

# Avon Athletic Association

## (Affiliated to England Athletics)

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### MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Held :- 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

At the Civil Service Club, Filton Avenue, Bristol.

**PRESENT** : Peter GRIFFIN (President); Graham HOWELL (Chair); Mike DOWN (Vice Chair); Mike STRANGE (Sec); Andrea CULP (XC Co-ordinator / GWR); Ray GOODING (Officials Co-ordinator); Gordon ROBBINS (Road Running Co-ordinator); John DEATON (Webmaster); Bill KINGSTON (Life Member); Ken HOLMES (Avon Schools / Track - Team Manager); Mike WILLCOX (GWR); Gareth THOMAS (Thornbury RC); Barry SMART (Life Member); Lesley NUNN (Avon Schools AA); Stuart NUNN (Yate & District AC); Cy KNIBB (Bristol & West AC); Tim SNOWDON (Avon Athletics Network); Matt FOAD (England Athletics).

**APOLOGIES** : Pam GOODING (Life Member); Hilary NASH (Treas); Dave TURNER (Sportshall Co-ordinator); Andy HEYES (Clevedon AC); Mike ANDREWS (Clevedon AC); Jackie HILLEARD (Wesport).

### MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

#### Acceptance

The Minutes were accepted as a true record of the Meeting including the following late addition that was added to the e mail circulation issued at the last minute but not the mailed version:

#### “CLUB NEWS

##### Bristol & West AC

Within their Mike Sully Cross Country Races the Club wished to add a ‘Mob Race’ similar to that held during the Towpath Series organised by GWR. Bristol & West asked that the race be supported by Local clubs and requested that a grant be considered to assist with the costs of organisation. If granted then race entries would be free.

A grant of £100 was proposed.

**Proposed : Peter Griffin; Seconded : Mike Willcox; passed unanimously. “**

### MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

#### SECRETARY

##### Affiliations

The Secretary intends to e mail to Southville Running Club to encourage them to affiliate to Avon AA.

#### TREASURER

##### Unpaid Affiliations

Clevedon AC, Nailsea Running Club & University of Bath AC remain as the only clubs not to have re-affiliated in 2009.

##### Performance Grants

These grants were awarded to 20 athletes (listed below – 14 athletes at grade 1 and 6 athletes at grade 2). As you will observe at £100 for Grade 1 & £50 for grade 2 the upper accumulative total of £1,000 would have been exceeded. Therefore grants issued were £58.82 for grade 1 and £29.41 for grade 2. At a late date it was discovered that one athlete had mistakenly applied for a grant. This athlete was Wiltshire qualified although competing for an Avon club. This grant was not paid and the athlete was advised.

##### Recipients

a/ Grade 1 £58.82 each – Luke BAILEY; Lucy BRYAN; Ben COGHLAN; Gary COLEMAN; Emily DIAMOND; Lauren GALE; Hannah GRUBB; Luke JACOBS; Christina JONES; James PRESTON; Floren SCRAFTON; Hayley SMITH; Cameron WALKER-SHEPHERD.

b/ Grade 2 £29.41 each – Hannah ALDERSON; Jonathan CLAYTON; Scott DAVIE; Joanna EATON; Hayley GREEN; Ashley PIERSON.

##### Grants

A letter of thanks had been received from Avon Schools Association in respect of the Grant Award for £400.

### AVON NETWORK

#### Network

The Secretary wrote to Jackie Hilleard on our approach to Meeting representation.

### SOUTH WEST COUNCIL

Two Officers were invited to attend the SW Council Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> November. The Secretary took up this offer. The invitation is intended will be made annually in the future. It was noted that Neil Miller is a member of Council, attends on a regular basis and feeds back for Avon AA meetings.

## MAIN MEETING

### Avon Athletics Network

#### **Matt Foad (England Athletics) spoke on moving forward**

Matt initially recapped on the background and history of the Network in respect of Avon's involvement. He talked of the initial Plan prepared by Keith Brackstone and the fact that it took a further 8 months to bring the scheme to fruition with Tim Snowdon being appointed. Currently a serious level of funding is available to assist in moving forward and beneficial outcomes are expected but to date the clubs of Avon do not appear to have signed up to support the Network concept. Participation was deemed essential in setting pathways & priority areas and in demonstrating to England Athletics that the scheme was being fully embraced and lead by the Clubs.

The next Network meeting was scheduled to be held on Weds 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec at UWE and is open to all clubs. A generic 'Network' presentation will be made and discussion on pathways for Coaching, Coach Development and Officials Development will be embraced. Objectives are to sustain growth and drive up performance particularly with 2012 in mind. It will however be assumed that clubs not attending this meeting are choosing not to participate in the Network.

Questions from the floor included:- How do other Networks operate? Where will Avon be when Network funding ends? Does it die in 3 years time? How do other Networks operate?

Matt's responses were:- Other Networks seem to operate in completely diverse ways to suit the individual characteristics of the areas that they cover. Examples relating to the Somerset network were given as was the Derbyshire Network which was featured recently at the EA Network Conference. Funding originated through Sport England and was subject to continuing successful outcomes. Other sources of funding would need to be sought from local sponsorship and sustainability would then be dependant.

Cy Knibb spoke of the need for all to work together to make the Avon Athletics Network a success.

## SECRETARY

### **Tom Clark – Life Member**

We very much grieve the passing of Life Member, Tom Clark. Tom was a valuable Timekeeper for Track, Sports Hall and Endurance events. You could depend on him, he was always there no matter what the weather and his skill at Timekeeping was exceptional. The Funeral was attended by a good number of Avon AA Members.

The Secretary moved that we make a 'Donation' to the nominated Charity through the Funeral Directors.

**Motion - 'That we Donate £ 30 to the charity 'Alzheimer's Society' in memory of Tom'.**

**Proposed - Mike Strange; Seconded - Bill Kingston ; Carried - Unanimously Action to Treasurer.**

## TREASURER

### **Current Balances**

Total £ 22,745.34

HSBC Current £ 1,396.88                      HSBC Deposit £ 21,348.46

Payments were principally : Performance Grants (circa £1,000) and Officials payments.

### **Grant**

An application was considered for a grant for a tent from North Somerset AC. The Tent was expected to cost circa £300 and would be used as shelter for athletes at matches.

**Motion – 'That we action a Grant for 50% of the cost incurred' (£150)**

**Proposed – Mike Willcox; Seconded – Gordon Robbins; Carried - Unanimously.**

## 35<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER

The President outlined plans to date and looked for approvals in certain respects.

a/ Menu: The basic prices on the Hotel Menu for our Dinner would be:- Starter – Lowest price (choice from 2) @ £4.75; Main Course – Lowest price (Choice from 3) @ £13.75; Dessert – Lowest price (Choice from 3) @ £6.50 / Total price £25.00

The 2005 Dinner was price was £22.00 with the Association able to subsidise therefore tickets on that occasion were £20 / head (a time when we had no financial worries with good income streams). Similarly on that occasion we entertained 6 Guests on our top table (plus our Photographer) and incurred costs of circa £450.00. In 2010 if we add this cost to the other tickets the basic price will rise from £25 to £35. Somewhere between £25 & £35 it was suggested would be the balance point where people might switch off from attending such a function.?

Basic ball park costs for the Dinner are estimated as:- Function Room - £300; Top table costs - £235; Souvenir Menu £150; Postage / Stationary - £100; Guest of Honour gift - £115, Total circa £900.

The President stressed that at this stage he was not making any proposals but asked for the matter to be openly debated.

Within the President's outline for the event he spoke strongly about our loss of reasonable revenue streams and of pursuing various opportunities for grants. Suggestions made included:- a) Larger Clubs paying higher affiliation fees than smaller ones and b) seeking grants from high income races in the County. He went on to comment that our current obligation to the hotel is our £300 deposit and of course would incur loss of face with our Members and our guest speaker, Bruce Tulloh. We could call it all off and reconsider our position in 2015 when it would be our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

From the floor: the Secretary felt that such functions were not as popular as they were in the past therefore we should be careful about commitment; Neil Miller felt that we should trim the Guest list to a reasonable level; and Gordon Robbins felt we should go for the £30 ticket fee as suggested. It was then decided that we should put the matter on the Agenda for the next Committee Meeting and then give it all a thorough airing.

**Action :- Secretary to 'add the item as a specific topic for discussion at the next Committee Meeting'.**

## **COACHING**

### **Coaching Co-ordinator**

Keith Brackstone felt it necessary to resign from this position due to changes in circumstance. He now has a new job that he needs to develop and he has heavy Coaching commitments to his training group that has become very successful to date.

Three people had come forward and discussed the possibility of fulfilling this vacancy but it was felt by officers that the tasks outlined for the post were largely undertaken by the new Avon Athletics Network Co-ordinator.

It was therefore proposed that for the time being we consider it unnecessary to fill the vacancy and therefore not cut across the job performed Tim Snowden for the Avon Network.

### **Coaching / Network**

A very successful initial Course organised under the Avon Athletics Network was held on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> Nov at Filton WISE. This was a 'Speed Coaching' Workshop given by Roger Walter. Aspects covered were Drills, Starts & Relays. It was interesting to see the 'Push' relay change used by GB teams demonstrated for the first time to many of the attendees. Attendance was high involving both Coaches and Athletes from 8 clubs and two schools.

Further Workshops involving Strength & Conditioning, Disability and Steeplechase are to follow shortly.

### **Funding**

The meeting enquired whether the future costs of Coach Education could be sourced through the 'Network' funds. This question was deemed to be relevant to later 'Network' meetings.

### **Great Western Runners – Coaching Workshops**

Mike Willcox related the good work being done by Mike Hockett within his Club in organising monthly Coaching workshops. These workshops are open to all clubs to attend. It was suggested the Network could recognise this work and co-ordinate activities so that similar events did not cut across each other.

## **OFFICIALS**

### **Meeting of County Officials Secretary's**

The Officials Secretary attended a meeting of SW Officials Secretary's on Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Nov which was supported by those from Devon, Wiltshire, Somerset & Avon. Points raised were:

- 1/ MCAA has been allocated £9k for Officials expenses.
- 2/ There was general agreement that communications were still poor.
- 3/ Some discussion surrounded the status of County Officials Secretary's. Although as we all know Counties are purely competition providers and are not included in the UKA Officials flow chart, England Athletics has produced a chart indicating that their contact will be directly through County Officials Secretary's. Quote the EA Communications Officer "County Officials Secretary's have an important part to play" and furthermore terms of reference have been produced and maybe payment will be forthcoming for this post.
- 4/ Officials Secretary's will retain responsibility for maintaining the records of Endurance Officials although allocation to events etc will in future be dealt with by Road Running Co-ordinators in each County.
- 5/ It was confirmed that the date of 8<sup>th</sup> August 2010 would be an acceptable date for Avon to participate in the South West Inter-counties Championships at Exeter.
- 6/ Although no formal notification has been issued it is understood that those Level 4 Officials aspiring to the 'New' Level 3 status will need to take an exam (based on IAAF Rules) as well as show evidence of working with a mentor. It was generally thought that this would further discourage transfers to 'New' Level 3.
- 7/ 'New' Level 2a (Club) Officials will not be allowed to lead any 'long throw' events for safety reasons. 'New' Level 2b (County) Officials are a minimum grade requirement to fulfil this responsibility.
- 8/ Although forms for regrading currently exist the requirements for regrading from 'New' Level 2a to 2b & on to 2c still require clarification.
- 9/ The SW Officials Conference is planned for 7<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at the Exeter Golf & Country Club. Workshops include 'Validity of Javelin and Shot arm action' plus a one specifically aimed at new Level 2 Officials.

(Some discussion surrounded point 7. John Deaton thought the effect of L2a Officials being precluded from leading long throws could lead to difficulties in actually holding these events. He also enquired if limitations existed on who could actually be appointed as a Referee. Bill Kingston felt that it was important to highlight this stipulation to all clubs involved in matches as the only alternative in some instances would be to cancel events.)

### **Endurance**

The grading for Endurance Officials is now defined and will be identical to that for Technical Officials. New Endurance Officials courses are now being trialled.

## **London Olympics**

All Technical Officials should have received an availability form for selection to the London Olympics & Paralympics in 2012. Replies were required by Nov 5<sup>th</sup> 2009.

## **Level 2 Course**

North Somerset AC had requested previously that Level 2 Course be held locally and were hopefully identifying a suitable venue and date.

## **Level 1 Course**

A course was held at YOSC on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> Nov and was Tutored by Stuart Nunn. Of the 19 people expected to attend only 10 turned up, however 6 of those were under 21 years of age.

## **Course Presentation Equipment**

A big problem currently exists in acquiring a digital projector aligned to a lap top computer to present courses as UKA prefer. Hire of a projector costs circa £50 / day. To buy one cost in the order of £500 to £800. The Officials Secretary posed this dilemma to the meeting?

Mike Strange indicated that Wesport possessed suitable projectors that surely come be hired through the Avon Athletics Network and Tim Snowden indicated that one might become available directly through his office shortly? It was also suggested that future courses be held at Filton WISE, UWE or Brimsham Green School where projectors are an integral part of the lecture room set ups. Similarly UKA should be approached as the Course is of course to qualify UKA Officials?

## **Co-ordinator / Secretary**

In view of the issue of recognition by EA of the position of 'Officials Secretary' the Secretary felt that it would be in order for this Association to re adopt that designation for our officials Co-ordinator. No objections were made to this change being adopted.

## **Revenue & Customs Sports**

Bill Kingston circulated information on this event to be held at Exeter Arena on Wed June 24<sup>th</sup> 2010. The organiser is seeking the assistance of SW Officials to assist with the event.

## **ROAD RUNNING**

### **South West Road Running Champs**

This Championship was run with the Dartmoor Vale Half Marathon on October 18<sup>th</sup> 2009. It was poorly supported by some SW Counties and in particular by Avon. We really need to do better but as Mike Down stated clashes with other races did have an impact on athletes being available (this was held on the National Road Relay weekend?)

### **Bristol 10k**

This race to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> May has been designated as the EA Championships for 2010.

### **Bristol Half Marathon**

This race will be held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Sept for 2010 and the usual Mile and Sprint races on College Green will be held on the preceding day, Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Sept.

## **TRACK & FIELD**

### **County Champs / West of England Champs**

The Secretary suggested that the date for these Champs be fixed for Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May to avoid a clash with the Bristol 10k event on the Sunday. This suggestion accommodates Officials as well as athletes.

### **Indoor Fixture List**

The Secretary circulated a list of indoor fixtures that affect our area. It is impressed that the SW Champs will be incorporated into the MCAA Champs at Birmingham on 13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup> February.

### **City Challenge**

Ken Holmes (who Team Manages' at this event) noted that preliminary rounds will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb and the final on 27<sup>th</sup> Feb at Lee Valley. 8 Teams will take part this year covering the whole country. Our Team are the London Sharks covering the area from Kent to Cornwall.

### **Summer Fixture List**

A Summer fixture list has been circulated and as previously noted the SW Inter-counties will be held on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2010

## **CROSS COUNTRY**

### **SW Champs**

These will be held on Sun 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 2010 at Bicton, Exeter. A reminder of selection policies adopted for this race are: first three (entered in the Avon Champs) in each race category plus others at the discretion of the selectors. This policy is also the basis of selections for the CAU Inter-Counties in March.

## **County XC Champs**

Members were reminded that the Avon & Somerset Champs will take place at next week on Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 2009 at Taunton and that entries close tomorrow morning. A list of entries had been given to John Deaton for processing and last minute entries were flowing in (circa 25% were Women). Hilary Nash had delivered 'A' letters to designate the Avon runners and pins were noted as a frequent oversight in the past. The Cross-Country Co-ordinator requested that people communicate any last minute difficulties to her without delay.

In conclusion the Co-ordinator said that the system adopted by Somerset had not suited the circumstances of this race (joint with Gwent Lg) and she would recommend that we revert to our previous standard next year when responsibility would again fall into our court.

## **SPORTSHALL**

### **Fixtures**

Dates for Sportshall events have been circulated on the Indoor fixture List although the National Sportshall final has yet to be allocated a venue?

## **SCHOOLS**

### **Fixture Clashes**

Lesley Nunn noted a clash of fixtures affecting possible selections for the ESAA XC Champs: Namely the Avon Schools Champs on 9<sup>th</sup> Jan is followed one day after by the South West Champs and the ECCA National XC Champs clash directly with the SW Schools XC Champs on 27<sup>th</sup> Feb??

The problem for school athletes is that the ESAA Rules state that a competitor in the ESAA Champs must have qualified by competing in the County or Area Championships? Generally the meeting thought that in view of the fact that the SW Champs and National Champs are on set dates designated by EA then it would seem to be an oversight for the Schools to select such problematic dates but of course the fixture congestion problems are also well known.

### **Cross Country Championships**

The organisation of this event was well in hand but Lesley Nunn did request the services of an extra Timekeeper and scribe. The request was met.

### **AGM**

Was held at BGS on 12<sup>th</sup> Oct 2009.

The Constitution which had become extremely dated was brought up to date. Peter Jakobec expressed a wish to resign after many years as Treasurer and Jo Pike was elected to that position. Competition successes were reported on and it was deemed to be another successful year.

## **AVON ATHLETICS NETWORK**

### **Conference**

Cy Knibb reported on the EA Network Conference a copy of which was circulated with Avon Notes.

### **EA SW**

#### **SOUTH WEST COUNCIL**

##### **SW Council**

By invitation the Secretary attended the annual review meeting of the South West Council on 19<sup>th</sup> Nov at Exeter as previously mentioned in Matters Arising.

**Chris Mallender** from EA gave a very informative presentation on CCSO duties and included some comments on Networks.

**ESSA Champs** – mentioned the clash of fixtures this coming year thus Gateshead cannot host the Champs. However Gateshead are anxious to host for the following 3 years and offered £60k as support. The venue for 2010 is Birmingham and the ESAA recognise that they may need to be flexible with their choice of dates.

**Cross Country** – arrangements for the SW Champs are well in hand and the Volunteer gap will be filled by the ATC. They proved last year to possess very experienced volunteers. Of the Leagues the Gwent, Glos & Westward seemed to be functioning well but some doubts lingered over the Wessex Lg.

**Indoor** – The SW champs on 13/14 Feb will be handled through the MCAA Office.

**Competition Managers** – Awareness of these people was less than apparent. Sportshall was already well established but their pursuit of Quad Kids was not clear. The pushing of Elevating Athletics seemed to have floundered being very poorly taken up by Teachers. Teacher Education needs to be re-established as a priority.

**Officials** – Endurance Officials would appear to have been sectioned off from the main stream and would now be handled by handled through Endurance Co-ordinators. Education Courses can be found on the EA web site. There was a feeling that it is still difficult for SW Officials becoming integrated into the MCAA structure.

**Endurance** – The Run Britain Roadshow was well attended in the SW and was deemed by the organisers to be the best in the UK. The London Mini-Marathon was well organised in 2009 but unfortunately was necessarily re-arranged at the last minute due to weather conditions. The pilot L2 Education Course will be launched shortly with the L3 courses to follow. A seminar for Race Directors will be held in the SW shortly and Risk Assessment Course conducted by Mike Taylor will be launched soon.

**Affiliation** – Letters to clubs who a/ have not registered with EA or b/ who have not registered all or any of their athletes, are now being sent out. This affects 50% of clubs and consequences are that athletes could be excluded from races in the

future, particularly Championship events. EA will try to inform Counties of affiliated clubs in their territory for the future so that they can be encouraged to affiliate to County Associations.

**Coaching** – A whole raft of new Coach Education Courses have been placed on the EA web-site and the previously floated UK Coaching Certificate has died a quiet death. Level 3 & 4 are however being re-vamped.

**Mentors** – Tom Watson has been proactive in our area in his initial months as Endurance Coach Mentor. In particular he organised a group session on Threshold Running at Ashton Court on 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 2009 which was well attended.

The Avon Secretary asked where Counties now stood in the eyes of EA? Our Officials Secretary was being encouraged as a key pawn in the UKA structure and we were invited by EA SW to this Council meeting? Yet on the advice of Athletic Services we had modified our Constitution to bring us in line with the non-status as established by the Foster Report. It was impressed that Counties were considered as being very important to the function of South West athletics.

## **WESPORT**

### **Club / Wesport interfaces**

It was observed that the activities now organised by the Competition Managers are not utilising the previous assistance offered by 'club' volunteers. The use of club volunteers should be a key route toward the integration of young athletes into club structures. We trust that this minute is considered by those from Wesport on our circulation.

### **Appointment**

Beth Fisher has replaced Gavin as a Competition Manager with Wesport and will be involved in their Athletics activities.

## **CLUB NEWS**

### **GWR - Arthur DAGGER**

GWR announced their intention to set up a Fund to honour the Memory of their late Member, Arthur Dagger.

Information was circulated in Avon Notes and through the local Press. GWR would be pleased for donations from Clubs.

### **Bristol & West AC**

Mob Match was a great success and B&W thanked Avon AA for their grant contribution

### **Weston-super-Mare Juniors Athletic Club**

The e mail contact to Clive Butler is now:

*wsmjac@orangehome.co.uk*

### **Bristol & West AC & Yate & District AC**

Despite the efforts of their delegates at the Midland League AGM it is interesting to note that no local fixtures were allocated for 2010?

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **CRB's / 16/17 Year Old's**

On behalf of the Thornbury Running Club Gareth Thomas asked the floor how other similar clubs dealt with the issue of 16/17 year old's in relation to CRB coverage for running group supervision? He requested that anyone with experience communicate with Thornbury RC.

### **Packers**

Barry Smart enquired on progress with Packers' track developments. In response those dealing with Bristol CC "were cautiously optimistic".

## **MEETING CLOSED**

At 9.49 pm      Next Meeting Date – Mon 25<sup>th</sup> January 2010. AGM Date – Mon 29<sup>th</sup> March 2010

## **FIRST CLAIM CHANGES (can also be found on the EA & MCAA web site)**

### **England Athletics, September 2009**

#### **Applicable from 01/10/09**

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

From Charnwood AC to Westbury Harriers – Debbie MARSDEN

### **England Athletics, October 2009**

#### **Applicable from 01/11/09**

From Newport Harriers to Bristol & West AC – Nathan HARDEE

From Bristol & West AC to Highgate Harriers – Alexia TRAFFORD