

# ***Avon Athletic Association***

## **(Affiliated to England Athletics)**

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### **MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING**

Held :- 24<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

At Civil Service Club, Filton Avenue, Bristol.

**PRESENT** : Peter GRIFFIN (President); Graham HOWELL (Chair); Mike DOWN (Vice Chair); Mike STRANGE (Sec); Mike ANDREWS (Treas); Ray GOODING (Officials Co-ordinator); Gordon ROBBINS (Road Running Co-ordinator); Keith BRACKSTONE (Coaching Co-ordinator); Dave COALES (Road - Team Manager / Team Bath AC); Barry SMART (Life Member); Bill KINGSTON (Life Member); Lesley NUNN (Avon Schools AA); Stuart NUNN (Yate & District AC); Steve COGHLAN (North Somerset AC); Richard GWYN (England Athletics).

**APOLOGIES** : Andy HEYES (Clevedon AC/ XC Co-ordinator); Pam GOODING (Life Member); James MURPHY (Westbury Harriers); Hilary NASH (Bristol & West AC); Neil MILLER (EA SW Council; Jackie HILLEARD (Wesport).

### **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

#### **Acceptance**

The Minutes were accepted as a true record of the Meeting with the proviso that the President be confirmed as Present rather than present & absent.

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

#### **SECRETARY**

##### **County Vests**

The Secretary informed that he had recently written to Ridgeway textiles and requested a quotation for new vests – quantities as per the Minute of Sept 08.

##### **Governance / Constitution**

On the question raised at the AGM on 'Governance', Jon Temperton confirms that Avon AA no longer retain the previous position held in the Governance structure of Athletics. We do however still exist as an effective and recognised voice for the Clubs in this County. Jon has helped with suggestions on amendments to our Constitution in line with our present position.

Adjustments advised a) take out under Objects & Duties ; 'and exercise duties (as delegated) by England Athletics.'

b) add 'to be an association of clubs in the county, to coordinate activity, discuss aspects of mutual interest and be a voice for those clubs'.

##### **Bristol / Kenya project**

This project reported at the last Committee Meeting has now been formally announced over the SW EA Web site (on which an application form can be found).

#### **TREASURER**

##### **Grant Aid / Road Running unaffiliated fees**

On this thorny issue the Regional Manager is now very aware of our desire to re-coup money in the Unaffiliated Fee fund which we felt was due from the Bath Half Marathon. In correspondence she wrote – "I suggest the county put in a grant application form based on your letter on this subject earlier in the year. The form can be found on the website (club grant form). If you get this in to me as soon as you can we can try to consider this before Christmas".

**Action – Secretary to complete submission and send to EA SW.**

#### **OFFICIALS**

##### **CRB / transfer**

It is now confirmed that the offer to transfer to an identical Level those Officials without CRB verifications ended 31 Aug 2008 – thereafter if they apply satisfactorily for transfer they will revert to a lower Level ie 3 goes to new 2.

On the above subject Bob Lavis (one of our outstanding un-transferred Officials) has now submitted his CRB check.

#### **ROAD RUNNING**

##### **Bath Half Marathon**

The meeting between EA and Running High concerning licence for the Bath Half Marathon was held recently. Gordon Robbins attended as the EA Licence Officer and the Secretary attended on behalf of Avon AA as the history dates back to a time when the County had Governance in such matters.

Outcomes are that EA request that future licences (permits) are issued by the local 'Licence Officer' and not issued centrally by EA. Outline understandings were established at the meeting although some clarifications are still required over consistency in advertising and exercising the £2 discount to affiliated runners.

## **Main Meeting**

### **SECRETARY**

#### **Joan Hill**

The President announced the news that Joan Hill, the Wife of past President (now deceased) Fred Hill, had died in Frenchay Hospital recently. Joan was a long time supporter of local athletics and of Fred's activities for the County. The meeting was saddened by this passing.

The Funeral is scheduled for 1.30pm on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> Dec at Canford Cemetery. It is planned that the County will be represented.

#### **Welfare Officer**

James Murphy offered to take on the above post. He has now completed a 'Child Protection' Course and has taken on this role for Westbury Harriers (in addition to being their Chairman).

The meeting formalised this appointment to the Committee.

#### **Weston Super Mare Junior Athletic Club.**

This new Club has recently affiliated to England Athletics and are interested in affiliation to Avon AA.

Some subsequent discussion resulted and Clevedon AC asked that they be given time to talk to the principal organiser at WSM J AC, Mr Clive Butler with reference to his previous links with the Clevedon club before we confirm affiliation.

**Action – Clevedon AC**

#### **England Athletics**

No further news was reported on the outcomes of re-organisation (closing Regional offices) at EA.

A statement from EA was in circulation to members. It was relevant that employees of EA were currently re-applying for their past jobs or similar equivalent roles.

Discussion ensued and it was felt that Athletics was reverting back to its past recent structure with the Midland Area again being the relevant body for this County to answer to. It was also observed that the South West Counties AA was still in existence as a body and still held funds.

Updated news was apparently available on the EA web site and FAQ's did match some questions posed by the Meeting. The Meeting did observe that very successful activity in a previous athletics backwater must be preserved for the sake of the sport.

**Action – Secretary to write to EA reflecting discussion points made.**

#### **Packers Track**

Planning has now been approved and there are optimistic noises that it might happen in 2009?

Bristol City Council is still awaiting the approval of loan finances.

Discussion arose about the detail to the design proposals which do require some adjustment. Barry Smart as County Track Assessor for UKA asked that he be involved from this stage forward.

**Action – Secretary to request BCC to include BS in track detail discussions.**

### **TREASURER**

#### **Current Balances**

Total £ 30,654.85

HSBC Current £ 9,328.07                      HSBC Deposit £ 21,326.78

#### **Vacancy**

It was announced that Hilary Nash had come forward as a candidate to take over the job of Treasurer when Mike Andrews stands down at the AGM. It is with some relief to the Committee that this important position has now been covered.

#### **Performance Grants**

Thank you letters had been received from James Preston & Emily Diamond in respect of Grants awarded.

#### **Grant Award**

Contributions had been received from Wesport toward the County Talent Coaching activities. (The ASSET scheme).

### **COACHING**

#### **Avon Athletics Network**

The Co-ordinator outlined the current stages on this bid to be one of the initial batch of 'Networks' established and supported by EA. This fits in with the new approach adopted by EA. This scheme is to be sponsored by McCain as a part of their wider sponsorship of EA.

Currently we await the outcome of the bid which if successful will pull together all interested parties in the athletics framework of Avon.

## **ASSET (Avon special Sessions in Endurance Training)**

The first sessions of this group had been held successfully. The co-ordinator explained briefly aspirations for the future.

## **Enquiries on Coaching Data**

The Co-ordinator now had satisfactory feed back from enquiries to the SW Office and had the names of circa 150 Coaches purported to be active in Avon. A subsequent meeting with Richard Coleman of Wesport had enabled information being submitted for the County (Wesport) 'Coach Data Base'.

## **OFFICIALS**

There was nothing relevant to report as England Athletics seemed in disarray as their structure goes through re-organisation.

## **Level 2 Course**

Planned for YOSC for Sunday Feb 1<sup>st</sup> 2009.

## **ROAD RUNNING**

### **Bristol Half Marathon & 10k**

The Bristol Half Marathon organisers asked this Committee for suggestions on how 'Club Runner' involvement can be increased in this local races. From the race organisers point of view it is disappointing that a gap can exist after the elite have finished and before the 'Unaffiliated Runners' come through?

Contributions from our meeting after discussion :

Club runners are out to achieve times, the congested start of a big city Half does affect times adversely.

The price of Entry is prohibitive.

Often Club runners cannot foresee their race plans when closing dates are upon them. Consequently they do not enter. Follow local entry ideas developed by the Bath Half Marathon.

**Action – Secretary to pass observations on to the Bristol Half Marathon**

## **TRACK & FIELD**

### **Avon Track & Field Champs**

The date for this event was fixed for Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

An approach from Wiltshire for their Championship event to be included with ours received no objections.

## **YOSC**

UKA have indicated that all track competitions will require 'Permits' from 2009 similar to those issued for Road and Cross Country events in the past. This in turn means that events must only be held on tracks with current 'Track Competition Certificates'. In order to hold our Championships at YOSC it will require some minor attention before obtaining this Certification.

## **(INDOOR)**

### **SW Champs**

It was confirmed that these Championships will now be held at Cardiff (UWIC) on 10 / 11<sup>th</sup> January in conjunction with the UWIC Grand Prix and Open Meeting. This will be a pre entry event.

Ray Gooding informed Officials have already been appointed for this event and extra offers are not required.

## **CROSS COUNTRY**

### **County Champs**

This event is organised in conjunction with the Gwent League fixture at Blaise on 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 2008 and it does not require pre entry for the County event. Instructions are: turn up at the Westbury H hut and report your details.

A Team Selection Meeting for the CAU Inter-counties will follow a week after the event.

**Action – Secretary to inform previous enquirers on entry conditions.**

### **South West Inter-counties & Champs**

To be held at Bicton on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan. All matters are reported to be in hand by the Team Managers.

## **SPORTS:HALL**

**Forthcoming fixtures** are : 17<sup>th</sup> Jan; Avon Open Sportshall finals; Bristol Grammar School am, 24<sup>th</sup> Jan; Fun in Athletics (North) final; UWIC, Frenchay.

## **AVON SCHOOLS AA**

### **AGM**

The AGM was held on 20<sup>th</sup> October at BGS. There was nothing significant to report except to observe that Wesport now seem to be having impact in the organisation of Competition at District and County level.

**Forthcoming fixtures:** County Schools XC Champs; 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 2009 at Blaise, Track Championships at YOSC 13<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

## **SOUTH WEST REGION REPORT**

### **Council**

Neil Miller reports that the Council are seeking further clarifications on 'how the changes in structure will affect the South West' and are asking for Mike Summers to address their next Meeting.

Richard Gwyn confirmed that all employees are concerned with reapplications for their own jobs but that all are continuing to perform their current functions to the best of their ability.

### **MCAA**

Nothing to significant to report.

## **WESPORT REPORT**

Jackie Hilleard, the person assigned to look after Athletics apologised for her late withdrawal from this Meeting with illness but does intend to attend the next meeting.

## **CLUB NEWS**

### **Bristol & West AC**

The Club ask that all local clubs support their event next year when the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this significant race is held.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Athlete Movement**

Stuart Nunn enquired whether recent changes in Coach had any direct affect on movements in club membership? The situation had arisen after long time established Coach, Tom Watson had made alternative Coaching arrangements for his athletes following his decision to move to an appointment in South Africa.

A frank discussion ensued and assurances were given that movements by athletes were not encouraged by and had in some cases been against the best advice of the new Coaches.

### **Networks**

A query arose over the possible accountability of the Avon Athletics Network to Avon AA. This question could not be answered at this stage as the scheme details were still under discussion but it was assumed that as the County now had no governance rights with EA then there would be no accountability to the County..

### **Tri Club & Moti Shop**

Bitton enlightened other clubs to a situation that occurred in the recent Sodbury Slog where athletes competed under the auspices of the above organisations (not affiliated Athletics Clubs). This created some dilemmas in the awarding of team prizes. Other Clubs are alerted to possible repeats of this situation.

### **AGM**

The date is fixed for 6<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at the Civil Service Club, Bristol.

## **MEETING CLOSED**

At 9.52 pm

Next Meeting Date – Mon 19<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

## **APPENDIX**

### **FIRST CLAIM CHANGES**

#### **England Athletics, September 2008**

**Applicable from 01/10/08**

No Avon Athletes

#### **England Athletics, October 2008**

**Applicable from 01/11/08**

From Calne AC to Great Western Runners – Amanda MACKENZIE

From Hermitage Harriers to Westbury Harriers – John TERRY

From Mendip AC to Bristol & West AC – Kieran YOUNG

From Hereford & County AC to Bristol & West AC – Rhys PARK

From Yate & District AC to Bristol & West AC – Robert GAULT

From Hereford & County AC to Bristol & West AC – Vanessa BRAN