistant Officials Level 1 Courses have been held at Whitchurch & YOSC with the principle aim of recruiting Parents into officiating. 4 attended from Bristol & West and 6 from City of Bath. It was disappointing that the YOSC Course (paid for by the Young Athletes Lg.) only carried applications to attend from Bath?? The Hon Sec asked "Are the other clubs all well covered for Officials"??

Ray notes that only 2 of the new L1's officiated at the Avon County Champs..

Form 10

In order to maintain status it is required that Technical Officials complete their Activity List (Form 10) on an annual basis. Ray notes that only 30% of our accredited officials returned the form for year 2004. 3 years of failure to make returns earns deletion from the 'register of Active Officials'.

Avon Schools Champs

Avon AA have been asked to help provide Technical Officials for their Championships on June 11th at YOSC.

British Milers Club

The Officials Co-ordinator has been requested to provide Technical Officials for their meets at Bath University on 16th June & 24th August. Looking for 2 Starters, 4 Timekeepers & 4 Track Judges. (no field events). Note it is envisaged that Electronic Timing will be used.

South West Inter-Counties

To date we are only able to supply 2 Field Judges, 1 Timekeeper & 1 Starter to this Meet.

Uniform

The new dress code for Technical Officials has been announced by UKA. It will be :- White Polo Shirts, a dark navy blue Fleece, dark navy blue Trousers & black Shoes. Starters – red Polo Shirt, red Fleece, etc.

It was requested that Polo Shirts with the Avon motif embroidered on the front be provided for those officials who regularly support Avon AA meets.

This proposal was accepted in principle with the Co-ordinator to provide details and costings before proceeding.

[Action – Officials Co-ordinator]

It was observed that other Counties already have similar arrangements. Wiltshire wore their white polo shirts at the West of England Champs..

MCAA Conference

The Officials Co-ordinator announced his intention to attend the next MCAA Officials Conference on Nov 20th 2005 at Alexander Stadium.

CROSS COUNTRY

No comments

ROAD RUNNING

South West Road Running Plan

Gordon informed that he was actively involved in establishing a Road Race Plan for the Region.

Gordon is anxious not to be seen as establishing irreconcilable links with the South West so that he does not to predicate any decisions made at County level about 'Hubs'.

South West Inter-Counties Road Running Champs

The SWRRC are trying to establish the above Championships for 2006.

Road Race Calendar

The latest issue is in circulation – the prime change is that the Hewlett Packard 5 has been cancelled. Gordon reports that the Calendar indicates a year on year in numbers and many of these races are now full well before race day.

Bristol Half Reebok Seminar

A series of monthly seminars & training runs have been arranged (hosted by GWR, Bristol & West, Bitton & Westbury) to promote the Bristol Half and to promote road running generally in Bristol. The panel for the seminars is expected to include Alan Storey, Steve Brace & Bud Baldaro.

Bristol University Half Marathon

Keith Brackstone commented that it was likely that this race would fit under the 'Fun Run' category for the future. A Permit would therefore not be required but Keith reassured that Insurance for runners would be adequately covered through the University's internal Insurance cover.

Course Measurement

Phil Holland intervened with regard to the allocation of places allocated to Avon for the above course (to be held at Exeter). He decided that whereas some areas were in need of recruitment / training others had sufficient people operating. With Phil Holland & Brian Burr operating it was decided that Avon did not have sufficient need.

TRACK & FIELD

Avon Junior Champs

Numbers were down slightly from last year but not significantly. As usual the bulk of entries came from Nailsea School (Dave Turner) at the contribution of this school should not be overlooked. Tony Hurley had asked during the time that the entries were being taken that we discount or even provide free entry to schools. This was considered and will be borne in mind for next year.

[Action – Track & Field Co-ordinator (to review for Dec / Jan meeting)]

West of England Champs

The Champs appeared successful when compared to last year with Athletes coming primarily from Avon & Wiltshire – (no entries from Glos or Somerset).

Mike Down commented that over 600 athletes were reported to have attended the Somerset Champs and asked that we find out more detail so that perhaps we could follow their good lead.

[Action – Hon Sec (to investigate)]

CAU Inter-Counties

Pat Swinbank is on holiday – Ken Holmes has agreed to cover both Men's & Women's Teams. Hon Sec has asked Ian Humphreys for entry details – no reply yet.

South West Inter-Counties

This event will now be held on 24th July 2005 at Exeter Arena. It was indicated that the event clashes with National Junior League. Bristol & West AC stated that they will give priority to the representative event. It was also pointed out that the National Junior Lg does not involve promotion or relegation this year – the league is to be restructured – therefore it is not vital for the clubs to attend.

[Action – Team Managers (to proceed with arrangements)]

Youth Games

The traditional Youth Games will operate this year on a limited basis in Avon being hosted and promoted by South Gloucestershire.

It was noted that this date clashes with the Young Athletes League but it must be remembered that the age groups are much younger than those covered by this league.

SPORTS:HALL

National Finals

From the 12 teams in each of the National Finals the Avon Team finished 3rd in the Boys U13 event and 10th in the Boys U15 event.

On an Individual basis Jade Ellans once again excelled to come 1st in the Vertical Jump with a leap of 69 cm.

ASSOCIATION 30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DINNER

Preparations previously reported are now well in hand for the big event on 11th June David Hemery will be our Guest of Honour.

CLUB NEWS

City of Bath AC

We welcomed Dave Coales to the meeting as their new representative.

Hugh Burchard, the previous CoB representative had written to say that he was no longer a member of that Club but wished to attend Avon Committee Meetings when able. He is in the process of establishing 'Environmental Agency Harriers'. 60 people from EAH have entered the Bristol Half.

Bath Plodders

Following recent telephone discussions we expect this previously unaffiliated club to apply to join with us.

Bath University AC (Team Bath)

Recent contacts over Affiliation payments highlight Kevin Mason as their Treasurer (or similar).

A.O.B.

No points raised

MEETING CLOSED

At 9.50 pm.

Next Committee Meeting – Mon 25th July 2005.

APPENDIX

First Claim changes – Meeting 24th Jan 2005.

Applicable from 01/02/05

From Cheltenham & County To Bristol & West AC – Claire CONWAY

First Claim changes – Meeting 21st Feb 2005.

Applicable from 01/02/05

From Bristol & West AC To Wells City Harriers – Karen BUCKLEY

First Claim changes – Meeting 21st March 2005.

Applicable from 01/04/05

From Torbay AC To Bristol & West AC – Steven WALDRON

From Gloucester AC To Bristol & West AC – Kate GOODHEAD

Higher Competition

From Yate & District To Swansea Harriers – Sara BARRY

First Claim changes – Meeting 18th April 2005.

Applicable from 01/05/05

From Royal Navy AC To Bristol & West AC – Graeme RILEY

Foreign Athletes

Maria MESPOULEDE – French To Bristol & West AC

Deikume ANTHONY – Nigerian To Bristol & West AC

Coach Qualifications

Level 1

Bristol & West AC – Jane HINAM.

Officials Qualifications

Level 1 (Required to Officiate @ 2 Matches before fully Qualified)

Steve PITMAN, Michael KNIGHT, Kim HAMBRIDGE, Tracey MARTIN, - **Bristol & West AC;**

Andy HILLIER, Sue DEAN, Wayne HOUT, Anthony MULLINS, Nick LEWIS, Cerys FORESTER. –

City of Bath AC