

## Avon Athletic Association

**Minutes** of a Management Committee meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday November 21st 2011, at the Civil Service Sports and Social Club, Filton Road, Bristol, starting at 7.30pm.

**Those Present:** Stuart Nunn (Chair, Yate & District AC), Keith Brackstone (CC Coordinator), Dave Coales (Team Bath AC), John Deaton (Secretary), Mike Down (Bristol & West AC), Bill Kingston (Life Member), Cy Knibb (Bristol & West AC), Lesley Nunn (Avon Schools AA), Ben Redwood (Yate & District AC), Gordon Robbins (Road Running Co-ordinator / Bitton RR), John Robbins (President), Tim Snowdon (Avon Network), Mike Strange (Life Member).

**Apologies :** Rachael Fisher (North Somerset AC), Pam Gooding (Life Member), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Hilary Nash (Treasurer), Mike Willcox (GWR).

**Minutes of Previous Meeting** (September 19th 2011): accepted.

### **Matters Arising:**

1. Avon AA Open Meetings: John Robbins offered to take on the organisation of these for 2012.
2. Replying to a query raised at the previous meeting, Tim Snowdon stated that the first Avon Development day had made a surplus of about £280 which had been donated to the Association.

**Secretary's Report:** The Secretary had prepared a list of the assets of the Association: the latest version can be found in Appendix A.

**Treasurer's Report:** Hilary Nash was not present at the meeting: John Deaton would contact him for a financial update.

**Officials Secretary's Report:** Ray Gooding had presented his apologies for absence from the meeting; he had nothing to report. There was a Level 2 Officials course for Timekeepers, Track Judges and Field Judges scheduled for Salisbury on Saturday March 17th.

**Road Running Matters:** The three County Road Race Championships (10km and Road Relays at Clevedon; 10 miles at Oldbury on Severn) had all gone ahead okay. The Secretary would circulate a note from BARR concerning the use of iPod's, MP3 players, etc. during road races.

### **Track and Field Matters:**

1. T&F Championships 2012: The proposed sub-committee (Rachael Fisher, Ray Gooding, Stuart Nunn, Ben Redwood, John Robbins) to discuss possible modifications to Championships arrangements had not yet met. There was some uncertainty about whether a permit was needed for the Championships: the Secretary would look into the matter [Post-meeting note: Yes, we do need one].
2. There would be no Bath University Open Indoor T&F meetings this winter, as David Saker had been unable to negotiate a satisfactory hiring fee with the Sports Village. However there would be an indoor Pole Vault competition on Sunday December 18th: interested athletes should contact Tim Snowdon.
3. The EA Coach course scheduled to start on November 12th/13th at Filton had been cancelled because of a shortage of applicants. There was a replacement course, due to start on January 7th/8th, again at Filton: Tim Snowdon was concerned that, if this course also failed to go ahead, that EA might be

reluctant to promote further courses in this area. There is more flexibility than the EA website would imply over the third day and the assessment day: the candidate could delay their third day, even taking it at some other venue (although this would not be ideal), and could apply for the assessment day once their Diary is ready (but this must be within two years of starting the course). The EA website would gradually be updated to reflect this more flexible approach.

4. There is a new UKA Rule Book due in April 2012: among the **proposed** changes are: disqualification on the first false start for all ages; under-15 boys not permitted to compete on 400m; under-17's only allowed to move up one age group (i.e. may not compete as Seniors); permits will be required for all T&F promotions. The deadline for submission of comments to UKA has passed.

#### **Cross-Country / Trail / Fell Running Matters:**

1. Tri-County Cross-Country Championships: Keith Brackstone reported that the numbers, pins and medals had arrived, and other arrangements were all in hand; the main problem now was the shortage of entries. Keith would contact the local clubs again to encourage entries. The possibility of holding the Championships in a different part of the season was discussed, but every alternative seemed to throw up other disadvantages.
2. South-West Inter-Counties Cross-Country Championships: This event would be on Sunday January 8th at Bicton College (Exmouth). The entry forms had been published, and online entry was also available. The deadline for club or individual entries is Wednesday 14th December. There is a need for at least one volunteer to help manage the younger age group teams.

**Sportshall Matters:** dealt with under Avon Schools AA Matters.

#### **Avon Network Matters:**

1. The Event Development day at Bath on Saturday 26th November, which had been in doubt because of poor early response, would be going ahead: further applications could still be made.-
2. The meeting then discussed Stuart Nunn's preliminary paper (available on request from the Secretary) on the possible continuation, at least in part, of the functions of the Avon Network when its primary funding runs out in September 2012. Among the points raised:

... EA do not yet know how much funding, if any, it will receive for 2013 – 2017 for distribution to Network-type activities

... it is unlikely that the County Association could take on significant amounts of the work currently done by the current Network with the currently available volunteer resource. An application for financial support for a Network-type operation could have more credibility if paid administration was factored in.

... it would be valuable to continue to some extent the Event/Coach Development days which the Avon Network has provided. One possibility would be to ask Avon clubs active in the relevant disciplines to pay towards costs in return for a certain number of places on the Day. Could we make more use of the CCSO's (Club and Coach Support Officers) in setting up the Days?

... the Avon Network was one of the first to be set up, and (we understand) its work has been viewed positively by EA. If we could draw up a Development / Business Plan for a Network-type operation, budgeting for varying levels of financial support, we would be in a better position for an application to EA should funds eventually be released to them.

The meeting agreed that a sub-committee of John Robbins, Keith Brackstone and Stuart Nunn would meet to develop the discussion paper further.

3. An Avon Network meeting was held on Wednesday October 12th but no Minutes had apparently been issued. There was uncertainty about which Avon AA clubs were involved in the Network at present: the meeting felt it important that, if the Association were to be involved even partially in a Network-type operation from September 2012, that as many Avon clubs as possible should be involved. When the Network minutes became available, the Secretary would ensure that all affiliated clubs had a copy.

#### **Avon Schools AA Matters:**

1. Cross-Country: The Avon Schools Championships are scheduled for Saturday 14th January at the Kingswood School, Bath. Competitors would not be allowed to wear club vests. Tim Snowdon would be handing out leaflets with details of those Avon clubs with junior sections. The SW Schools Championships had been rescheduled for Saturday February 4th at Exeter. Avon Schools are due to stage the SW Schools event in 2013: the venue had not been decided yet.
2. Sportshall: The Avon Schools Sportshall Trials would be held at Bristol Grammar School on Saturday January 14th: there would be provision for individual entries from those whose schools were not normally active in Sportshall (details from Dave Turner). This event was distinct from the inter-schools and inter-district competitions.

**Stoke Gifford Stadium Ltd. Matters:** Keith Brackstone was preparing the first Annual Accounts, and would be seeking advice from Hilary Nash on certain points.

**MCAA / EA / UKA Matters:** [Post-meeting note: please note the details of the relocation of UKA and England Athletics offices in Appendix C ].

**Club Matters:** Bristol & West AC had recently achieved its Clubmark. [ Post-meeting notes: the Secretary of Southville Running Club is now Neil Higbey, e-mail address [me@neilsworld.org.uk](mailto:me@neilsworld.org.uk) ; Andy Hood (Secretary, WSM Juniors AC) asks that people use the e-mail address [ahood132@gmail.com](mailto:ahood132@gmail.com) for athletics matters.]

**Any Other Business:** Gordon Robbins is organising a race, the Rodway Easy Runner 6-mile multi-terrain race in Mangotsfield on Sunday March 18th. He needs support from Avon clubs to provide three or four marshals each: he will give £10 to the charity of each marshal's choice; any race surplus will go to the Avon AA.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Monday January 31st [correction, 30th], at the Civil Service Sports and Social Club. The following meeting would be the AGM and abbreviated Committee meeting on March 26th; however the Social Club was not available on this date; Tim Snowdon would book a room at UWE.

**Meeting Closed** at about 9.20pm.

## **APPENDIX A.**

### **Register of Avon AA Assets**

The current of assets owned by the Avon AA, and their current location, is as below (additions or updates to this list would be welcomed):.

Avon AA Banner	--- currently in Bitton RR storage	
Cones	--- currently with Mike Andrews	
Avon AA vests	--- currently with Hilary Nash	(continued)

PA system	--- currently in Bitton RR storage
Plastic stakes for finish funnels	--- [update: in with Westbury Harriers supplies at Blaise Castle. Contact Neil Miller or David Palmer if needed]
Avon AA Officials Polo shirts	--- with Ray Gooding
Avon AA Championships medals	--- replenished as needed
Radio's	--- currently with Mike Andrews
Photocopier	--- still with Mike Strange, as John Deaton has no room for it
Seiko Stopwatch / printer	--- Mike Strange has this: however it is not a particularly reliable device.
Start/Finish Gantry	--- location uncertain: it is probably of little use

## APPENDIX B.

### Changes of Eligibility affecting Avon clubs (September and October)

Heath	Bampton	Bristol & West AC to Swindon Harriers	e.d. 01/11/2011
Stephen	Blakeney	26.2 Road Runners to Bristol & West AC	e.d. 01/10/2011
Megan	Coe	Newport Harriers to Bristol & West AC	e.d. 01/11/2011
Mark	Grace	BRAT to Bristol & West AC	e.d. 01/11/2011
Julia	Green	Team Bath AC to Avon Valley Runners	e.d. 01/10/2011
Paul	Green	Team Bath AC to Avon Valley Runners	e.d. 01/10/2011
Ken	Ham	Thornbury RC to Westbury Harriers	e.d. 01/10/2011
David	Hoddell	Clevedon AC to South West Veterans AC	e.d. 01/11/2011
Jennifer	James	Sole Sisters to Great Western Runners	e.d. 01/11/2011
Alice	Seabrook	Yate & District AC to Newbury AC	e.d. 01/10/2011
Daniel	Studley	Westbury Harriers to Bristol & West AC	e.d. 01/11/2011
Victoria	Tester	Bristol & West AC to Westbury Harriers	e.d. 01/10/2011
Bethan	Wakefield	Newport Harriers to Bristol & West AC	e.d. 01/11/2011

## APPENDIX C.

### Details of Office Move for UKA and England Athletics

**Due to the office move** the switchboard of England Athletics and UKA are scheduled to be closed from Noon on Friday 25 November through to the start of office hours on Tuesday 29 November. Email addresses for all England Athletics and UKA staff will also be unavailable from the end of office hours on Thursday 24 November through to the start of office hours on Tuesday 29 November. Field based staff may be available by telephone only on their mobile telephone numbers during this period.

#### Please note from 28 November 2011:

- Email addresses for both England Athletics and UKA will remain unchanged
- The telephone number for England Athletics will become 0121 347 6543. Callers dialling the previous number will be given the new number
- The postal address for England Athletics will become England Athletics, Athletics House, Alexander Stadium, Walsall Road, Perry Barr, Birmingham, B42 2LR
- The postal address for UKA will become UKA, Athletics House, Alexander Stadium, Walsall Road, Perry Barr, Birmingham, B42 2LR
- Mail forwarding from both England Athletics' and UKA's previous addresses will be in place following the move