

Avon Athletic Association

(Affiliated to England Athletics)

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held :- 21st April 2008

7.30 pm at Civil Service Club, Filton Avenue, Bristol.

PRESENT : Peter GRIFFIN (President); Graham HOWELL (Chairman); Mike DOWN (Vice-Chairman); Mike STRANGE (Sec); Mike ANDREWS (Treas / Clevedon AC); Gordon ROBBINS (Road Running Co-ordinator); Ray GOODING (Life Vice President – Officials Co-ordinator); Mike SMITH (Life Vice President); Barry SMART (Life Vice President); Bill KINGSTON (Life Vice President); Lesley NUNN (Avon Schools AA); Stuart NUNN (Yate & District AC); Mike WILLCOX (GWR); Arthur RENSHAW (Thornbury RC); Judy MILLS (Thornbury RC).

APOLOGIES : Pamela GOODING (Hon Life Member); Neil MILLER (EA SW Council); Hilary NASH (Bristol & West AC); Andy HEYES (Cross Country Co-ordinator); James MURPHY (Westbury H); Angela YOUNG (NSAA); Chris MILLARD (NSAA); Richard GWYN (England Athletics / Bristol & West AC).

MINUTES OF 2006 AGM

The minutes were accepted as a true record of proceedings (after adjustment of minor typo errors) and were duly accepted.

Proposed Mike Willcox; Seconded Peter Griffin; Accepted Unanimously

MATTERS ARISING

Matters arising were dealt with at the Committee Meeting following that AGM (28th July 2008) and no matters were raised at this AGM.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chairman congratulated all involved in the County for their contributions and commitment. He felt that we gave excellent service to member clubs and athletes and was proud that 'we do things well'. We look forward to the advent of England Athletics and our inclusion in the South West Region, the Chairman asked that we get stuck in to ensure that all works out well.

COMMITTEE REPORT 2007

Prepared by the Chairman, Secretary and Sections – presented by the Secretary.

GENERAL

STRUCTURE OF ENGLISH ATHLETICS

The shift of governance from the AAA and its Territories to England Athletics and its Regions is now showing effect. New Chief Executive's seem to be in place all round and a considerable reduction in staff at UKA has been effected and Athletics Services are taking a leading administrative role. It would seem that we are now at last sailing in more settled waters.

For Competition purposes the areas of representation will be Central including the South West, Southern and Northern. The former is obviously our area.

SOUTH WEST REGION

Sonya Ellis continues as the Regional Manager with Richard Gwyn as the only RDC in view of the resignation of his counterpart Neil Parsley. (This post will be filled). Morag Ford is well settled in as the Administration Officer with newly appointed Tracey Linstead as assistant.

Three regional Coaching Officers (event specific) are to be appointed shortly.

Nigel Rowe continues to lead the Regional Council but Gordon Robbins chose to resign and Mike Down will not seek re-election. Fortunately from a local point of view Neil Miller has put his name forward for election to Council.

It is fair to say that the South West appear to still be at the forefront in all matters relating to the consolidation of the new Regions.

SOUTH WEST CONFERENCE

Avon was represented at the annual Conference of the South West Region and made notable contribution to proceedings. South Gloucestershire Sport Development Partnership again received Awards for their achievement in 2007.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The County Development Plan was developed from the master South West Plan for the year and included objectives for Schools & Local Authorities as well as pure club objectives. The plan was considered and contributed to by a few interested Members and was submitted in a partially completed form. Performance indicators within the Plan were met in almost all areas.

A budget was also developed around this plan and in retrospect proved to be largely a reflection of our expenditure in the year.

Both the Development Plan and the Budget did prove to be time consuming and took most of the year to develop unfortunately. Now that the format is set it is hoped that the 2008 Plan will be issued in a timely fashion.

CLUB:MARK

Yate AC & Westbury H remain the only Avon AA clubs with Club:mark accreditation at the end of the year although Team Bath AC & Bitton RR have completed and submitted submissions for consideration. Bristol & West AC are a good way down the road to submission and Thornbury RC and GWR are contemplating the new level 2 submission for 'Seniors Only' clubs.

NEW CLUBS

City of Bath AC made the transformation to become Team Bath AC and a much discussed club North Somerset AC was formed, although the latter have not approached Avon AA to seek affiliation.

On the reverse side Empire AC decided not to continue their affiliation to England Athletics in view of the increased burden of Affiliation Fees.

In the Bath area the Wessex & Bath Club (Wiltshire registered) decided to disband leaving a good number of their Membership seeking affiliation to Avon clubs.

WESPORT

The County Sports Partnership, Wesport continues to influence Athletics in a big way with its organisation of generic sport education courses, conferences and workshops. The big event for 2008 will be the prestigious UK School Games with the Athletics programme being delivered at Bath University track and Wesport are to be congratulated on successfully bidding for this Sports Festival. The Wesport 'Competition Team' is now up to its full compliment of 4 people and their task is to bring together the delivery of all sports in schools across the four unitary's of (old) Avon. Sadly the Sport Specific Officers roles no longer feature in Wesport's programme therefore the Athletics Development Officer will cease to operate within that environment.

FACILITIES

YOSC remains as a fully certified track facility and is a credit to the area. Bath University has now been re-certified particularly with regard to the requirements of the UK School Games (this is of course to the benefit of local users). Whitchurch track facility was inspected during the year and was deemed suitable and safe for training purposes. Filton College still has not yet applied for Certification but there are grand plans afoot for its transformation into a full competition facility with the addition of field event facilities and good spectator accommodation. A new 100m, 6 lane straight has been included in the sports development at Fairfield School on Muller Road, Bristol.

The timing of the opportunity of the new track at Whitehall, Bristol to replace Whitchurch varies greatly in timescale. Plans for a track at Nailsea School cannot be confirmed but the grapevine indicates that this will now only be a grass track. A 100m, 6 lane straight has been proposed within the redevelopment of St Bede's RC School at Avonmouth.

OFFICIALS (Co-ordinator – Ray Gooding)

COURSES / QUALIFICATIONS

Both Level 1 and Level 2 courses have been held in Avon and 4 officials attended the new Level 3 course at Yeovil. 4 officials also attended the EDM course at Bath University. I now have a copy of the UKA officials' database (dated 22-2-08) which I have extended to include further information for my own benefit.

ENDURANCE OFFICIALS

There has been a considerable increase in the number of registered "Endurance Officials". Thus the register now contains 21 Endurance officials and 26 active Track and Field officials. There are, however, 7 Level 1 Assistant officials who registered in 2005 who have not progressed any further. My records also indicate that many who attended a Level 1 course have not actually registered with UKA.

RULE BOOKS

MAFEO members have received a copy of the new IAAF Rule Book but we are still awaiting the issue of the new UKA Rule Book.

CRB CHECKS

All officials who have met the requirements of a CRB check should have received "Part B" of their Licence to officiate. My records indicate that 5 Avon Track & Field officials have not applied for CRB clearance (2 of which are only Level 1 and do not appear to be active anyway).

CONFERENCE

The UKA officials' conference is scheduled for Sunday 20th April and to be held at Coventry. This year the number of delegates is to be limited to 200. The agenda is primarily aimed at preparation for the 2012 Olympics.

SOUTH WEST FOCUS GROUP

I have attended all of the Focus Group meetings that I have been aware of with England SW. The future of that Focus Group is unknown following the resignation of Neil Parsley.

PEER GROUP

The Peer Group to nominate South West Officials has been formed with representatives from the old South West being complimented by representatives from Gloucestershire and Avon. As a result Mike Strange will sit on the Timekeepers panel.

COACHING (Co-ordinator – Hilary Nash)

COACHING COORDINATOR

Hilary Nash resigned as Coaching Coordinator at the end of 2007. He stepped into this position in 2001 when Avon AA were at the point of disbanding. He was a welcome member to our team undertaking many projects during the period of transition from BAF to UKA that included the transfer of Coaches and the institution of a new Coach Education scheme. Hilary has continued to contribute to the Avon Committee throughout despite his heavy commitment to Bristol & West AC and involvement in other Voluntary areas.

MACD

After prolonged discussion it was established that Avon (along with Gloucestershire) were entitled to dip into the pot of Coaching money remaining from the old Midland Territory. One prominent Avon Coach explored this and was awarded a grant to further his Coaching experience.

CONFERENCES

The UKA Sprint Conference was held at Bath Univ in October and was noted as being one of the best of its kind for a long time. The South West Coaching Conference was held at Bath Univ in July and was well attended by Avon Coaches.

QUALIFICATIONS

New Coaches going through the education process continues with a considerable number now proceeding up the pathway through Level 2 with some aspiring to UKCC Level 3 qualification. Courses were again held in Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucester & Bath to support local interest. This County still makes a 50% grant to Coach Education fees but it will be administered in the future through clubs.

ASSESSORS

Dave Turner and Mike Strange successfully undertook training to become Assessors during the Coach Education process.

TALENT SQUADS

The Talent Squad for the County again did not come together and meet during the year but County event groups have flourished separately to the benefit of serious athletes. The Regional Squads go from strength to strength and are behind very real 'Talent Development' in the area.

CROSS COUNTRY (Co-ordinator – Andy Heyes)

CHAMPIONSHIPS – Dec 2007

These Championships were held this year at Millfield School jointly with Somerset. The standard of competition was good but unfortunately a clash with the Gloucester League caused some clubs to opt out. A rethink on the fixture list is required for 2008.

SOUTH WEST INTER-COUNTIES – January 2007

These Championships were very successful for Avon with our teams winning four age categories and with five individual Avon club athletes winning their categories.

It was observed that the Championships were heavily dependant upon the number of Avon Officials present on the day.

CAU INTER-COUNTIES – 2007

The joint Avon & Somerset team won the Men's National CAU Inter-Counties Championship. We congratulate all concerned on an outstanding performance and this indicates the very real strength of Endurance running in the area.

TRACK & FIELD (Co-ordinator – Graham Howell)

CO-ORDINATOR

Graham Howell continues to carry the organisation of the Championships and we constantly search for assistance.

WEST OF ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS / AVON (JUNIOR) CHAMPIONSHIPS

These events were combined in 2007 and held over one day. The weather was atrocious which may a particularly unpleasant day for Officials. Entries were up 5% in the W of E & 6% in the Jnr Champs which in some way justified holding both on the one day. The Yate Photo Finish equipment proved to be a very worthwhile asset and aided both Judges and timekeepers.

SOUTH WEST INTER-COUNTIES

With a very hot day to contend with an athletes and Officials were stretched over a long programme. The Avon Team finished 4th overall (the same as in 2006) but the clash with other important fixtures continues to deplete our team.

Comments from our Committee concerning the extent and tightness of the programme were conveyed to the South West administration.

SOUTH WEST REPRESENTATION – BELGIUM

A small selection of Avon athletes proceeded from the SW I/c to a representative match in Belgium. Athletes selected were : Anthony Mattis, Jamie Brock, Emma Heath and Christina Jones (the latter withdrew later). There was some Committee consternation that athletes were asked to contribute £100 each to this 'representative' trip.

TRACK & FIELD COMPETITION STRUCTURE

Lesley Nunn put forward a well thought through paper to completely re-jig the local Championship structure and eliminate the duplication of County Association and Schools Championships.

The proposal was not carried through but the resultant outcome was that District Schools will be invited to use the Association Champs as a vehicle for their own Trials.

STREET ATHLETICS

An Avon team once again travelled to Manchester for the Final of this event and Ruth Dean from Team Bath AC repeated her 2006 success to win the Under 17 event.

INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

SOUTH WEST CHAMPIONSHIPS

The inaugural SW Indoor Champs were held at Bath Univ in December and were a good catalyst for future years. Dave Saker arranged the meeting and a good number of Avon Officials assisted with the event.

ROAD RUNNING (Co-ordinator – Gordon Robbins)

SOUTH WEST ROAD RUNNING FORUM

South West Road Running meetings are regularly attended by the Avon AA Road Running Co-ordinator and representatives of the other 6 counties in the SW. Issues discussed are varied and include:- the SW development plan; SW road running championships, Race Scrutineering & Race Calendars

PERMIT SCHEME

There have been a number of changes to the race permit scheme (now License scheme) over the last 12 months, these changes have been driven by the Road Running Leadership Group. Unfortunately the roll out of the changes has not been without problems, it is very disappointing the RRLG / UKA/ EA have not sought advice from the volunteers who have been involved with race organisation and permit issuing over many years, so many of the mistakes could have been avoided

The consequence of this lack of involvement has been extra work for Permit secretaries across the country.

AVON CHAMPIONSHIP RACES

Thanks go to the Clevedon 10Km, Oldbury Power Station 10 mile and the North Somerset Relays for including the Avon Championship races in these races

AVON ROAD RACE CALENDAR

In the 2008 Avon Race calendar there is a total of 76 events ranging from 1 mile to half marathons, multi terrain and relays.

UNAFFILIATED LEVY'S

As from the 1st April 2008 all levy money returned to UKA will be retained for "road running". It is difficult to understand where this money will be used to benefit any of the small races organised in Avon or throughout the country; as these races are all self funding and invariably already make a profit for their respective organising body. The concern is that the money will be used to subsidise the bigger city races in the form of consultants and advisors.

SPORTS:HALL (Co-ordinator – Dave Turner)

FUN IN ATHLETICS (South West Final)

The Avon Team again dominated this U11 Sports:hall event at Torbay. Our main team won the boys event and the girls were 3rd likewise our 'B' teams finished 2nd (boys) and 1st (girls) when compared to other 'B' teams.

SPORTS:HALL (National Final)

Birmingham dominated the National Final finishing first in all four categories. Of the Avon teams the U13 boys did remarkably well to finish 3rd, the U13 girls were 7th and the U15 boys 11th.

WELFARE ACTIVITY

No incidents occurred in 2007 concerning this Association. Child Protection qualifications were topped up by the Secretary and the President & Secretary plan to attend a Child Protection Conference in early 2008.

WELFARE OFFICER

Peter Miller has held this office for a few years but along with his Westbury Harriers appointment he has now decided to stand down as Welfare Officer. We must thank Peter for covering this important position.

AVON SCHOOLS (Representative – Covered by Lesley Nunn)

ESAA TRACK & FIELD CHAMPS - Gateshead

The Avon Schools Association team once again achieved a high level of success and the team brought back 6 medals. Emily Diamond & Tony Hillier were selected for the Schools International but Emily needed to decline due to holiday arrangements.

UK SCHOOL GAMES

Lesley Nunn & Richard Gwyn from this association acted as Team Managers at this event in Coventry. The Avon athletes selected generally performed admirably.

RANKING LISTS & PERFORMANCE DATA INTER-COUNTY REPRESENTATION

Peter Griffin continued his efforts to produce a list of achievements for the County with a compilation of Medallists in CAU Inter-Counties events.

ATHLETE RANKINGS

The Secretary continues to attempt to compile a Track Ranking List for the County but this is largely obviated by the increasing importance of the on line 'Power of 10' compilation.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

PORTISHEAD RUNNING CLUB

This club that only affiliated last year added a Junior section to their portfolio.

DISCUSSION ON COMMITTEE REPORT

CONSTITUTION

Gordon Robbins raised queried the position of the County within the 'Governance' chain. It was generally felt that County's were no longer in this chain and infact their whole status within the new structure was questionable. It was decided that the Secretary should take further advice from England Athletics. Any resultant alterations to our Constitution should be dealt with at the 2009 AGM.

STARTERS' AMUNITION

Ray Gooding raised a question on how level 2 Starters would acquire ammunition when proposed rules only permitted Level 3 Starters to legally hold such and no provision appeared to be made for lower grades. As Officials Co-ordinator Ray offered to pursue this matter with the powers that be.

CLUB:MARK

Mike Willcox raised the subject of who might be available to speak with the GWR Committee to convince them on the merits of Club:Mark accreditation.

Richard Gwyn indicated that he would discuss the matter with the Regional Manager and inform GWR of the outcome.

TREASURER'S REPORT

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

<u>INCOME</u>	2007	2006
	£	£
Road Running	15,045.75	9,167.00
Cross Country	185.00	30.00
Track & Field	1,266.00	1,103.00
Affiliation Fees	180.00	110.00
Bank Interest	694.32	199.64
Grants Received	344.95	500.00
Sundry	-	35.00
TOTAL INCOME	17,716.02	11,144.64
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Road Running	1,743.63	1,026.47
Cross Country	2,080.87	1,568.47
Track & Field	2,284.74	1,779.89
Affiliation Fees	50.00	25.00
Grants made to Clubs / Associations	4,355.00	551.60
Grants made to Individuals	1,155.00	920.00
Secretary's Expenses	34.88	218.20
Committee Expenses	173.81	315.45
Bank Charges	4.00	8.00
Sundry	525.31	106.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	12,407.24	6,519.18
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	5,308.78	4,265.46
Balances at Bank at start of Year		
HSBC Current Account	3,069.77	
HSBC Deposit Account	10,119.33	
HSBC Deposit Bond	10,000.00	
Balances at Bank at end of Year	28,497.88	
HSBC Current Account	7,685.98	
HSBC Deposit Account	20,811.90	
HSBC Deposit Bond	-	
Total Balances at Bank at end of Year	28,497.88	

MATTERS ARISING

No points were raised and no discussion ensued.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS – 2008-9

President-	Peter Griffin
Chair-	Graham Howell
Vice Chair-	Mike Down
Secretary-	Mike Strange
Treasurer-	Mike Andrews
Coaching Co-ordinator	Vacant (likely Keith Brackstone)
Officials Co-ordinator	Ray Gooding
Road Running Co-ordinator	Gordon Robbins
Track & Field Co-ordinator	Vacant (interim cover by Graham Howell)
Cross Country Co-ordinator	Andy Heyes
Welfare Officer	Vacant (interim cover by Mike Strange)
Web Master	John Deaton

Team Managers

Cross Country Men / Women	Mike Down
Road Men / Women	David Coales
Track & Field Men	Ken Holmes
Track & Field Women	Lesley Nunn
T & F Young Athletes Boys	Hilary Nash
T & F Young Athletes Girls	Lesley Nunn.

Above all proposed by the Committee and elected en bloc

Trustees – Iain Macintosh; Ray Gooding; Peter Griffin.
Peter Griffin re-elected ; Proposed by the Committee

Independent Examiner of Accounts - Christopher Miles
Proposed by Mike Andrews, Seconded Mike Strange, Elected unanimously

CHANGES TO RULES

None proposed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No matters were raised

AGM CLOSED

At 8.45 pm.