

Avon Athletic Association (Affiliated to England Athletics)

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

At Civil Service Club, Filton Avenue, Bristol.

Held :- 25th September 2006.

PRESENT : Graham HOWELL (Chair); Mike DOWN (Vice Chair); Mike STRANGE (Hon Sec); Mike ANDREWS (Hon Treas); Ray GOODING (Officials Co-ordinator); Gordon ROBBINS (Road Running Co-ordinator); Andy HEYES (Cross Country Co-ordinator); Hilary NASH (Coaching Co-ordinator); Barry SMART (Life Member); Bill KINGSTON (Bristol & West AC); Ann SINGER (Portishead Running Club); David COALES (City of Bath AC); Mike WILLCOX (Great Western Runners).

APOLOGIES : Peter GRIFFIN (President); Pam GOODING (Life Member); John CLAPP (Hogweed Trotters); David HUGHES (Empire AC); Andy MULLETT (City of Bath); James MURPHY (Westbury Harriers); Nigel COX (A & S Tri Club); Hugh BURCHARD (Environment Agency).

The Chairman began proceedings by welcoming Ann Singer as representative of the newly affiliated club – Portishead Running Club.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Secretary

Gordon Robbins indicated that the Secretary was asked to write in respect of membership to e-runners as well as Park Furnishers

Acceptance

Otherwise the Minutes were accepted as a true record of the Meeting.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

SECRETARY

Park Furnishers were written to as requested to invite them back into the Avon AA fold. No reply has been received.

By omission e-runners had not been written to. See above.

Action – Secretary to write to e-runners.

Environment Agency

The secretary has discussed options on membership with Hugh Burchard but for expert advice he has been referred to MCAA. The Women's Running Network were given as an example of a 'National Club' by Gordon Robbins.

Web Site info

Neil Miller confirmed by e-mail that old information was being put out concerning Avon AA on two web sites.

Action – Chairman & Web Master to investigate further.

Officials Course – Road Running

The Secretary had not approached Filton College as a suitable venue for this Course due to excessive costs quoted for other courses as the venue. YOSC was suggested as a suitable, lower cost alternative venue for this Course.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

South West Council

It was proposed that reports from the SWC from Gordon Robbins (and Mike Down supporting) will now be a separate feature of these minutes.

Wesport

It was proposed that a report on actions by the West of England Sports Partnership (the Avon area) be a separate feature of these minutes in future.

Communication The Secretary is now on Broadband at mandc.45strange@blueyonder.co.uk

Club:mark

Yate & District AC are to be commended as the first club to submit a completed Club;mark presentation for accreditation consideration. It is understood that Westbury Harriers intend to closely follow this example.

Club Information

An outcome of the Bristol Half Marathon was that with circa 85% of entries (out of 15,000) being from unaffiliated runners it was opportune to invite those people to join our clubs. An invitation went out on the BHM web site noting Clubs that we knew would be agreeable to their information being circulated. This minute requests that for future instances **any club not wishing their contact information not to be circulated notify the Secretary**. Those clubs that are agreeable could also forward their Club Logo so that future presentation could be more professional.

South Glos. Sports Awards

Nominations are requested for these Annual Awards.

Facilities

The Whitchurch re-certification is now long overdue and user clubs should be aware. Filton remains uncertified and again user clubs should be aware.

Web Site

Samples of our revived web site were shown and the request is that people view and comment. Contributions would be welcomed.

MCAA AGM

This very important AGM will now be held on 2nd October at Alexander Stadium. No-one indicated a desire to attend.

Courses

Of the Generic Courses arranged through Wesport the 3rd of October Course 'Club for All' has been cancelled due to a lack of numbers.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Current Balance's – H.S.B.C. – £20,063.73

The old Barclays account has now been transferred and has been fully reconciled. No unaffiliated fees have been received in this last two months from MCAA. The Road Running Secretary has a note of monies sent to the MCAA.

Investment of Monies

Paperwork to transfer monies to a High Interest account as discussed previously are in hand.

Action – Treasurer

Affiliations

In view of the fact that their original payment of affiliation fees was mislaid Thornbury Road Runners have re-submitted their payment.

Coach Education Grants

Grants will be made for the recent Level 1 Course at Weston Super Mare when a list is submitted.

Expenses

A standard expense sheet is being created and the Treasurer requested that it be used universally in the future.

Officials

The annual listing of payments to Officials who worked at Avon AA Meetings was submitted by the Officials Co-ordinator and left with the Treasurer to make payments.

Action – Treasurer (with assistance from others on contact addresses)

MCAA Grant

Submission (proof of payments) has been made to support the £500.00 grant for Young Athletes which was agreed in principle by MCAA.

COACHING

Level 1 Course

This Course scheduled for 11th November will now be held at Ashton Park School.

CIA & FIRW Course

These two Courses scheduled for 19th November will now be held at YOSC.

OFFICIALS

Level 2 Courses

In addition to the Courses planned for Gloucester there are two also planned for Wiltshire.

Timekeeping – Swindon – 1st October / Starter Marksman – Salisbury – 8th October.

The Level 2 specific courses at Gloucester are to be held at Podsmead on 4th Nov, not as stated in previous minutes.

Officials Movements

Glory Wassell after a short absence from the sport wishes to be re-instated as a Field Judge. Her UKA registration form has been sent.

John Deaton, Pete Jackson and Pat Jefferies are to sit the outgoing track judging grade 4 examination shortly.

Pam Gooding's name has been submitted to MCAA for upgrading from 3 to 2 for Timekeeping. Due to the difficulties in obtaining reports she has only one for T/k to submit with this application and none for Field. Pam has a good record as an Official and has been at grade 3 T/k for 16 years and Field for 14 years. Ray accompanied the submission with a list of difficulties in obtaining reports and asked for and received support in his submission.

Pete Jackson (Field Judge) & Hilary Nash (Track Judge) were submitted for upgrading from 4 to 3. They were both unanimously accepted.

Newsletter

A second edition of the informative newsletter for Officials is poised for circulation.

Polo Shirts

It was agreed to proceed with the purchase and distribution of Polo Shirts for active Technical Officials. One to be issued free of charge per Official with Starter / Marksmen getting one of each appropriate colour. Poly Cotton shirts were selected and costs indicated were - £45 to set up to embroider the County Logo plus £ 11.50 to £ 13.50 per shirt when buying batches of 10 or more. These costs were comparable with those applicable to other similar organisations.

Gloucestershire Officials Secretary

Ray enquired the situation on Officials in Gloucestershire and ask whether George Williams had been succeeded as Secretary by Albert Gardiner. No-one was aware that changes had occurred.

Form 10

This indication of activity levels should have been completed and submitted to the Officials Secretary during September. Would those who have not submitted please do so promptly.

CROSS COUNTRY

Avon & Somerset Champs

It has proved extremely difficult to arrange dates for these important Championships due to the objective of moving to a date before Christmas and due to fixture congestion. The venture to move to a joint fixture with the Gloucester League was eliminated due to the insufficiency of parking arrangements. Efforts are now being made to agree on this suitable date and location. Resolution of this issue is now urgent

Action – Cross Country Co-ordinator.

ROAD RUNNING

County Championships

Thornbury Running Club & Clevedon AC were thanked and congratulated on their organisation respectively of the 10 Mile and Road Relay Championships.

Bristol Mile Races

These annual races held by Bristol & West AC under the Bristol Half Marathon were again a big success.

TRACK & FIELD

Club Successes

Barry Smart requested that we minute and congratulate the success of the Yate & District team in winning their section of the Young Athletes League. As a result Yate will be promoted to the Midland Premier Division in 2007.

Hilary Nash also added that the Bristol team had also been successful in the Midland Premier Division in finishing 5th – their highest finish for some years.

UK School Games

Avon had good representation at the inaugural UK School Games in Glasgow during September. Silver Medals were won by Tony Hillier, Simon Merrill, Andrew Courey and Sophie Upton,. Other competing were Jade Ellans, Jamie Brock, Harry Webb, Fred Adomakoh, Emily Diamond, Laura Maddox and Christina Jones.

South West Inter-county Championships

Final results for this event indicate that Avon finished 4th overall (5th Men, 4th Women). Team Managers reports were received and it is clear that we travelled with a very strong Young Athletes contingent but were sparse in the Senior ranks due to fixture clashes. (BALg Cup Final + Midland Womens League – Yate only)

SPORTS:HALL

Fixtures for the new year are :- Avon Schools Champs – BGS, 13th Jan; Fun in Athletics – Torbay, 20th Jan; SW Sportshall Champs – Torbay, 4th March; National Finals – Birmingham, 22nd April.

AVON SCHOOLS AA

The AGM will be held on Mon 9th October at The City of Bristol Academy. The Secretary is invited to attend. We note that this association has not requested grants from Avon AA during the past year.

SOUTH WEST REGION REPORT – Gordon Robbins

Council Composition

In addition to the 5 elected members – Nigel Rowe (Chair), Bill Whistlecroft, Paul Ross, Mike Down and Gordon Robbins, three more members were co-opted to the ranks in order to establish a balance across the disciplines of athletics – Mo Pearson, Jack Buckner & Keith Reed. One vacancy is yet to be filled. Neil Parsley will advise on funding sources. Sonya Ellis is now the Regional Manager (not as previously Regional Development Co-ordinator).

Appointments

Stuart Sibbald has been appointed as Regional Administrator to the Region. Within his tasks he will take over the Coach Education responsibilities for the Region that Bill Whistlecroft previously handled on a part time basis. Stuart will be based at the Exeter Office.

Pathways

Initial meetings of the Council have been held and members have been allocated to centres of activity dependant upon their strengths. eg Mike Down = Cross Country, Gordon Robbins = Clubs, Keith Reed = Officials, Mo Pearson = Education, etc.

A great deal is required to straighten out who does what but Gordon was particularly disturbed that the Regional Manager (Sonya Ellis) holds a budget but no cheque book for the Region. The South West Council does not have a Bank Account. (This became apparent when Mike Down requested that his proposals for changes to the XC activity be underwritten against losses on an initial basis.) All financial transactions are processed out of the central administration facility in Solihull.

Current pathways are very much dominated by a need to follow and perform to 'Key Performance Indicators' (KPI's) which have increasing targets and are the measure for future investment in our sport. The Counties will be expected to be heavily involved in presenting KPI figures.

Affiliations

Affiliation in the future will be to England Athletics and not to MCAA. It appears that EA will be advocating a future Affiliation charge of £50 plus £3 per athlete registered initially, possibly rising to £5 in later years. The period of cover for the first fee is likely to be from April 2006.

The situation on whether Affiliation payments in the interim period (Sept to March) should be paid to MCAA remains unknown. Gordon's advice until clarification is received is 'withhold any future payments to MCAA'. He will seek clarification on the ability of Clubs to compete in MCAA events if they do choose to withhold payments requested.

Unaffiliated Fees

A working party on Road Running has this subject on its remit. The fear is that the promoters of 'big' races may strike a deal whereby they pay a fixed fee to UKA / England Athletics for the unaffiliated competitors irrespective of numbers. This could ultimately penalise the clubs and Counties of a source of development money. It was further believed that this money would in future be held by England Athletics and any grants accessing this money would be considered on application on an individual merit basis! (Resulting from the disquiet expressed above Gordon Robbins has vowed not to issue any new Race Permits for this County until matters are resolved satisfactorily.)

Information Source

The above information was known only in confidence during the meeting but later appeared to be commonly known in other areas. Gordon had written to the South West Chairman on his misgivings in confidence but with his later awareness of public knowledge had decided that the above would be permissible for minuting.

Support

The Committee thanked Gordon & Mike for the sterling work that they were doing on the South west Council on behalf of Athletes and the Clubs. Actions outlined were fully supported from the floor.

WESPORT REPORT – Mike Strange
(West of England Sports Partnership Trust)

Courses

It was indicated that the Wesport Partnership were the organisers of a number of Generic Education courses currently programmed. Members of Clubs were on the list of attendees. Inclusion in these courses is important for Clubs to achieve Clubmark accreditation.

Moving

The Partnership is currently moving to new premises at the UWE Campus.

Presentation

It was agreed that the Partnership Director, Steve Nelson be invited to address a future Avon Committee Meeting to outline the objectives of the Partnership and to establish a close working arrangement with Avon AA.

CLUB NEWS

Bristol & West AC

This club is pleased to draw attention to its annual XC Classic (Mike Sully) races on Nov 19th on the Bristol Downs.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

History

Our Chairman, Peter Griffin informs that he is making progress on the daunting task of compiling a competitive History for Avon AA. He has a draft list consisting of Avon medallists in the CAU Championships, Record Holders in the CAU Championships, Avon Championship medallists Road, XC & Track and record holders on the Track and asks that anyone with further information should contact him. – 36 Rockhill Estate, The Wellsway, Keynsham. BS31 1PD
Your help would be appreciated.

Track Facilities – Packers.

Ray Gooding asked about the prospect of an Athletics centre being established at the Packers Ground in the light of extensive re-levelling and building work being observed at the moment.

Mike Strange responded stating that the work was primarily to establish 3 Soccer pitches and 1 Cricket pitch utilising a Football Foundation grant. However Bristol City Council had put forward sufficient money for these works to be upgraded so that an Athletic Track Facility could be included without undue rework problems in the future. Additional changing rooms have been accommodated along with ducting and drainage for the track. (The track is stated to be 6 lane + all field facilities and floodlights suitable for training and schools activity). A date for the completion of the Athletics side of this project is as yet unknown.

Hilary commented that the perceived facility did not provide comprehensive cover for modern day athletics and was particularly lacking in accommodation to enhance the recruitment and development of young athletes. He also commented that inadequate consultation had been engaged by the Council.

Mike Down requested that Avon AA write to the Council expressing our unhappiness with the situation but the consensus left it to the clubs to write initially on this subject.

MEETING CLOSED At 9.27pm Next Meeting Date – Mon 27th November 2006.

APPENDIX

COACH EDUCATION DATES

Level 1 (SW10082) – Filton College – Sat 11th November 2006

CIA (SWCIA40) - Filton College – Sun 19th November 2006

FIRW (SWFRW24) - Filton College – Sun 19th November 2006

Level 2 (SW20032) Core - Filton College – Sat/Sun 10/11 Feb 2007

Level 2 Event Specific - Filton College – Sat/Sun 24/25 Match 2007

OFFICIALS EDUCATION DATES

Level 1 – Oxstalls Campus, Gloucester – Sat 28th October 2006.

Level 2 (Timekeeping) – County Ground, Swindon – Sun 1st October 2006

Level 2 (Starter / Marksman) – Salisbury – Sun 8th October 2006.

Level 2 (Timekeeping) – Oxstalls Campus, Gloucester – Sat 4th November 2006.

Level 2 (Track) – Oxstalls Campus, Gloucester – Sat 4th November 2006.

Level 2 (Field) – Oxstalls Campus, Gloucester – Sat 4th November 2006.

Level 2 (Starter / Marksman) – Oxstalls Campus, Gloucester – Sat 4th November 2006.

GENERIC SPORT EDUCATION DATES

Running Sport – Club for All – Filton Coll – Tues 3rd October 2006, 6.30 till 9.30 - £25

SCUK Equity in Your Coaching – Guildhall Bath – Thurs 5th October 2006, 6.30 till 9.30 - £25

SCUK Good Practice & Child Protection – Filton Coll – Mon 9th October, 6.30 till 9.30 - £25

Running Sport – Club for All – Filton Coll – Wed 11th October 2006, 6.30 till 9.30 - £25

SCUK Equity in Your Coaching – Filton Coll – Wed 18th October 2006, 6.30 till 9.30 - £25

First Aid – The Campus, Weston s Mare – Sat 28th October, 9.30 till 4.30 - £40

First Aid – The Campus, Weston s Mare – Sat 4th November, 9.30 till 4.30 - £40

First Claim changes – Meeting 24th July 2006

Applicable from 01/08/06

From North Devon AC to Bristol & West AC – Kirsty HAMILTON

First Claim changes – Meeting 21st August 2006

Applicable from 01/09/06

From Yate & District AC to Bristol & West AC – Hayley GREEN

From North Devon AC to Bristol & West AC – Frank BADDICK