

Avon Athletic Association (Affiliated to England Athletics)

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Held :- 22nd May 2006.

At Civil Service Club, Filton Avenue, Bristol.

PRESENT : Peter GRIFFIN (President); Graham HOWELL (Chair); Mike DOWN (Vice Chair); Mike STRANGE (Hon Sec); Mike ANDREWS (Hon Treas); Ray GOODING (Officials Co-ordinator); Gordon ROBBINS (Road Running Co-ordinator); Andy HEYES (Cross Country Co-ordinator); David COALES (City of Bath AC); Arthur RENSHAW (Thornbury RC); Bill KINGSTON (Bristol & West AC); Rodri JONES (Westbury H); Mike WILLCOX (Great Western Runners).

APOLOGIES : Hilary NASH (Coaching Co-ordinator); John ROBBINS (Life Member); Tony HURLEY (Life Member); Pam GOODING (Life Member); Barry SMART (Life Member); Jim STRUDWICK (Life Member); Sonya ELLIS (SW RDC); Nigel ROWE SW Chair); Ken HOLMES (Team Manager); John CLAPP (Hogweed Trotters); Colin HICKEY (AXA Sun Life AC); David HUGHES (Empire AC); Andy MULLETT (City of Bath); Hugh BURCHARD (Environment Agency); Keith BRACKSTONE (Bristol University).

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

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

Note : Correction from Peter Griffin : New Secretary to Westbury Harriers miss-spelt.

Should be Geraint TORRINGTON (Similarly the e address was miss-spelt).

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

SECRETARY

Fred Hill – As agreed we did donate a cheque of £100 to St Peters Hospice. Subsequently a receipt was passed to the Treasurer and a letter of thanks received from Fred's widow Joan Hill and from the Hospice. Sadly it was reported that Joan Hill has now lost the sight of one eye and has troubles with the other eye.

TREASURER

Outstanding Grant Payment

The details of Dave BEDWELL, a recent Level 2 qualified Coach, were passed on to the new Treasurer so that the customary 50% of £120 grant could be paid?

Action – Treasurer

AGM

The Minutes are not yet complete and will be available during the year and issued (as is our practice) just prior the next AGM. Any reference toward decisions made can be obtained from the Secretary.

Action – Secretary.

Craig Davey who was suggested as a possible RR Team Manager is unable to cover this post.

Action – Committee, to continue to seek cover.

Audit

The Audit was not complete for the AGM. The new Treasurer undertook to bring the books up to date and undertake the outstanding matter of Audit in due course.

[Action – Treasurer & Auditors.]

Note it was wrongly assumed at the AGM that Malcolm Swinbank would continue as an Auditor.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

New Officers

We welcomed two new officers elected at the AGM 1/ the Treasurer; Mike Andrews, 2/ the Welfare Officer; Peter Miller.

Contact List

A new contact lists was issued subsequent to the AGM but some small errors have been observed and a further up dated will be issued asap.

New Clubs

3 new Clubs seemingly are about to join with us; e-runners, Portishead R C. & Environment Agency. Each has been advised of procedures and we await their applications to join. Details are included on the latest Contact List and the following should be added for Portishead RC - Ann Singer (President)

[Action – These 3 Clubs.]

SW Athletics – Council Elections

Avon has 3 nominees for a position on the new Council. – Gordon Robbins, Mike Andrews & Mike Down. Some discussion ensued on a democratic method of electing to this Council. It was decided that the persons in attendance should be asked to cast their vote when we were properly aware of voting procedures. It was decided the Secretary should undertake all internal communication and then communicate our preference/s to the electoral board.

Action – Secretary

National Council Nominations

The Committee were not inclined to offer any advice toward National nominations.

Bath Half Marathon

A mechanism for this event to be held was established through the AAA. A payment attributable to unaffiliated fees was made (and received by Avon AA) for 2005 but details justifying amounts were not disclosed. A report on Health & Safety issues was prepared and submitted to AAA / UKA by Ray Jaekels. Matters concerning this race were still considered unsatisfactory by our Committee.

South West Conference

The South West Conference was blessed with an excellent turnout from this County. Two of our number were asked to Chair workshops. A full report on all activities at the Conference can be found on the South West Athletics web site.

Wesport

A meeting with England Athletics and the Wesport (Avon) Partnership will finalise the working arrangements and budgets for Athletics in the County. An attempt has been made to accommodate aspects of Schools Association activity.

Development Plan / Budget

In line with observations made at the AGM we are pursuing a route to constructively contribute to the overall financing of Athletics in the County. The County Partnership Development Plan is being written to include the whole spectrum of activity in Avon. It will recognise the already considerable contribution toward the Sport by this Association (eg the costs of Coach / Official Training), and should extend (if agreeable to the Committee) toward Talent Squads, Incentive to Clubs to achieve Clubmark accreditation, Officials support (eg rule books, clothing), Support for equipment, etc.

An indication of support costs toward Talent Squads was highlighted to the Committee – meet 3 times per year, 24 x 2 hr sessions at an acceptable venue, with facility & coach costs to be re-imbursed. Cost circa £ 700.

It was agreed that each aspect of expenditure proposal should be presented to and considered by Committee separately. It was also agreed that the Treasurer should become closely involved in budget proposals.

Proposal – That we in principle agree ‘That Avon AA accept that we should be involved in an overall Athletics Development Plan for the County’. Proposed Mike Strange, Seconded Gordon Robbins, Accepted unanimously.

Future Action – Secretary & Treasurer.

Midland Grant

A telephone call from Richard Float recognised that we should be able to access the £500 grant offered by MCAA intended for Young Athletes. However it would not be permissible for this grant to be set against funding Schools Association activity.

Action – Secretary (to re-submit the Grant Application)

Peter Griffin

Peter Griffin – was welcomed to the Meeting and is well on the way to recovery from extensive surgery to his legs.

Tony Hurley

Tony Hurley – is still under investigations into suspected TB and also suffered mild heart attack recently.

Competition

We briefly discussed a letter from MCAA in which they sought opinion on the present competition structure and how this might suit modern day competition needs. General consensus was that there was no great need for competition to be re-structured. The Secretary requested, in view of the short time to consider, that Members should communicate on the subject after the meeting and then this would be communicated directly to MCAA.

Action – Secretary

South West Athletics – Awards

South Gloucestershire received an award for ‘Best Partnership’ at development level at the South Awards ceremony. Congratulations to Steve Spiers and his very effective development team.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Current Balance’s – Barclay’s £17,574.41; HSBC £4753.00.

Cheques outstanding but not cashed £293.34

The contribution from unaffiliated fees from MCAA amounted to (£ 4005.50) and included a payment (previously outlined) for the Bath Half Marathon.

Fund Transfer

It is foreseen that the transfer of funds from Barclay’s to the new HSBC account will take place on 25th May.

Cheques Outstanding

A number of recipients of grant cheques had not yet cashed their cheques. The Treasurer sought to find out the intention of these recipients and requested guidance from anyone with knowledge or contact with these persons. They are Bristol & West AC £169; Rose Baldwin £10; Cynthia Evans £25; Simone Lowrey £103; Jade Ellans £25; Paul Weston £5; Somer AC £25 & Dr Neil Miller. Neil’s dates back to Jan 05 as an example?

Grants

Altitude Training

Rod Jones presented grant requests for four Young Endurance Athletes (U23) (2 from Bristol & W AC and 2 from Westbury H) to enable them to go to Font Romeu for altitude training in August with their Coach/es. They are Ashley Rymer, Rob Bugden, David Bishop and Sam Dagleish.

Agreed to award grants of £100 to each of the four athletes applying.

Action – Treasurer.

Grant policy proposal - Graham Howell

Graham presented a paper to establish ‘Personal Development Grants’ – ‘and to set a clear award system and eliminate the potential for inconsistency’

Points made, and précised:

- 1 Allocate an annual Personal grant budget to be split into two half year amounts.
- 2 Set age group / event performance standards.
- 3 Have two tiers of award levels resulting in different specified grant levels.
- 4 Accept requests based on performances in the two competitive seasons (summer & winter) prior to the request.
- 5 Process Personal Grant requests twice a year at the relevant Executive Committee Meeting following each competitive period.
- 6 If the level of grant requests exceeds the half year budget then individual grant amounts will be reduced on a pro-rata basis.
- 7 Limit the grants that can be received by an individual athlete.
- 8 Continuing grants should be judged on the basis that an individual’s performance is improving.

Discussion :

- £2,500 pa max was put out as a ballpark figure for discussion.
- The outgoing Treasurer suggested that grants in the past had been small and occasional but that a figure for spend in previous year’s should be established.
- Don’t leave out other needy areas in favour of this ‘Talent’ proposal.
- Look for sponsorship.
- Total grants should not to exceed annual income
- Set max per year
- Use the England Athletics ‘Power of Ten’ process as the selection criteria.
- **Proposed we proceed, further Flesh out the proposal but and establish more detail.**

Proposed – Arthur Renshaw; Seconded – Bill Kingston; Unanimously approved.

Action – Treasurer with Graham Howell.

Grant policy proposal - Ray Gooding

Ray forwarded a proposal for the distribution of accumulated funds, furthering suggestions made at the AGM. Ray identified that the accumulated funds had their origins in the un-affiliated fees paid to, principally, Road Races.

Points for distribution in summary:

- 1 Return a percentage of the levy received by Avon AA to the organising Club.
- 2 No changes required to the rules for grant allocation.
- 3 Treasurer should set aside an annual budget for grants.

Point 3 had been covered previously.

On point 1 the consensus view was that : Road Running Clubs are not areas where money is needed and that the money should all go to the general support of Athletics in the Area.

This item was not voted on.

MCAA Young Athlete Grant (Income)

Previously referred in Secretary's report

Avon & Somerset County Vests

Ken Holmes highlighted the dearth of 'larger' vests available to the track & field team at the Inter-Counties. Mike Down again pursued his feeling that vests should be supplied on a f.o.c. basis (first occasion only) in recognition of an athlete being selected to compete for the Counties. Ray Gooding recorded his concern at the number of that appeared to be given away.

Proposed Mike Strange; Seconded Mike Down; "that the Treasurer should consider matters and submit a proposal". Agreed unanimously.

COACHING

Coach Education

An extra Level 1 Course specifically arranged to support a need in North Somerset has been arranged for Saturday 22nd July at Churchill Sports College. Applicants are invited through the normal UKA channels.

Passbooks / C.R.B. Checks.

Clubs are requested to chase their Coaches to ensure their C.R.B. checks are complete and that their passbooks are up to date.

OFFICIALS

West of England Champs and Avon Junior Champs

We were confronted again with some difficulties in obtaining Officials for the events. Of 27 Officials circulated on 9 appeared. Field Officials were sparse but Timekeepers existed with two on the Saturday and three on the Sunday. A recruiting drive is called for.

Some criticism was directed at the Officials Co-ordinator on perceived problem areas with the programme but it was endorsed at our meeting that these problems should only be levelled at the general event organisation.

The Officials Co-ordinator presented some thoughts on holding a one day Championships following comments about enthusiasm of Officials waning and these will be taken into consideration when next year's activity is reviewed.

The good supporting influence of Wiltshire Officials was noted for the West of England Championships.

Officials Qualifications

Pat Jefferies & Peter Jackson have requested that arrangements be made for them to take the (old) Track Judge examination. Diana Viles has expressed an interest in taking the Field Judge Examination. Rosemary Baldwin is to take the Level 2 Field Judge course in June.

Action – Officials Co-ordinator.

Availability

The following have confirmed availability for certain matches: Avon Schools – 11; South West Schools Championships – 5; South West Inter-Counties – 4.

Two competitions to be held at Bath HPC have requested cover and 4 officials have already confirmed their availability. British Transplant (Track) Games – Sun 20th August and British Transplant Road Races Sat 19th August.

Passbooks / C.R.B. Checks.

Clubs are requested to chase their Officials to ensure their C.R.B. checks are complete and that their passbooks are up to date.

South West Conference

Ray & Pam Gooding attended on behalf of 'Officials' (note previous minute on the subject). They picked up that Wiltshire (thru Alan Hayes) do not possess any qualified Level 2 Tutors. This may impede development although perhaps we could work together on any courses that Avon may arrange.

New Handbook

The new edition of the essential new UKA Rules for Competition is now available.

ROAD RUNNING

Team Manager

With Craig Davey being unable to undertake the position of Road Running Team Manager we were all reminded that this vacancy ideally needs filling.

Action - All

South West Championship

The Oldbury 10 (Mile) was suggested as a possible venue for the next SW Regional Championship race in September 2007. The suggestion was supported and Gordon will put this to the SW RR Committee.

Action – RR Co-ordinator.

Permits

No new situations have arisen concerning Permit issue recently.

Race Calendar

Numbers of scheduled races continues to grow in a healthy manner and the Race Calendar is re-issued on a regular basis.

Bath Half

The subject was previously reported but we record that no 'race return' has been received in respect of this 2005 race (nor infact the 2006 race).

Road Race Officials Course. L4

In an attempt to bring on line present 'Road Race Directors' a Level 4 Education Course is planned for 12th or 19th August 2006. Should they pass the attendees will be qualified to Level 4. It is envisaged that Paul Ross will be the Tutor.

Action – RR Co-ordinator.

CROSS COUNTRY

The preferred date for the 2006/7 Championships is Sunday 14th January at Clifton College's Sports Ground.

Action – XC Co-ordinator - to tie up arrangements.

TRACK & FIELD

West of England Champs

The entry was the disappointing aspect of these Championships, particularly the entry from Wiltshire. The entry breakdown was Wiltshire – 13; Avon – 82; others 6. The standard of competition fairly high all round. As commented earlier we were particularly grateful to the batch of Officials coming from Wiltshire.

Without their attendance we would have struggled. This should be a factor in any decision about the 2007 Champs.

Following the event N.U.T.S. did make further enquiries into the results to be used for National Ranking purposes. They were unable to obtain the detail they required from A.W..

Avon Junior Championships

This again was a successful Championships much the same as in recent years. Although as reported earlier we are running close to the mark on sufficiency of Officials. The Entry marginally up from last year – 238 to 245 although as usual we were dependant upon a large attendance from Nailsea School.

Looking forward we must face the reality of Dave Turner's imminent demise from the Nailsea School scene.

County Championships General

Pam Gooding furnished in writing some sound observations on the organisation of Field Events and felt that the having the 4 events scheduled to start on the hour was constructive. She felt that this could be further improved by out-phasing the jumps and throws by half an hour.

This matter was taken for consideration with other factors and a decision will be made in due course through the acting Track & Field Co-ordinator.

Action – T&F Co-ordinator

SPORTS:HALL

SW Area Finals

The Avon Schools Team were winners of the U13 & U15 Girls age groups who will now proceed to the National Finals at the NIA on Sunday 9th April. Jade Ellans also qualified to go forward as an 'All Round' Champion.

The boys teams at U13 level were 3rd and the U15's were 2nd, therefore both just missing out on finals qualification.

SCHOOLS

Their Committee Meeting clashed being held earlier this evening at City Academy. Their Agenda includes Sportshall, County Champs and SW Schools Champs. Hilary Nash & Mike Strange were also invited beyond the regular Committee and do provide a necessary interface with this Committee.

The Avon Schools Championships will be organised by BaNES and held at Yate on 10th June. Everyone should make an effort to assist.

CLUB NEWS

New contacts/ secretaries:

Nailsea Running Club : Mrs Yvonne Wesbroom, Walnut Bank, Lower Claverham, North Somerset, BE49 4PU

Thornbury Running Club : Gareth Thomas, Rosings, Lower Stone Lane, Stone, Berkley, Gloucestershire, GL13 9LE Mobile 07773-817764

Change of address for John Clapp (Hogweed Trotters), The Garden House, St John's Road, Bathwick, Bath. BA2 6PR Tel 01-225-480046

Confirmation of Secretary : Clevedon AC, Jane Cooley, 43, Edward Rd, Clevedon, BS21 7DU
Tel 01-275-871041 (Mike Andrews remains as the Avon contact)

AOB

Pam Gooding by a note informed that she was receiving large numbers of phone calls asking for Graham Howell at her home. The expectation of the caller is that her number is that for Graham and she notes that people are being directed that way from info on the internet.

Discussion ensued and doubts were expressed that the County web-site was the source of problems. The Sec & Chair agreed to look into the matter but at that time it was favoured that information was coming from a peripheral web-site that was not up to date with its data.

Action – Chair & Secretary

MEETING CLOSED At 9.59pm
2006.

Next Meeting Date – Mon 24th July

APPENDIX

First Claim changes – Meeting 24th April 2006

Applicable from 01/05/06

From Exeter H to Bristol & West AC – Tom MARLEY

From West 4 H to City of Bath AC – Jessica WHITMORE

First Claim changes – Meeting 22nd May 2006

Applicable from 01/06/06

From Bristol & West AC to City of Plymouth – Steven WALDRON

COACH EDUCATION DATES

Level 1 (SW10086) – Churchill School – Sat 22 July 2006

Level 1 (SW10082) – Filton College – Sat 11 November 2006

CIA (SWCIA40) - Filton College – Sun 19 November 2006

FIRW (SWFRW24) - Filton College – Sun 19 November 2006

Level 2 (SW20032) Core - Filton College – Sat/Sun 10/11 Feb 2007

Level 2 Event Specific - Filton College – Sat/Sun 24/25 Match 2007