

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday May 23rd 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), Antony Clark (Town & Country Harriers), John Deaton (Secretary), Mike Down (Bristol & West AC), Rachael Fisher (North Somerset AC), Bill Kingston (Life Member), Cy Knibb (Bristol & West AC), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), Gordon Robbins (Road Running Co-ordinator / Bitton RR), Mike Strange (Life Member), Gareth Thomas (Thornbury RC), Mike Willcox (GWR).

Apologies : Pam Gooding (Life Member), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Neil Miller (Westbury Harriers / SW Council), Jim Murphy (Westbury H. /Welfare), Lesley Nunn (Avon Schools AA), John Robbins (President), Tim Snowden (Avon Network).

Minutes of Previous Meeting (March 21st 2011): accepted.

Matters Arising:

1. Avon AA Mob Matches: it had been agreed that the Mob Matches incorporated in the Bridge Inn race on June 28th and the Towpath 10km race on July 22nd would both go ahead, as there was not felt to be any conflict of interest.
2. Avon AA Banner: Gordon had received an estimate of around £220 for the basic banner, plus extra for the base/spike; a second banner would be available at a discount. The meeting agreed in principle to proceed with the purchase: Gordon would circulate the proposed design for comments.

Secretary's Report:

1. Fry Club Joggers are not continuing their affiliation to the Association because of a shortage of members.
2. Town and Country Harriers wished to re-affiliate to the Association, and were accepted into the Association subject to the receipt of their affiliation fee.
3. The Secretary's remark in his report to the 2011 AGM "...the Southern Men's League has lost around half of its clubs in the past twenty years" was incorrect, as several clubs have transferred to an alternative format of the competition: the loss of clubs over the years is around 30%.
4. The e-mail address of John Robbins (President) is now zatopek56@hotmail.co.uk.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer delivered his report (copies available on request). The Association holds £16,000 in a Deposit Bond and £3617.07 in the Deposit Account. The balance of the Current Account is £3474.81 (allowing for cheques awaiting counter-signature); however this includes £352.28 held on behalf of the Team Avon composite NJAL team.

Outstanding Income: Hilary's report listed five clubs with unpaid affiliation fees; however we were recently informed that AXA Running Club had ceased operation some time ago, so that fee would be written off.

Outstanding Expenditure: The Track Hire bill for the County T&F Championships was awaited. There were several outstanding claims for coaching course subsidies: Hilary undertook to process these as soon as possible, and to supply a list of subsidies claimed during the subsidy year May 2010 to March 2011. The decision on the total limit of subsidy for the period May 2011 to March 2012 was deferred until the next meeting. There used to be a form on which subsidy applications were made [Post-meeting note: Gordon Robbins has supplied a copy]. John Deaton would re-issue the document which states the conditions for assignment of subsidies. At present there is no limit on the amount of subsidy per club: this may need to be considered.

Officials Secretary's Report:

Ray Gooding could not be present because of Pam's illness. Ray had not had particularly good advance response from Avon officials for the County T&F Championships, although the turnout on the day was satisfactory. He had provided Cy Knibb with a list of available officials for the Avon AA Open T&F meetings, although more would be welcome. Ray's count of Avon AA officials appears as Appendix B of these Minutes.

Road Running Matters:

The Avon 4x5 Mile Relay along the Bristol to Bath Railway Path on Sunday April 3rd had had a disappointing response, and Gordon Robbins was considering a different event for next year. The issues regarding the role of Race Referees still had not been resolved.

Track and Field Matters:

The Avon AA / West of England Track and Field Championships at Yate on Saturday 14th May went off very well, and the meeting expressed its thanks to Graham Howell for all his work on the event. Comments on the meeting included the following:

1. As with the 2010-11 Cross-Country Championships, there was a shortage of Under-13 Boys
2. There were just three competitors in the 5000 metres: should we provide a 3000m or a 5000m event but not both for Senior Men / Women? Or should we incorporate the "distance" race in one of the Avon AA Open meetings in future?
3. The meeting recommended that for Triple Jump the entry form should state "7/9 metre board" for the weaker of the two pools.
4. As so often in the past, issues came up over late entries: the meeting accepted that Graham Howell would need to be given discretion over closing dates. It was suggested that clubs operate a "clearing house" system to ensure that their athletes' entries were received on time.
5. Two issues were raised over Field events: one was resolved on the day; in the other case, the High Jump countback rule had been correctly applied but the parent concerned had not appreciated this.

Stuart Nunn would be discussing various aspects of the Championships with Graham Howell.

Ken Holmes had been contacting athletes for the Avon/Somerset team for the UK CAU T&F Championships at Bedford on May 29th/30th.

Cross-Country / Trail / Fell Running Matters:

The Somerset AA had now endorsed the concept of the Tri-County Cross-Country Championships, so Keith Brackstone would now proceed with the organisation of the 2011-2012 event for Sunday 11th December at Bath University. The University were not prepared to make any concession regarding the £300 + VAT charge [post-meeting note: the e-mail from Catherine Evans (Bath University) states in part: "It is a set fee that also allows you access to the main Sports Training Village for use of the cafe area and toilets. We do ask that you provide additional portable toilets ..."].

Sportshall Matters:

All four Avon teams had qualified for the National Finals in Birmingham on Sunday April 3rd: the Under-13 Boys won their category, with the Under-13 Girls third, the Under-15 Boys ninth and the Under-15 Girls fifth.

Avon Network Matters:

Tim Snowdon had been unable to attend the meeting, but had sent in a report:

1. The Network funding for Year 3 had been approved, with a large amount of extra money for the promotion of the RunEngland project within the area.
2. The Network funding from England Athletics will cease from September 2012. Tim Snowdon and Keith Brackstone prepared a paper (copies available on request) which estimates the costs involved if the Avon AA were to take on all or part of the functions of the Avon Network from September 2012.
3. There were two Nutrition workshops coming up: on Thursday June 2nd (for coaches) and on Tuesday 14th June (for parents); both at Bath University.
4. The Team Avon composite NJAL team had won their first match on May 1st: the next match is on Sunday 29th May at Cardiff.

Avon Schools AA Matters:

The English Schools AA require that all competitors in their 2011 Championships have registered in advance on the ESAA website (www.esaa.net) so that entry lists, programmes, souvenir clothing, etc. can be correctly prepared. Therefore, all schools athletes who think that they have even a slight chance of selection for the Championships are urged to register on the ESAA site: member clubs with junior athletes are urged to spread the word among their members.

The Avon Schools AA manned one of the drinks stations at the Bristol 10km race on Sunday May 15th.

Stoke Gifford Stadium Ltd. Matters:

The AGM of the Company has to be held on the first Wednesday in June (June 1st this year): any organisation which hires the Track is entitled to attend.

As well as club use in the evening, there have been daytime bookings: Keith considers that part of the hire fees from these should go into the "sinking fund" for eventual refurbishment of the facility and equipment.

MCAA / EA / UKA Matters:

Neil Miller had submitted a report of the recent South-West Council meeting (previously circulated): comments on this included:

- ... several members were unclear who (apart from Neil) served on the South-West Council and what their responsibilities were,
- ... some club delegates have heard little or nothing directly from the South-West Council,
- ... members felt that the minutes of the Council meetings should be published
- ... the Council claims to communicate though (among others) Networks; however in some cases nationally, the Network is run by the County organisation. What will happen when Network funding ceases and the Counties take over at least part of their function?
- ... "Club and Coach Support Officers are now being directed to key clubs and coaches ..." (quote from Neil's report). How will it be decided what a "key club" is?
- ... although Neil is based in Avon and keeps our interests in mind, he does not represent an Avon "constituency" as such on the Council. What happens to the views of those counties who have no such activist on the South-West Council?
- ... even if the South-West Council and/or EA regards us as only "a competition provider" (several delegates consider that we are much more than that), why should our views not be heard?

(continued)

Neil's report states that Nigel Rowe is willing to meet with County Associations: it was agreed that we should take him up on that offer. A small group (Stuart Nunn, Cy Knibb, Neil Miller, John Deaton, possibly others) would convene to decide on the specific items which we would like discussed, and then the Secretary would agree a date for a meeting (possibly at a regular Management Committee meeting, possibly at an additional meeting).

Club Matters:

1. The General Secretary of Bristol & West AC is now Nicola Diamond: ndiamond@bgs.bristol.sch.uk; Cy Knibb is now their Chair, with Mike Down as Vice-Chair.
2. Claudine Mercer (Secretary, Weston AC) has asked that we use the e-mail address secretary@westonac.co.uk to contact her on club business.
3. The Secretary of Town and Country Harriers is Helen King: drhelenking@googlemail.com.
4. Yate & District AC would like to hear from anyone who could act as Auditor of their accounts.

Any Other Business: None.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday July 11th; at the Civil Service Sports and Social Club.

Meeting Closed at about 9.25pm.

APPENDIX A.

Changes of Eligibility affecting Avon clubs (March and April)

Katherine	Duncan	Sole Sisters to Great Western Runners	e.d. 01/04/2011
Celia	Greenwood	Great Western Runners to SW Veterans	e.d. 01/04/2011
Matt	Harris	Enfield & Haringey AC to Bristol & West AC	e.d. 01/05/2011
Brad	Hill	Marlborough Juniors AC to Team Bath AC	e.d.01/05/2011
Charlie	MacLean	Taunton AC to Bristol & West AC	e.d. 01/04/2011
Vivian	McConnell	Clevedon AC to Bristol & West AC	e.d. 01/04/2011
Rachel	Sykes	Marlborough Juniors AC to Team Bath AC	e.d.01/05/2011

APPENDIX B.

AVON A.A. REGISTERED OFFICIALS

DISCIPLINE	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 2c	LEVEL 2b	LEVEL 2a	LEVEL 1	TOTAL
{ Starters	1	3	0	0	-----	4 }
{ Marksmen	1	3	1	0	-----	5 }
Timekeepers	0	4	2	2	-----	8
Track Judges	1	4	4	1	-----	10
Field Judges	0	6	14	5	-----	25
Assistants	-----	-----	-----	-----	11	11
TOTAL	2	17	21	8	11	-----
Level	3	2c	2b	2a		
Endurance	1	11	1	16		29

Do not add the above figures as some officials have multiple qualifications.

Actual total of registered Track & Field officials = 38 (Excl: Level 1)

(3 of which are known to be no longer active)

Total number of registered Endurance officials = 29

(4 of the Level 2c Endurance officials are also registered as Level 5 BARR)

Total number of registered officials; (T&F + Endurance) = 67 (Excl: Level 1)

Ray Gooding.

May 2011