

Avon Athletic Association (Affiliated to M.C.A.A.)

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING Held :- 28th November 2005. At Civil Service Club, Filton Avenue, Bristol.

PRESENT : Peter GRIFFIN (President); Mike ANDREWS (Clevedon AC); Mike DOWN (Vice Chairman); Mike STRANGE (Hon Sec); Bill KINGSTON (Hon Treas); Ray GOODING (Officials Co-ordinator); Gordon ROBBINS (Road R Co-ordinator); Hilaty NASH (Coaching Co-ordinator); David COALES (City of Bath AC); Andy MULLETT (City of Bath AC); Arthur RENSHAW (Thornbury RC).

APOLOGIES : Graham HOWELL (Chairman); Fred HILL (Life Member); James MURPHY (Westbury H); David HUGHES (Empire AC); Tony HURLEY (Life Member), John CLAPP (Hogweed Trotters); Colin HICKEY (AXA/ Sun Life AC); Mike WILLCOX (Great Western Runners).

CHAIR

The Chair and Vice Chair were not in attendance 15 mins. after the planned start time for the Meeting so it was decided and approved by a unanimous show of hands that Mike Andrews be invited to Chair the Meeting. (Note the Chairman was unable to attend due to heavy snowfall in Gloucestershire)

WELCOME

We welcomed Andy Mullett the Chair of City of Bath AC to our meeting for the first time.

FRED HILL

Peter Griffin (President) informed that the previous President Fred Hill was at this time extremely ill in Hospital having recently suffered a stroke to add to his ongoing health problems. The Committee sent their good wishes to Fred.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes were accepted as a true record of the Meeting. (With typing corrections applied thus **Toad** Runners (**Road**), **Pole of Clubs** (**Poll**).

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Treasurer Cover

Bill Kingston outlined difficult personal circumstances confronting him currently and apologised that Avon AA activities needed to be of a low priority to him for the time being. He did undertake to continue as Hon Treasurer for the time being and then review his involvements possibly at the time of the AGM.

With respect to covering for the treasurer in the event of illness etc Bill had acquired the necessary documentation to increase the nominated signatories to include the current Chair and Secretary. It is not possible to accommodate a fourth signatory under our existing account arrangements. Documentation was handed to the Hon Sec to prepare his completions and similarly to ask the Chair to do likewise. It would seem that the group of three then need to attend the Barclays Bank Branch to formalise changes. The matter of changing the title of the Account from Avon County AAA to Avon AA (particularly on the Cheque Book) was deferred until the initial changes could be effected as was the requirement to proceed to a two signatures per cheque situation..

[Action – Hon Sec]

Audit of Accounts

The Treasurer apologised that matters outlined above meant that the Accounts for 2004-2005 remain un-audited.

[Action – Hon Treasurer]

Bath University Track

Further to our minute on the subject a letter was received from City of Bath AC and was copy circulated to the Meeting delegates:

'Dear Mike,
Please could you pass this on at your next A.A.A. committee meeting?

As secretary of C.O.B.A.C. I am also club liaison between the Bath University. Within this position I am also responsible in handling ALL correspondence which goes out of our club via committee. This of course excludes normal section correspondence such as race entries and league dates e.t.c
Due to being in this post I acknowledge that sometimes I may also be made a scapegoat for other issues which inevitably arise.

I would however like you to be aware that we here at C.O.B.A.C have established a good workable relationship with the university, a relationship which is constantly growing in stature and enhancing our membership in many directions. Our membership now have facilities available to them which are envied by many.

Working and being a part of such an establishment which covers so many sporting clubs and individuals, will always mean that some parties are going to feel they are being treated unfairly. What sport doesn't? isn't that true of all of us?, we always think our sport is the most important?

We have a membership of some 500, we regularly have between 80-90 juniors and 100+ seniors turn up every Tuesday club night. If we were having such problems with the university I don't think this would be happening do you?

I hope this piece might clarify our situation here at C.O.B.A.C and end the unnecessary rumours which have been circulated.

Thank you for taking the time to listen.

Yours in Sport,

Sue Brigden [Secretary C.O.B.A.C]'

Andy Mullett (Chair - C o B AC) endorsed the statement and added a few explanatory words.

AAA of England – 2nd EGM

Our response to the second EGM proposal '**The AAA of England agrees that all governance of athletics in England will be transferred to a new body, England Athletics Ltd. and that, consequently, Clause 3 (1) of the Memorandum of Association of the Company shall be removed.**' (Voting For / Against / Abstain.) - will be that we support the motion (Unanimous positive vote) and will vote will be by proxy unless we can identify in the meantime someone intending to attend in person.

Motion - Proposed Gordon Robbins – Secunder Mike Strange – Carried Unanimously

Bath Half Marathon

The ongoing unsatisfactory situation with co-operations from the Bath Half organisers was again expressed by the Road Running Co-ordinator. UKA lawyers have become involved but levies from last year are still outstanding and the Permit issue for 2006 is in stalemate. The race organiser seems not to be responding to current pressures but we trust the input of UKA may have a resolving effect.

The matter was expressed particularly to City of Bath AC who it was felt had perhaps an implied responsibility to this race. The Road Race Co-ordinator has written to Sue Brigden (C o B Hon Sec) on the topic. Andy Mullett (Chair C o B) fully understood the situation and suggested that he may provide further input thru' private conversations with the race organiser. Nigel Rowe (SW Interim Chair) has also been informed of our dilemma in respect of the 2006 Race thru the Road Race Co-ordinator with an endorsement thru' the Hon Sec.

[Action – Road Race Co-ordinator, to continue to pursue a satisfactory conclusion to the matter]

Grant Applications

B&W AC / Tony Hillier (Pole Vault). Payment outstanding after approval at last Committee.

[Action – Hon Treasurer]

Anthony Mattis

Correct paperwork not yet submitted – defer to next Meeting.

[Action – Hon Sec to liaise with applicant]

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Interim South West Regional Athletics Council - Chair

Nigel Rowe (based in Plymouth) has been invited to lead the Interim South West Regional Council to establish a basis for the future development of Athletics in the area. A pen picture for Nigel has appeared in Athletics Weekly. He is anxious to adopt opinion from a wide area of the existing experience in the area and has asked

Gordon Robbins and Mike Strange to contribute to Interim Council discussions. Nigel was invited to attend this Meeting, but was unable to accept due to other commitments. He does understand that an open invitation exists to attend in due course. The Committee did agree that a letter should be sent welcoming Nigel's appointment. It has been mooted by Sonya Ellis (SW RDC) that a meeting is planned for March / April when the future path can be outlined.

Cy Knibb

Our congratulations also extends to Cy Knibb (a past Chair of this Association) who has been invited to carry similar Interim Chair responsibility to the East Midlands area

MCAA AGM 5th December

Notice of this meeting had been received and as invitation issued to any Committee Member willing to attend on the County's behalf.

MCAA 'the Future'

To reinforce our initial thoughts on remaining a part of the Midlands (rather than Southern) 'Competition' area for the immediate future a letter was sent to the MCAA from the Hon Sec to endorse this point. The MCAA Chair, Geoff Durbin, welcomed our intentions and is happy to include us in future plans. Mike Down did raise the prospect of being involved in both the MCAA & SEAA future plans. At this stage the prospect was not pursued but remains as an idea on the table.

It was mooted that Avon AA (& Gloucestershire AA) had been omitted from recent plans, including the distribution of grant aid within the MCAA coaching set up. (Only E Midlands and W Midlands had been included?) In the same vein the wider issue of the distribution of MCAA funds, should they cease to continue to operate, was broached. No further action was contemplated by the meeting until the future of the MCAA is clearly determined.

Club:mark

Under the County Partnership Development Plan a club meeting was held to endorse the need for the larger clubs with young athlete sections to pursue accreditation. Sonya Ellis addressed the meeting and Bitton RR; Westbury H; Bristol & West AC; Clevedon AC and Yate & District AC were in attendance and City of Bath AC sent apologies. Clevedon asked that their Committee be addressed directly on the desirability of accreditation and the other clubs left with greater or lesser intentions to achieve.

Andy Mullet (C o B) requested the Hon Sec to pass a copy of the audit check so that he could assist in helping his Club in the process.

Facilities

The replacement of the Whitchurch track under the redevelopment plans for Hengrove Park now sees three possible locations in the frame, Filton College, Packers Ground and Hengrove Park. Meetings are planned for the near future to better define opportunities.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Current Balance - £19,202.

£ 303 was received in this period from fees attributable to unaffiliated competitors in Road Races.

Letter of Thanks

A letter was received from Lesley Nunn on behalf of Avon Schools AA to thank us for the donation towards 'uniforms' for the English Schools Team. A breakdown of Competitors, their Events & Performances with background on preparation for the event was submitted. This was in support of the value of the grant to this important aspect of the Athletics set up in the County..

Affiliation MCAA

The MCAA have acknowledged receipt our affiliation payment for the coming year.

Affiliation Avon AA

Reminders that affiliation fees to this association are due on Jan 1 will go out shortly to member clubs.

Coach Education

Payments were made to the following in respect of recent Course attendance:

C.I.A. – £25 - Jade Ellans, Joel Martin, Darren Smith, Greg Smith, Ryan Scott, Cynthia Evans, Jon Wheeler.

All individual.

FIRW - £25 – Beverly Baccio (Somer), Janet Burke, Christopher Pearce, Rosina Rowland (Thornbury), Kath Doherty (Sole Sisters), Nick Shearn, Andrew Middleton, Dennis Marchant, Zina Marchant, Colin Linsky, Darren Edwards, Robyn Bott, Fay Cupis, James Beales, Richard Bailey, (City of Bath).
(Club Cheques above) ; CoB 10; Somer 1; Thornbury 3; Sole Sisters 1.

Level 1 – £25 - Caroline Swinbank, Jayne Hinam, Martin Flook, Jon Wheeler, All individual

Level 2 - £60 - Jayne Hinam, Martin Flook, Jon Wheeler, All individual

COACHING

Coaches Conference

The Sports West Coaches Conference - 'Long Term Athlete Development' was successfully held at Filton College on Sun 20th November. Local Athletic Coaches: Dean Garrett, Colin Hickey, Cynthia Evans, Kate Goodhead, Jim Strudwick, Jon Wheeler and Martin Flook were on the list of applicants to attend.

C.R.B. Checks.

All Coaches are reminded that C.R.B. check submissions for the South West are due to commence in January.

Sports West (Avon) County Squads

Initial Cross Country Coaching groups have been set up using the better finishers in the area schools XC Champs. This replicates a system followed in previous years again through the schools association.

Event groups for throws & jumps are also being established.

The progressive continuation of these groups is seen as essential for the future development of our better athletes and it is probable that some 'County Funding' will be sought at a later date to support this.

SW Coaches Meeting

A meeting of this Forum was held on 14/11/05. Attended by Hilary Nash & Ken Holmes.

Nigel Rowe addressed the meeting with an introduction and up-date on the new proposed structure. He urged that clubs vote on transfer of governance etc.

Sonya Ellis gave an update on two SCUk regional Coach applications submitted a) Speed / Power Development Coach & b) Endurance / Aerobic Coach. Bill Whistlecroft noted that the regional coaching programme was submitted to UKA on 1st Sept and commented that quite a lot of Coaches had not yet applied for renewal. It was agreed that Coach renewal should be encouraged for those still outstanding. The need to seek CRB verification was also stressed. The new level 2 structure was outlined. County squad activity was outlined. A residential regional squad weekend to follow on from County squads will be planned at Bath, Yeovil or Millfield next summer if support feedback is forthcoming from Counties / CSP's.

Next Meeting scheduled for Mon 30th Jan 2006.

Coach Education

The first Courses of the period have been held (20 Nov – Level 1, Bath HPC & 27 Nov CIA/FIRW, Withywood School, Bristol) and successful attendees are reflected in our list of grant payments (See Treas report).

Coach Qualifications

New additions to our Coaching workforce total : CIA / FIRW - 22; L1- 4 and L2 - 3.

Again this is consistent with the list in Treas. Report.

OFFICIALS

Form 10

Only 50% of the forms sent out to known officials have been returned. The importance of demonstrating a continuing active involvement is stressed.

Level 2 Tutor Course

Ray Gooding (Starter), Pam Gooding (Field) & Mike Strange (Timekeeper) attended Tutor training at Cardiff

on Nov 6th. Each is now qualified to take courses in their relevant discipline.
Clubs are requested to give an indication whether they require local courses to be arranged.

RR / XC Officials

It has been confirmed that the information concerning Officials in the 1987 AAA Road Handbook is still applicable. A list of those known Grade 'C' Officials has been forwarded to UKA via Graham Healey. Re-grading in the future is expected to be by logbook and an 'open book' exam paper. (Will be similar for Track & Field).

Questions concerning whether / when it will be an essential requirement in the future for RR / XC Officials to be qualified and registered have been raised. The Officials Co-ordinator has expressed his feelings on the way things are going but awaits UKA formally confirming their stance on the matter.

MCAA Officials Conference

The annual Officials Conference on Sun 20th Nov was attended by Avon delegates: Pam & Ray Gooding, Derek Morrison and John Deaton. Alan Bell did a presentation on the UKA Technical Committee. By 2007 it is likely that there will be a common Rule Book in operation. It will basically be the IAAF Rule Book with modifications to suit inexperienced & very young age groups. Adoption of the 1 false start system will apply. It appears that a consensus of Officials appear to dislike the new uniform adopted by UKA (especially Starters).

Grant from SW Region

A document indicating how the County will support 'The Upgrading of Technical Officials', in recognition of the SW Grant Award of £ 100.00, has been issued by the Officials Co-ordinator. The SW RDC (Sonya Ellis) has been forwarded 1 copy to support the grant award and 1 is held for record with these minutes. Briefly £ 50 will support the requirements of a new Starter / Marksman (this is an expensive aspect of Officialdom to embark on) and remaining £ 50 will support 3 or 4 Officials wishing to upgrade L3 to L4. It is further proposed that the County should as a small gesture provide a clipboard & pen to L1 Officials after they have demonstrated their firm intention to commit to our sport and also to support the purchase of a Rule Book and any Course material that may be required.

The Officials Co-ordinator also expressed his disappointment in the document that of the 10 L1 Officials sitting the Course in 2005 only 3 had actually officiated and registered with UKA.

Availability

Availability slips have been issued in respect of the indoor programme at Bath HPC and Avon Schools / South West Schools events in 2006.

ROAD RUNNING

South West Road Running Championships

The Taunton Half Marathon is confirmed as the venue for first SW Road Race Championship to be held on Sun 2 April 2006. Teams will comprise 8 Men & 6 Women and Gordon Robbins requested the assistance of Mike Down in making team selections.

Medals will be issued to all competitors.

Further Road Championships at 10k and Road Relays are planned soon.

Road Running Calendar

Issue 5 is in circulation for the coming year.

Unattached Levies

Currently the MCAA is holding the £1 increased fees and not passing them on to the ERRA.

SW Road Running Forum

A meeting of this Forum was held on 19/11/05. Attended by Gordon Robbins.

Discussions were held on ERRA and the 'Old School' who do not seem adept to change, the Inter-County Challenge, Medical provider at events, Road Race Officials, Course Measurement, Women only races, New Rule Book, Race Permit's, Health & Safety issues.

Next meeting Sat 4th Feb 2006.

Selection

Dissatisfaction was expressed on respect of Road Running selections for the forthcoming Commonwealth Games. Only 2 Men & 2 Women were selected for the Marathon from a possible 3 competitors. Mike Down requested that a letter be sent to the AAA of England indicating that this policy was not encouraging to the Road Running fraternity and would not be beneficial to the further development of the event in England.

[Action – Hon Sec]

CROSS COUNTRY

Avon & Somerset XC Champs

Confirmation - The chosen date for the Champs is now Sun 15th January 2006.

Entry forms will be issued shortly by Brian Beale and should be returned directly to him.

A discussion point arose around Age groups and awards. The following were agreed a) We will score and present Veteran Medals M40 & M50 / W35 & W45 (Gordon Robbins will affect the purchase of) b) The U20 age group will remain as stated and not be brought in line with the IAAF age groups that will be applicable for the Inter-County Champs (Note this could cause some difficulty with team selections but Mike Down (a selector) stated that the problem could be easily overcome) c) An overall Avon & Somerset Team Award should apply.

Cross Country South West Hub Forum

Meeting of South West Cross-Country Group, 11/09/05, Kings College, Taunton.

A report was presented by Mike Down who sits on this Forum

The present aims are 'preparations for the new hub structure'.

Objectives are: –

1/ Develop a higher level of Competition in the South West therefore lessening necessity to travel for most competitions.

2/ Establish South West XC League.

3/ All Counties within South West Region should hold their Championships in weeks 49 or 50. (10 or 17 December.) This will allow sufficient time to select County Teams for a South West Championships. (Note although this was a stated objective it was not accepted – to radical a step to take initially – next year the South West Inter-counties will be held on 11 Feb)

4/ Extend the remit of the South West Championships & stage it on the weekend of week 2.

Aims a/ Enhance the Inter-County concept.

b/ Continue to allow an 'Open' Entry.

c/ South West Qualification will be Birth or Residence or Forces.

5/ Establish South West teams as in (4). (Probably in 2nd season.

6/ Recognise a 'Short Course' Championships – 4km or less (according to age). The initial Championship was staged on the last w/e in Oct 2005 in Bristol as part of Bristol XC Classic.

TRACK & FIELD

County Championships / West of England Championships

A proposal from Wiltshire was accepted : 'that the West of England Championships should be held on Saturday May 13th'. This would mean that the Junior Avon Championships would be held on Sunday 14th May 2006. Provided there were not objections from the schools it was agreed that this swap of dates should be made. (Note the Hon Sec subsequently checked with Nailsea School (the main source of entry to the Championships) and infact found this change to be most convenient.)

South West Inter-Counties

These Inter-County Team Championships are scheduled to be held at Exeter on 30th July 2006.

SPORTS:HALL

Dates for the season:

Sat 14th Jan 2006 – Torbay – Fun in Athletics U11 South West area event.

Sat 28th Jan 2006 – BGS Sports Hall - Avon Schools Champs U13 / U15 (Note this date has since been

amended to Sat 21st Jan 2006)

Sun 19th Feb 2006 – Torbay – South West Champs U13 / U15

Sun 9th April 2006 – NIA Birmingham – National Final U13 / U15

F.I.A.

It has been requested and agreed that the separate Bristol & South Gloucestershire teams be brought together as Avon teams from the 2006 event onward. Two teams will represent the County on 14th Jan 2006. Disability competitors will be included in our Teams reflecting the activity groups operating principally in South Gloucestershire.

AVON SCHOOLS ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION

The AGM of the Association was held 17/10/05 at the City Academy.

Championship venues and dates were agreed and Officers for the forthcoming year elected. This year's Track & Field Champs are now scheduled to be held at Gateshead. A problem of all Schools affiliating to their Association still exists and it was made clear that any 'Athletes' from unaffiliated schools will not be allowed to compete.

It was recognised costs toward participation in Championships were high and that Avon AA had supported the Association with a Grant.

AOB

RE-ORGANISATION

Result of the Poll of Clubs – UKA / Electoral Society

1 Does your club support these proposals for the decentralisation of Athletics delivery?

Yes 58.6% No 34.6% No view 6.8%

2 Does your club support the proposed accountability plans for Athletics in the UK?

Yes 55.6% No 35.8% No view 8.5% (Now UK Members Council not UK Governance Body.)

3 Does your Club support the proposed financial direction of Athletics in the UK?

Yes 50.3% No 40.5% No view 9.2%

4 Does your club support implementing the membership scheme as presented here?

Yes 41.4% No 53.6% No view 5%

AAA EGM

Gordon Robbins & Mike Strange attended. Voting profile

P1 Circa Yes 89% No 11% 0% Total Votes 448

P2 Circa Yes 90% No 10% 0% Total Votes 455

P3 Shelved – Not relevant.

Interim South West Regional Athletics Council

Gordon Robbins spoke of importance to fully support all endeavours to make our integration into the South West Hub work. This point was endorsed by the Meeting.

MEETING CLOSED At 9.44 pm. Next Committee Meeting – Mon 23rd January 2006.

APPENDIX

First Claim changes – Meeting 19th September 2005.

Applicable from 01/10/05

From Westbury H to Bitton RR – Lee SCOTT

Lynnette PORTER was cleared forthwith (19th Sept) to compete for Bitton RR.

First Claim changes – Meeting 24th October 2005.

Applicable from 01/11/05

From Cardiff AAC to Bristol & West AC – Robert BUGDEN

From Fry Club Joggers to Bitton RR – Stephen JENKINS

First Claim changes – Meeting 21st November 2005.

Applicable from 01/12/05

From Milton Keynes AC To Bristol & West AC – Charles PRESTON

From Bristol & West AC To Clevedon AC – Vivian McCONNELL

From Sole Sisters To Great Western Runners – Louise J CRONIN

Coach Education Courses Schedule

CIA - Witherwood – Sun 27th November 2005.

FIRW - Witherwood – Sun 27th November 2005.

L1 – Bath HPC – Sat 20th November 2005.

L2 Day 1&2 – Whitchurch – Sat / Sun 21/22 January 2006.

L2 Day 1&2 – Bath HPC - Sat / Sun 4/5 February 2006.

L2 Day 3 (Speed, Throws) – Sat 25th March 2006

L2 Day 3 (Endurance, Jumps) – Sun 26th March 2006

L3 Phase 1 – Bath HPC – Sat / Sun 24/25 September 2005

L3 Phase 11 – Cardiff NIAC – Sat / Sun 28/29 January 2006

L3/4 Specific (Throws, Sprints) - Cardiff NIAC - Sat / Sun 26/27 November 2005

L3/4 Specific (Endurance, Jumps) - Bath HPC - Sat / Sun 26/27 November 2005

L3/4 Specific (Mentoring) - Bath HPC - Sat / Sun 8/9 April 2006

L3/4 Specific (Disabled) – Birmingham – 24th September 2005

All enquiries to :

Bill Whistlecroft MBE, 89, Elliots Drive, Yeovil, Somerset, BA21 3NR. Tel 01-935-422646

Application Forms are on the Internet.