

Avon Athletic Association

(Affiliated to England Athletics)

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held :- 4th April 2009

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

PRESENT : Graham HOWELL (Chairman / Yate & D); Mike DOWN (Vice-Chairman / Bristol & West); Mike ANDREWS (Treasurer / Clevedon AC); Ray GOODING (Life Vice President – Officials Co-ordinator); Barry SMART (Life Vice President); John DEATON (Webmaster); Hilary NASH (Bristol & West); Lesley NUNN (Avon Schools); Stuart NUNN (Yate & D).

APOLOGIES : Peter GRIFFIN (President); Mike STRANGE (Sec); Gordon ROBBINS (Road Running Co-ordinator); James MURPHY (Welfare Officer & Westbury H); David COALES (Team Manager – Road & Team Bath AC); Pamela GOODING (Hon Life Member); Mike WILLCOX (GWR); Neil MILLER (Westbury H); Andy HEYES (Clevedon AC); Keith BRACKSTONE (Bristol & West AC, Derek WOLFE (Bristol & West AC).

MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM : Accepted as a true record of the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORT Jan to Dec 2008

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

GENERAL

DEATHS

We record the death of Life Member Joyce Jackson, the death of our President's wife Marilyn Griffin and the death of our past President's Wife, Joan Hill.

STRUCTURE OF ENGLISH ATHLETICS

The changes in Athletics governance took a new twist in the Autumn where all Regional Offices were closed and Regional Management dissolved. Operations are now governed from Solihull with Officers on the ground interfacing and responsible for small groups of Counties. Our colleague Richard Gwyn, who had good impact within the County was a victim of this re-shuffle and lost his position with England Athletics. Sonya Ellis, the previous Regional Manager is now the RDC for the Southern Counties of the South West and Matt Foad is now the RDC responsible the Northern Counties and clubs which includes Avon.

The South West Region was probably the most advanced with re-structuring. It was therefore regrettable that the slow adaption of other Regions should cause the need for this further re-structuring and therefore nullify all of the previous recent achievements of the South West.

SOUTH WEST COUNCIL

Both Mike Down & Gordon Robbins resigned from Council after being elected as founder Members. However the interests of this County were maintained when Dr Neil Miller was elected during 2008. Neil keeps this County Committee well informed of activity in the South West and is proving to be an active and well considered member of Council.

UKA RE-BRANDING

UK Athletics is now to be known as UKA.

AVON NETWORK

England Athletics proposals to establish pilot network areas for development concentration were seized upon by Keith Brackstone. These Network areas bring with them considerable financial investment from EA. Keith's extensive and comprehensive proposals bring together all facets of Athletics within the County to the great benefit of all Athletes.

Discussions on the final shape of the Avon Network are continuing and reaching fruition. The Network as foreseen will supplement some activities of the County Association but will strengthen its status.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN

A Development Plan was not written for the 2008/9 period. It is envisaged that such a Plan will be resurrected under the Network proposals.

CLUB:MARK

Team Bath AC & Bitton RR did achieve accreditation as foreseen in last year's AGM Minutes but no further Clubs have followed this pathway.

CLUBS

North Somerset AC have now affiliated to this Association. Weston super Mare Junior Athletic Club have formed and applied for affiliation and Avon & Somerset Constabulary Trathlon Club have dis-affiliated.

FACILITIES

Barry Smart continues to hold the position of 'Track Assessor for the County for UKA.

YOSC is required to make improvements to Pole Vault & High Jump landing safety in order to achieve full certification.

Bath University after desperate last minute attention became fully certified in time for the UKSG in August but the indoor facilities remain uncertified.

Whitchurch appears to receive little or no remedial attention and is only used for training by Bristol & West AC.

Filton College remains uncertified as the authority have made no attempt to arrange for inspection and assessment.

The new facility at **Packers Ground** is on the verge of 'happening' but remains held up by last minute hitches that are largely of a financial nature.

VESTS

A considerable quantity of new vests were purchased during the year, specifically to ensure that XL & XXL Athletes could compete in correctly fitting attire and to maintain adequate stocks .

TREASURER

Mike Andrews has decided to step down at the 2009 AGM after giving unstinting service to the Association. Mike runs a thriving business that is currently expanding (yes even in these difficult economic times) and needs to devote all of his energies to ensuring that the business progresses further. Good luck Mike.

Hilary Nash is the Committee's nomination to take on this responsible job.

PERFORMANCE GRANTS

10 Athletes were awarded grants in line with our new system of providing Grants for Performance

WESPORT

The County Sports Partnership had an increased involvement during the year particularly in the area of schools competition. Their great effort in organising the UK School Games at Bath Univ was probably their area of greatest influence. They are destined to be the hosts and administrators to the Network Officer so their interface with this Association will continue to increase.

Jackie Hilleard is the designated contact for Athletics at Wesport.

BRISTOL / KENYA PROJECT

The association between Bristol and Kenya continued to take shape during the year. The ultimate objective is for the Kenyan Olympic Team to be based in Bristol for 2012. Kip Keino visited Bristol mid year to promote the association particularly with the Business fraternity. Athletes and Coaches from Bristol will travel to Kenya during Easter 2009 to undergo training at Kip Keino's Camp.

OLYMPIC GAMES

Local Athletes Kate Reed, Ben Rushgrove and Zoe Derham both competed for the GB Team in Beijing. Ben infact gained a silver medal in the 200m at the Paralympic event.

OFFICIALS (Co-ordinator – Ray Gooding)

COURSES / QUALIFICATIONS

We are aware of any Level 1, 2 or 3 courses attended by Avon officials during the period February 2008 to January 2009. However Stuart Nunn intended to attend a Level 3 course at Crawley at the end of January 2009. Also the following 8 attended a Level 2 course at Yate on February 1st 2009; Kirsten Hopkins, Moira Beddows, Gordon Jeffries, Benjamin Redwood, James Elder and Di Viles (Field judges); Chris Elson (Track judge); and Dean Garrett (Timekeeper). Six of which belong to Avon clubs.

ENDURANCE OFFICIALS

There have been no further applications from Endurance officials during this year.

RULE BOOKS

New UKA Rule Books were purchased on behalf of the county and distributed among all the active Avon officials.

CRB CHECKS

In January, 5 Avon officials had their licences withdrawn by UKA due to not submitting to a CRB check. They are as follows; Bob Callicot, Peter Griffin, Kim Hambridge, Andrew Hillier and Tony Hurley.

SOUTH WEST FOCUS GROUP

All of the "Focus Group" meetings in the South West were attended by the Coaching Co-ordinator. The future of that Group is now unknown and is likely to be disbanded following the re-organisation by England Athletics. The "Focus Group" was intended as a gathering of all the county officials' secretaries within the South West. But due to their wide distribution was generally poorly attended.

COACHING (Co-ordinator – Keith Brackstone)

COACHING COORDINATOR

Keith Brackstone stepped into the vacancy left by Hilary Nash's resignation in mid year. Keith had immediate impact particularly in his specialist area of Endurance running.

ASSET – AVON SPECIALIST SESSIONS in ENDURANCE TRAINING

In 2008 the Avon Specialist Sessions in Endurance Training (ASSET) sessions were started with 2 sessions held by the end of the year and a further 2 early in 2009. The aim was to bring together coaches and athletes from the county to train together and to work across club boundaries for the benefit of all involved. The second ASSET session was attended by 37 athletes and 5 coaches. As well as continuing the sessions for Endurance athletes it is planned to roll out a similar programme across all track and field disciplines in 2009. Keith Brackstone met with Richard Colman (Wesport) and Richard Gwyn (England Athletics – South West) to discuss a questionnaire that was planned to be sent to all coaches to produce a database of active coaches in the County their qualifications, who they coach and where and when. Due to the changes in England Athletics this questionnaire has still to be circulated.

MACD

This Midlands based Coaching body did respond to requests for funding and one particular Coach was awarded a 50% grant to attend a course in Finland to further his Coaching experience.

CROSS COUNTRY (Co-ordinator – Andy Heyes)

XC CO-ORDINATOR

Andy Heyes intends to stand down from this position at the 2009 AGM. Andy works away and finds it difficult to attend Committee Meetings and cannot give the effort that he would like to this position. We thank Andy for all of his effort over the past years and wish him well for the future.

A&S CHAMPIONSHIPS – Dec 2008

These Championships hosted by Avon were again held in conjunction with Westbury Harriers' Gwent Lg promotion at Blaise Estate, Bristol. The event was again successful.

SOUTH WEST INTER-COUNTIES – January 2008

Similar to the 2007 events the Avon Team performed outstandingly at these Championships held in Devon.

SOUTH WEST CROSS COUNTRY RELAYS

This inaugural event was held in October with good support from clubs in the County

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 as in 2007 and held over one day. The weather was kinder and the entry was up so these Champs were deemed a success.

SOUTH WEST INTER-COUNTIES

The clash with important League fixtures was again the topic of disagreement with the organisers of this event. It is understood that the clash will be avoided in 2009.

Our weakened team again finished 4th overall as we did in 2006 & 2007.

SOUTH WEST REPRESENTATION – BELGIUM

Avon again contributed to the Representative Team that competed in Belgium. Joy Bray, B&W AC was also selected to travel as a Coaching assistant to the team. Bath sprinter Dan Talbot was named Man of the Match

(As an aside they also had the privilege of seeing the brilliant Usain Bolt perform at the Ivo Van Damme Grand Prix on the previous evening).

INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

SOUTH WEST CHAMPIONSHIPS

These second SW Indoor Champs were moved from Bath Univ and held in Cardiff in Jan 2009. The SW entry was sparse but it is believed that when the message gets round Cardiff will prove to be a popular venue for this important event. It is a pity that an Indoor 200m track does not exist in the South West.

ROAD RUNNING (Co-ordinator – Gordon Robbins)

The number of races licensed by Avon A A continues to grow with three new races added this year. The requirement for each race to have an independent Race Referee who is a qualified endurance official is proving problematic. The area needs more officials or the ones we have volunteering to share the load more freely.

The online system for race licenses it has many drawbacks not least of which is the fact the online application is sent from Birmingham and returned to the licence officer in Excel format for sign off but the race organiser still has to send paper copies of maps etc to the Licence officer by post before the sign off. One race was signed off at Birmingham before all the paperwork had been received by myself and could have gone ahead without insurance cover had I not intervened

The SW Road Running meetings still take place with all 7 counties represented, I still have the feeling nobody is listening at the centre though.

A successful Mini Marathon trial for junior athletes was held at Bitton on the 14th of March with all counties represented with the exception of Somerset.

Bath Half Marathon was licensed by the county for the first time in 5 years. I am concerned with regards to some of the feedback from the 2009 race which suggested it was far too crowded and the facilities not coping with the numbers.

SPORTS:HALL (Co-ordinator – Dave Turner)

FUN IN ATHLETICS (South West Final)

The Avon Team as usual dominated this U11 Sports:hall events at UWE (North final) and Torbay (South final) winning boys and girls competitions at both venues.

SPORTS:HALL (National Final)

Two Avon teams, U13 girls & boys made this final which had a farcical outcome. The new venue, NEC Birmingham had a dangerously slippery floor that caused all running event to be cancelled and the whole event was decided on field events alone??

WELFARE

ACTIVITY

With the relinquishing of governance by the County it is relevant that responsibilities are now greatly diminished.

No incidents occurred in 2008 concerning this Association.

WELFARE OFFICER

James Murphy stepped forward and took on this responsibility mid year. James did attend relevant courses and therefore became duly qualified to handle any matters that could arise.

James is also the new Welfare Officer to Westbury Harriers

AVON SCHOOLS (Representative – Covered by Lesley Nunn)

ESAA TRACK & FIELD CHAMPS - Gateshead

Again another great success was achieved by the schools Athletes in Gateshead with 2 gold; 3 silver; 1 bronze and 5 other placings. 13 National Standards were achieved.

SOUTH WEST SCHOOLS CHAMPS

The Team performed well at Exeter in this annual Match and finished 4th overall.

UK SCHOOL GAMES

12 Avon Athletes competed for the South West in this year's School Games held at Bath University. An individual medal was earned by Hannah Alderson with James Preston just missing out with a 4th placing. Dave Turner, Ken Holmes and Richard Gwyn were Team Managers on this occasion.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

LONDON MINI MARATHON QUALIFICATION

Bitton Road Runners have offered to host 4 & 5k races as part of the selection process for the South West teams for the 2009 races.

MIKE SULLY RACES

These prestigious Cross Country Races will celebrate their 50th Anniversary in 2009. Bristol & West AC would like to see all local clubs trying to support the event in the momentous 50th year

SODBURY SLOG

Bitton Road Runners were pleased to report that their Sodbury Slog event was voted by Runners World as the second most popular race in the UK in 2007.

DISCUSSION on OFFICER'S REPORT

Discussion arose from the Secretary's report on athletic facilities in Bristol. Whitchurch is only available for club training. Bristol City Council are not prepared to spend money on the facility. Maybe some reaction will be forthcoming if the issues are highlighted in the press. Secretary to write again to leader of the council regarding the lack of any reasonable athletic facility in Bristol.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mike Andrews submitted the summary of accounts for the year.

Barry Smart posed the question of investments. The Treasurer said he had organised a Bond when he started as treasurer, in the current economic climate with interest rates so low there may be better returns to be had in things other than standard bank accounts. However as he was standing down it would be a matter for the incoming treasurer.

Mike was thanked for his work as Treasurer over the years.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

With the exception of Mike Andrews (Treasurer), Andy Heyes (X-Country) and Lesley Nunn (Team Manager) the current officers were re-elected en-bloc.

Hilary Nash was elected Treasurer.

A current list of Officers is listed thus:

President-	Peter Griffin
Chair-	Graham Howell
Vice Chair-	Mike Down
Hon Secretary-	Mike Strange
Hon Treasurer-	Hilary Nash
Coaching Co-ordinator	Keith Brackstone
Officials Co-ordinator	Ray Gooding
Road Running Co-ordinator	Gordon Robbins
Track & Field Co-ordinator	Graham Howell
Cross Country Co-ordinator	Vacant
Sports:Hall Co-ordinator	Dave Turner
Welfare Officer	James Murphy
Proposed (en bloc)	
Team Managers	
Cross Country Men / Women	Mike Down
Road Men / Women	David Coales
Track & Field - Senior	Ken Holmes
T & F - Young Athletes	Hilary Nash
Proposed (en bloc)	

Trustees – Iain Macintosh; Ray Gooding; Peter Griffin.
Iain Macintosh only re-elected.

Independent Examiner of Accounts – Mike Andrews

All Proposed en bloc and Elected unanimously.

CHANGES TO RULES

None proposed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

John Deaton stated he was happy to receive results and information for the website.

Mike Down reported that the South West Athletics Executive committee had been re-activated. A revised constitution was being prepared. Officers as at the last meeting had been retained with Ian Humphreys as Acting Secretary. Election / re-election of Officers will take place at an AGM when called.

AGM CLOSED

At 8.30 pm.