

Avon Athletic Association

(Affiliated to England Athletics)

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Held :- 15th September 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); Keith BRACKSTONE (Coaching Co-ordinator); John DEATON (Webmaster); Dave COALES (Road - Team Manager / Team Bath AC); Barry SMART (Life Member); Mike WILLCOX (GWR); Lesley NUNN (Avon Schools AA); Stuart NUNN (Yate & District AC); Richard GWYN (England Athletics).

APOLOGIES : Peter GRIFFIN (President); Andy HEYES (Cross Country Co-ordinator); Gordon ROBBINS (Road Running Co-ordinator); Pam GOODING (Life Member); John ROBBINS (Life Member); Hilary NASH (Bristol & West AC); James MURPHY (Westbury Harriers); Neil MILLER (EA SW Council); Hugh BURCHARD (Envir. Agency); Chris MILLARD (North Somerset AC).

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Acceptance

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

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

SECRETARY

Constitution

This item raised at the AGM is still pending but the Secretary has identified a meeting with John Temperton & Sonya Ellis on 25th Sept for discussion.

Action – Secretary to take in advice and prepare amendments for consideration at the 2009 AGM

Facilities

Bath University

Despite our doubts the facility was up and ready for the UKSG.

Packers

Plans have been submitted for imminent consideration and BCC are seeking routes for bridge funding.

YOSC

It is confirmed that the track at Yate is not currently certified for certain events.

County Vests

Current stocks confirmed as: Men – XL, 4; L, 4; M, 12; S 13. Women – XL, 3; L, 8; M, 12; S, 17.

It was decided that we required to top up this stock to the level proposed to the Meeting thus -

To purchase: Men - XXL, 4; XL, 6; L, 16; M, 13; S, 7. Women – XXL, 4; XL, 7; L, 17; M, 13; S, 3.

Action – Secretary to request quotes from our most recent supplier (Ridgeway Textiles) and to proceed with purchase provided the quotation seemed reasonable.

Olympic / Paralympic Games – Beijing, China.

Kate Reed & Zoe Derham both competed successfully at the recent Olympic Games.

Ben Rushgrove was second in his category of the 100m (being awarded a Silver Medal) at the Paralympic Games having run with the aid of a painkilling injection. Unfortunately as a consequence of injury he was forced to withdraw from the 200m.

Kate Grey, who was until recently competing for Yate AC achieved 6th place in her category of Paralympic swimming.

TREASURER

Athlete Grant

Pat Gallagher thanked the Committee for the Award of her recent Grant.

Club Grant

Thornbury Running Club thanked the Committee for the award of their Grant for Coach Education.

Grant Expenditure Generally

Action deferred as the Secretary will now discuss with the SW Regional Manager opportunities for grant aid through the region when they meet on 25th September.

Action – Secretary to report outcomes to the next Committee Meeting.

OFFICIALS

UK School Games

The UKSG was held successfully with eight Avon Officials involved.

COACHING

High Jump Course

The High Jump session given by Mike Dolby at Bath University on 1st Aug was successful with a good attendance of High Jumpers and Coaches from Avon. These Courses had been held around the South West and it was remarked that this was the best session turn out within the region.

TRACK & FIELD

SW Inter-Counties

Following protests from the County it is understood that dates will be changed for the 2009 event.

ROAD RUNNING

Unaffiliated Fees

Indication from England Athletics is that they are unlikely to break with their ruling that monies to the above fund paid after their deadline is unlikely to be subsequently re-imbursed to County Associations. The Road Running Co-ordinator is challenging this currently.

Action – Road Running Co-ordinator, to confirm this position with EA.

MAIN MEETING

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Affiliation

North Somerset AC have indicated their wish to affiliate to the Association but to date have not paid the £20 Affiliation Fee.

Colin Charles Cooper

Circulation from UKA requests that any activity from this gentleman, previously associated with MVP Performance and Tops 4 Sport, should be reported to them urgently.

Awards EA

The SW Region have indicated that Mike Strange will be the recipient of the Volunteer of the year Award for 2008.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Current Balance's

Total £ 32,317.66

HSBC Current £11,114.72; HSBC Deposit £ 21,202.94.

Grants

Performance Grants – 2008

12 Applications have been received from Avon athletes and are currently under consideration.

The Chair requested sight of the list in order to formalise the consideration process.

Action – Secretary / Treasurer to confirm recipients and distribute grants awarded.

Vacancy

The intention of Mike Andrews to relinquish his position as Treasurer at the next AGM was confirmed. It was stated that it would be in the best interests of the County for the succeeding Treasurer to phase in with this job by the turn of the year if possible. Someone well known to the Committee has already been approached and asked to consider filling the vacancy.

COACHING REPORT

Core Stability

A course on this area of Coaching is planned in Wales on 11th October cost £15.

Funding

Funding was set aside in the Wesport budget (from grants by England Athletics) to support talent coaching schemes. An Invoice on behalf of the County has been sent to Wesport to access this funding now that Avon has a scheme outlined.

Further Qualification

The CC has requested information on forthcoming Level 3 Endurance Courses beyond those posted on the SW Web Site as he is keen to advance his qualification and experience.

Action – SW Office

Background

He has also requested from the SW Regional Office data base information on who does what in Coaching set ups in the County. This will provide him with background on areas with which he is less familiar and enable him to distribute mail shots.

Action – SW Office

Endurance Coaching

The initial idea of an Endurance coaching initiative remains. It is likely that it will now be named ASSET (Avon Specialist Sessions in Endurance Training). It is hoped that the outlines of the programme will be established in the next month when it is known which coaches are on board, how many athletes are likely to attend and their profiles are known.

Sunday 16th November is pencilled in as the initial meeting of this group.

OFFICIALS

Officials & CRB Checking

The Officials Co-ordinator has been notified by England Athletics SW that 13 of the currently recognised Avon AA Officials have failed to apply for C.R.B. checks. The consequence is that these Officials are in danger of being omitted from the 'Register of Officials' when it is next published. This register usually is issued in June?

CRB forms were passed over by the England Athletics representative at the meeting in an attempt to finally convince some of these officials to complete before the deadline.

New Officials

Carol Strange has been added to the current list of UKA Officials as an 'Ancillary Official'. This category covers those acting in support roles eg results yet are not qualified in any of the specified disciplines.

Safeguarding & Protecting Children.

Eight Avon Officials attended and completed this course as a requirement of UK School Games involvement. They were Pam & Ray Gooding, Derek Morrison, Carol & Mike Strange, Stuart Nunn, Andrea Lock and Barry Smart.

Officiating 2008

A list of Officials participating in Avon Championships & SW Inter-Counties events were passed to the Treasurer for expense payments to be made.

ROAD RUNNING

Licence Officers

The Road Running Co-ordinator is continuing correspondence with EA about payments being made to the local Licence Officer including the implications of taxation.

Bath Half Marathon

A meeting has been requested by England Athletics on Licence issues relating to the Bath Half. The meeting is to be held on 25th September at UWE and will involve John Temperton, Sonya Ellis, Gordon Robbins, Andrew Taylor and Mike Strange.

(Opportunity will be taken following this meeting to discuss other important issues referred in these minutes.)

Avon Championship

The Championship was this year held in conjunction with the Oldbury 10 event. The event was highly successful with what was believed to be the biggest field involved to date.

Race Calendar

Feedback from race organisers has resulted in a recent up-date of the Avon Race Calendar. The Bristol Half will be held on 6th September in 2009. Note please that this date changes each year due to the need to swing harbour bridges on the course.

CROSS COUNTRY

County Champs / Gwent league

It is confirmed that the our Avon & Somerset County Champ will be held in conjunction with the Gwent League at Blaise on Saturday 6th December 2008.

SW Cross Country Relays

This new event will be held on Sunday October 26th. Mike Down requested that clubs support this inaugural event in order to confirm it as a worthwhile addition to the calendar.

SW Cross Country Championships

This event will be held at Bicton on January 4th and plans are established to send Avon teams.

TRACK & FIELD

Avon Track & Field Champs 2009

Wiltshire have requested that they be allowed to join with our Championships in 2009. This it is expected would be an inclusive Senior & Junior event on one day. The Track & Field Co-ordinator and officials Secretary will investigate feasibilities.

South West Inter-Counties

Avon's turnout on the day considering the impact of holidays and fixture clashes was pretty good. We finished in a respectable 4th position in both the Men's & Women's match (7 competing Counties). Medal positions were Men 8 gold, 15 silver & 11 bronze – Women 13 gold, 7 silver & 6 bronze. The programme changes from previous years resulted in a long day becoming even longer. Constructive suggestions for the future were submitted for what was a well organised but far too ambitious fixture. The weather was also fairly unkind which of course makes a long day even more unacceptable.

Team Management

Lesley Nunn has indicated that she will not be making herself available to fill the Women's Team role in 2009.

Representative Match - Belgium

Avon athletes and Officials / Coaches attended this prestigious and well established event. Bath sprinter Dan Talbot was named Man of the Match. One additional highlight was attendance at the Brussels Grand Prix on the Friday night where Usain Bolt did rather well.

INDOOR ATHLETICS

South West Indoor Champs

Bath University is now an uncertified Indoor facility therefore it is believed that this year's Championships may be held at UWIC (Cardiff) on 10th & 11th Jan 2009. We await confirmation of this proposal.

Lesley Nunn did point out that this date will cause a clash with the Avon Schools XC Champs planned for the 10th Jan.

Action – Richard Gwyn to convey the possible fixture clash message back to the EA Exeter office.

SPORTS:HALL

Nothing to report

AVON SCHOOLS AA

AGM

The Avon Schools AGM is planned for Mon 20th October 2008 at BGS School.

UK School Games

12 Avon athletes competed for the South West in this year's School Games held at Bath University. An individual medal was won by Hannah Alderson with James Preston just missing out with a 4th placing. Medals were also won (accompanied by other South West team members) for relays.

WESPORT REPORT

Athletics Development Officer

This position no longer exists in the County Sports Partnership as funding from England Athletics has come to an end. Competition Managers will continue with a programme that interfaces with Schools activities and an administrative function will collect 'Performance Indicators' from Community activity.

Coach Development will receive generic support and the Juice programme of Courses will be published regularly.

MCAA

Nothing to report

SOUTH WEST REGION REPORT

Feed back from Council discussion – Neil Miller

Richard Jenkins (the new Regional Track Assessor for UKA in the SW) gave an update on track certification. He had a list which will be put up on the South West Athletics website shortly (<http://www.englandathletics.org/south-west/track-and-field/facilities/>). *Sec (See also previous comments on YOSC and Bath University Indoors)*

There is a new certification classification scheme, which he explained. Tracks are put into classes 1 to 6, but these are NOT in order of merit. 1 is fully compliant and certified, 2, 3 and 4 are various combinations of no women's steeplechase barriers and/or not surveyed, 5 is certified but with restrictions of use, and 6 is non-standard layout (300m, etc.). Yate is 5, but Richard hopes to upgrade this to 1 once the pole vault soft landing area is sorted out.

Richard pointed out that the Bath indoor track was not certified, and should not be used. There seem to be ongoing wrangles, but the certification of indoor tracks is separate to outdoor tracks, so he has no responsibility for this. Clarifications on this should be made directly with UK:A.

Track and Field events will have to be permitted from 1st April next year. This caused general consternation, and an action on Sonya Ellis (Regional Manager) to get her boxing gloves out (it needs to be clarified whether this is a recommendation from the facilities committee, or established UK:A policy). My understanding is that the purpose is to ensure better/earlier understanding of problems which certain tracks have, both to make league organisers aware of potential difficulties, and (through the risk assessment) to improve safety. We have plenty of experience of road and cross-country permits in the county, so although this will require a bit of extra paperwork, it should not cause any major headaches.

Sonya pointed out that, while South West does not have any funding for facilities, it does have some limited funding available for equipment.

The South West is now the only region still to offer the 'Fitness in Running and Walking' coaching course, and it intends to continue to offer this. The roll-out of 'Jog England' seems to be up in the air. It now looks as though UK:A will continue to be club focussed, and the Women's Running Network may take a bigger role in organising jogging groups based around sports centres, etc.

South West squads will be smaller this year, and much more coach-focussed. For example, for a squad weekend, athlete and coach may be invited for the Saturday, but the coach only would stay on for the Sunday, for coach-specific development. Quite a change from the early squads, where athletes were invited and coaches barred!

CLUB NEWS

Team Bath AC

David COALES has now taken over as Chair replacing Andy MULLETT who has stepped down.

Bitton Road Runners

Bitton RR have offered to host a 5k road race in order that selection might be simplified for SW Regional Juniors wishing to be selected for the London Mini Marathon event.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Bristol – Kenya Project

This project that will culminate in the Kenyan Olympic Team being based in Bristol welcomed World famous athlete Kip Kieno to Bristol on 15th September at a Lords Mayor's Reception (and at other supportive events).

As a result of this venture it is expected that two young athletes (1 Man / 1 Woman, aged 16 to 20), from the greater Bristol area ie with BS Postcodes, will be invited to travel to Kenya next Easter to spend some time in Kip Kieno's Runners Training Camp.

Formal publicity of this opportunity is expected to be published shortly.

Olympic Games

In view of the adverse publicity and conflicting reports on the treatment of Kate Reed at the Beijing Olympics, Mike Down disclosed that he intends to write to UK Athletics to ask for a full explanation of events.

MEETING CLOSED

At 8.48 pm

Next Meeting Date – Mon 24th November 2008.

APPENDIX

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

England Athletics, July 2008

Applicable from 01/08/08

From Mendip AC to Bristol & West AC – Nathan YOUNG

From Bideford AAC to Bristol & West AC – Steve GALLIENNE

England Athletics, August 2008

Applicable from 01/09/08

From Mendip AC to Bristol & West AC – Daniel LAYTON

From Westbury H to Bristol & West AC – Matthew PETERS

From Stroud & District AC to Bristol & West AC – Tom RUSSELL

From Westbury H to Bristol & West AC – Harry WEBB

Some diary date.s

UKA / EA SW Talented Athlete Assessment

4th Oct 2008 – Bath University (Youngsters aged 14 to 17 – Contact Martin Rush 07803-671969)

Officials Education Courses

Level 2

18th Jan 2009 – Yeovil

1st Feb 2009 – Yate (YOSC)

Level 3

5th Oct 2008 – Exeter

Coach Education Courses (Local only)

Level 1

28th Sept 2008 – Yate (YOSC)

18th Oct 2008 – Cheltenham

24th Oct 2008 – Yeovil

16th Nov 2008 – Swindon

Fitness in Running and Walking

5th Oct 2008 – Bristol (Filton WISE)

Level 2 (Core)

1st & 2nd Nov 2008 – Yeovil

15th & 16th Nov 2008 – Gloucester

Level 2 (Event specific)

13th Dec 2008 – Speed – Yate (YOSC)

13th Dec 2008 – Throws – Yate (YOSC)

14th Dec 2008 – Endurance – Yate (YOSC)

14th Dec 2008 – Jumps – Yate (YOSC)