

## Avon Athletic Association

**Minutes** of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday May 28th 2012, at the Civil Service Sports and Social Club, Filton Road, Bristol,, starting at 7.30pm.

**Those Present:** Stuart Nunn (Chairperson / Yate & District AC), Keith Brackstone (CC Coordinator), John Deaton (Secretary), Rachael Fisher (Vice-Chairperson, North Somerset AC), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Cy Knibb (Bristol & West AC), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), Lesley Nunn (Avon Schools AA), Gordon Robbins (Road Running Co-ordinator, Bitton RR), John Robbins (President), Gareth Thomas (Thornbury RC), Mike Willcox (GWR).

**Apologies :** Pam Gooding (Life Member), Ian Macintosh (Life Member / Trustee), Jim Murphy (Welfare / Westbury Harriers), Mike Strange (Life Member).

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** (March 26th 2012): Accepted.

**Matters Arising:** Future meetings: WESPORT may still be able to arrange free use of a room at UWE.

### **Matters Arising from the AGM:**

1. South-West Inter-Counties T&F Championships: Ken Holmes was happy that Rachael Fisher and Sandra Woodman should manage the Under-20's age groups for this competition. [Note: the Association received the news of the new format for the Championships the day after this meeting]
2. Cross-Country Team Managers for U13/U15/U17 age groups: the Secretary would circulate the clubs asking for volunteers for this role.
3. Coaching Coordinator: we would wait to see how the Avon Network situation developed.
4. Community Interest Company (CIC) or Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC): the Secretary had circulated a paper to the Officers recommending that neither course of action be taken. He also pointed out that if the Association became a CIC it was unlikely that they could distribute Coaching Course subsidies. Nevertheless, the meeting decided that Stuart Nunn should explore the matter further.

### **Secretary's Report:**

1. Yet another EA Coach Education course in the area had been cancelled because of lack of demand: he wondered why Avon could not support such courses while a Coach course in the Southampton area had been full for some time. The Association needed to help identify the demand for local courses and suitable dates. GWR were arranging a Leader in Running Fitness course for their own members: perhaps the Association could do the same for other qualifications?
2. Avon AA Coaching Course subsidies: it was agreed that these would be extended to cover all coach and official education courses. John Robbins would re-draft the application form. It would be left to the Treasurer to decide which courses merited subsidy (referring matter to Committee if necessary)

### **Treasurer's Report:**

1. The Current Account balance at May 26th was £6,753.17 (of which £399.02 was held on behalf of Team Avon). The Lloyds TSB Fixed Term Deposit value remained at £15,000.00. Environment Agency Harriers had decided to cease affiliating to the Association; five other clubs' affiliation fees were outstanding.

2. Mike Strange asked whether the Association would contribute towards the costs of last March's Level 2 Officials course. The meeting agreed to pay 50% towards the costs.

**Officials Secretary's Report:** Derek Morrison had now retired from officiating: the Secretary was asked to write a letter of thanks to him. Level 2 Officials were now required to undergo a Health and Safety course every three years: it appears that EA had e-mailed most current officials about this. The Secretary would send out any details of suitable local courses he heard about.

**Track and Field Matters:** Avon / West of England T&F Championships: Report awaited from Ben. The event had gone off well, although there had been some delay in the production of certificates (the meeting thanked John Robbins for helping out with this problem). The meeting felt that if medals bore no specific date, then the Association could make a bulk order at an advantageous price: Gordon Robbins would look into the matter. Rachael Fisher pointed out that some athletes had competed in the Championships of two counties in one weekend [note: UKA Rules say that athletes may only compete in the Championships of, or for the teams of, one County in one calendar year]: it would be difficult to spot potential breaches of this rule in advance.

**Cross-Country Matters:** Keith Brackstone was considering alternative venues for the next Tri-County Cross-Country Championships. He had also offered to trial an online entry system being developed by EA.

**Road Running:** GWR offered to stage another such event this year, but asked for a donation towards race costs.

**Sportshall matters:** The Avon Under-13 Boys had won the National title again; the Under-13 Girls were 5th, the Under-15 Boys 7th and the Under-15 Girls 5th equal.

**Avon Network / Successor Organisation Matters:** Stuart Nunn / John Robbins / Keith Brackstone had further refined the document presented to the March meeting: this would now be the document which would form the basis of negotiations with EA. Stuart had discussed the Plan with Matt Foad, but had not let him take away a copy.

Funds of some £7000 are currently held by Wesport, which could be used on projects between September 2012 and March 2013: these must be focused on club or coach development. The sub-committee had prepared a list of seven possible projects, to which Gordon Robbins added the suggestion of a Race Directors' Open Forum. The meeting thought it best to concentrate on roughly three of these (Stuart Nunn would act as a clearing-house for ideas), and that it was important to gauge potential demand.

From April 2013: the Networks will probably continue (although not necessarily in their current form). The Avon AA would not be able to take on the functions of a Network even if it wanted to; nor would it be allocated funds to pay anyone to carry out a Coordinator role. However the CCSO's could be used to find lead coaches for development days and other background work.

The Plan would be presented to the next Avon Network meeting (scheduled for Wednesday June 27th), at which representatives of the relevant Unitary Authorities were scheduled to be present.

**Any Other Business:** None.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Monday July 23rd, 7.30pm. at the Civil Service Sports and Social Club.

**Meeting Closed** at about 9.50pm.