

Avon Athletic Association

(Affiliated to England Athletics)

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Held :- 28th Sept 2009.

At the Civil Service Club, Filton Avenue, Bristol.

PRESENT : Peter GRIFFIN (President); Graham HOWELL (Chair); Mike DOWN (Vice Chair); Mike STRANGE (Sec); Hilary NASH (Treas); Andrea CULP (XC Co-ordinator / GWR); Ray GOODING (Officials Co-ordinator); Gordon ROBBINS (Road Running Co-ordinator); Dave COALES (Road - Team Manager / Team Bath AC); John DEATON (Webmaster); Bill KINGSTON (Life Member); Hugh BURCHARD (Environment Agency Harriers); Ken HOLMES (Avon Schools / Track - Team Manager); Mike WILLCOX (GWR); Steve COGHLAN (North Somerset AC); Gareth THOMAS (Thornbury RC); Barry SMART (Life Member); Cy KNIBB (Bristol & West AC); Tim SNOWDON (Avon Athletics Network).

APOLOGIES : Pam GOODING (Life Member); Neil MILLER (EA SW Council); James MURPHY (Westbury Harriers / Welfare Officer); Jackie HILLEARD (Wesport).

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Acceptance

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

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

SECRETARY

Performance Grants

As stated at the last Committee Meeting and as outlined on our Web Site the Summer Performance Grant applications closed on the evening of this Meeting and will be considered by the Chair and Secretary.

Grants to the Association

The Secretary noted that an e mail reply was received from Nigel Rowe on the day of the last Committee Meeting, it read 'At present there are no funds available however I have been tasked to write an Endurance Development Plan, this will be an area that I propose to identify'.

TREASURER

Affiliation

The Treasurer is currently chasing those members in default of payment of the fee for 2009. It was stressed that we are now solely dependant upon these affiliation fees as our only source of income.

Clubs issued with a reminder as of 18th Sept were: Bitton Road Runners; Nailsea Running Club; Portishead Running Club; Thornbury Running Club & University of Bath Student Union.

OFFICIALS

The Officials Co-ordinator confirmed the ordering of 10 Polo Shirts.

Main Meeting

SECRETARY

ISA/ Vetting & Barring Scheme

A letter had been received from UKA explaining in clearer terms the schemes' implementation into Athletics.

Two key dates are identified, 12th October 2009 & 26th July 2010.

By 12th Oct it becomes the legal duty of a 'regulated activity' provider to refer information to the ISA for consideration of persons being barred?

On 26th July 2010 the individual registration to the scheme starts for those new to our sport.

The conversion of current CRB Certificated UKA registered members to the ISA scheme will commence when their CRB would normally come up for renewal in 2012.

Clubs confirmed that they had been notified directly. Our Welfare Officer will advise / assist anyone unclear on the path ahead.

Action – Welfare Officer

TREASURER

Current Balances

Total £ 24,575.18

HSBC Current £ 3,234.26

HSBC Deposit £ 21,340.92

Dealings with Somerset County AA (Share of Cross Country team costs)

The Treasurer sent an invoice to Roger Lee as Treasurer of Somerset AA on June 2nd 2009 for 50% of net costs incurred. The net invoice for £1,127.94 was in respect of transport and the purchase of vests less fares collected and sale of vests. The Somerset Committee decided to pay and have paid one third of the total costs as the share we have previously agreed. The Treasurer suggested that he monitor the representation within the teams so that we are assured that we are bearing a fair share of the costs.

35th Anniversary Dinner

The Committee were asked to decide on the costs to be met from Association Funds for this Dinner in 2010. The Treasurer proposed that only the cost of the Awards and the expenses of the Chief Guest be met by the Association. **This motion was carried unanimously.**

OFFICIALS

Officials Recognition

A list has been prepared of those Officials that supported the County Champs this track season and has been passed to the Treasurer for payments to be made.

This season attendance at the SW Inter-Counties has been excluded as the SW were quite generous with travel expenses.

Action – Treasurer to make £10 payments

South West Inter-Counties

This meeting was rather short of Officials unfortunately this year. 25% failed to turn up, but this could have been attributed to those volunteers not being informed that they were required. The 7 Avon Officials that indicated their availability were given confirmation through our Officials Co-ordinator.

A shortage of Field Judges was supplemented by the inclusion of a few spectators. The Start team was also short, but noticeable was the shortage of Track Judges.

However the meeting appeared to go rather well despite the short numbers.

L2 Qualifications

5 Log Books from prospective Level 2 officials who attended recent education courses locally has been passed by the assessor (Pam Gooding). Unfortunately only two of these people were from Avon – Ben Redwood & Kirsten Hopkins from Yate & District AC.

Endurance Officials

The new course material for Level 2 Endurance Officials has only recently been compiled and UKA is now producing Tutors material. A trial run for the course is planned for December and in January the initial Tutors Course will be held. It is expected that L2 Education course will then become available early in the new year.

England Athletics

The new Assistant Communications Officer to EA, Nicola Evans has been in contact and is concerned with the service provided by County Officials Secretaries. Apparently there is now an expectation for them to perform an important role on behalf of EA (despite the fact that County Associations lost their status in the re-structuring of UKA). In fact the most interesting aspect is that terms of reference for County Officials Secretaries has now been defined and issued by EA? These Terms of Reference are closely in line with how our Officials Co-ordinator operates presently. It might avoid anomalies if we once again entitled our section leader as Officials Secretary.

Officials New Levels

In the proposed further changes to levels into 1,2 & 3 as opposed to 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 a new sub division of Level 2 is now proposed. They will be L2 Club, L2 County & L2 Region.

TV Programme

Interestingly Ray & Pam Gooding were chosen to appear as Officials in a Channel 4 TV programme in which Jason Gardner attempted to create a comparison running over 100yds between modern day athletics and athletics in the 1930's. The sequences were filmed at the Bath University track (with current dress, on a synthetic track and using starting blocks) and at the old Rodway track, Mangotsfield (in 1930's dress, on a cinder track with leather shoes and fixed spikes and starting holes).

Both Officials were also dressed to suit. The occasion was enjoyed as good fun despite the wet & windy conditions!

COACHING

UKA Coach Education Courses

The latest plans for the 2009/2010 are on the UKA web site and have been circulated by e mail to members.

Generic Coach Education Courses

Courses arranged through the County Sports Partnership (WESPORT) have been announced and circulated to members by e mail. Included are 'First Aid' courses.

ROAD RUNNING

Run Britain Roadshow.

Presentation by UKA to update on the activities of the Realbuzz Group formerly the old Running Leadership Group. The seminar at Taunton on 3rd Sept was attended by Mike Strange and Mike Andrews from Avon AA – Note Ray Jaeckels & Georgette Van Hoof attended a previous meeting at Solihull in August.

The panel from UKA were Piers O'Callaghan (Project Manager) John Temperton (Athletic Services), Adam Thomas (Athletic Services), Andrew Taylor (Run Britain). With Nigel Rowe stepping in here and there.

The seminar lasted the whole of the 2 hrs allotted so there was scant time for any real Q & A. Anyhow they covered every aspect of Road Running, each with great ambition for the future but without much record of current achievement??? To any comments made the standard re-action was 'we are looking into that' or 'this is due for review?' There wasn't much of a statement on what has been achieved, infact one wonders what they have been doing. The one big movement involved the much pursued virtual club, they have now deduced that this was a bad idea and they have decided to shelve it?

Some salient points :Objective of the group 'No race in the future will be out of pocket compared to past experience'.

Raise funds and re-invest in Road Running.

£250,000 to build the 'realbuzz' website??? Comment from Piers this would avoid money going to the 'black hole in the Regions'.

Insurance – Insurance is covered by a club's affiliation to UKA, not through the licence. If Police support for a 'Race' is negative then Insurance will not cover that particular race.

Different types of licences will be produced for different types of race. They are re-visiting the role of the Licence Officer, current LO's will be consulted on changes.

Andrew Taylor gave a presentation on the work of 'The Technical Working Group'. The objectives of any guidelines (codes of practice) coming from the group are: to take a lead, be light to the touch, be robust in enforcement. However there didn't seem to be any proposals to date just a flurry of ideas.

Plans to spend any current and future monies covered nearly all aspects of Road Running but all were currently in the ideas stage???

A most unsatisfactory evening.

CROSS COUNTRY

Cross Country Co-ordinator

Andrea Culp of Great Western Runners attended this meeting and offered to fill the vacant position on Cross Country Co-ordinator. Some discussion ensued on the peculiarities of running the County Champs within the Gwent League structure. Andrea noted that in this instance Somerset were the organising County and that it might be necessary to fit in with their preferred regime. She agreed to take our comments back to the Somerset Committee.

A page on our web site will be dedicated to these Championships and Entry Forms will be obtainable if required.

TRACK & FIELD

SW Inter-Counties

Team Managers for Avon AA for this important match were Hilary Nash, Ken Holmes and Dean Garrett. Avon finished 4th Male, 4th Female & 4th overall in this year's SW Championships run in less than ideal conditions. The outcome was the same as that in 2008 and due to very good individual performances rather than the volume impact of a full team.

The coach provided was not well used with the 57 seater being utilised by 31 people.

Criteria for selection were to the Elite standards set by the organisers and no feedback (criticisms) were received about selections. This is always a difficult area at the end of a long season.

A major problem was experienced in the issuing of County vests (for use during the meeting and return at the end).

Inevitably some were lost to the County and the question of payment must exist for the future. A great deal of time and effort was expended by Team Managers in this area.

Recommendations are 1/ Vests - uniquely laundry number each vest and record the issue against competitors names, 2/ - Transport - Consider a grant of £100 for each major club that has to organise Mini-bus transport for their athletes in lieu of organising a single large coach. If we don't set out to resolve these issues the result could be to seek out new Team Managers?

WELFARE

ISA/ Vetting & Barring Scheme

A course is planned through Wesport costing £20. The Welfare Officer has been advised of this.

SOUTH WEST REGION REPORT

SOUTH WEST COUNCIL

Notes from South West Council Meeting, 23rd September

England Athletics has recently reviewed the functions of the regional councils, and some improvements are being made. One is to try to improve the links between the council and various county athletics associations. We expect an invitation from Nigel Rowe (chair) to the next council meeting (Thursday November 19th), to attend with 2 representatives of each county in the South West. This is likely to become an annual open meeting. The total number of council meetings will also be reduced from 6 to 4 a year. The aim is also to better integrate the various regional portfolio holders at the national level – some areas are already well integrated, others less so.

There was a reminder that ‘flying coaches’ can be arranged via the Club and Coach Support Officer (Matt Foad). This came with a plea that when such visits are made, there is some planning as to the format of the visit, with consideration of whether athletes are needed or not (it could be a demonstration coaching session, or a talk directly to coaches). If athletes are needed, they probably need to be of similar standard, unless a diverse group is specifically required.

There was news about the various networks around the region. Tim has filled us in on the Avon network. The Armada network (Plymouth) has been organising a number of courses free of charge to all clubs in the area, including first aid courses, which has proven very popular.

Tom Watson is now in place as Coach Mentor for the South West. He is setting up contacts across the region both for specific mentoring, and also links for a mentoring structure.

On the cross-country front a fixture list for the whole South West has been compiled. A couple of items are yet to be confirmed. It is the intention to get this sent out to all clubs in the region next week. Andrea Culp attended the regional cross-country coordination meeting, and should be a great asset to the county.

AVON ATHLETICS NETWORK

Representation

Tim SNOWDON the new Avon Network Co-ordinator was in attendance.

Some discussion took place in respect of the Avon AA representation at quarterly Network ‘Management’ Meetings. The Secretary suggested that the initial list of volunteers invited to the Steering Committee had altered in the course of time. He asked that we now define our policy toward this committee for the future. It was understood from the outset that it would sometimes be inconvenient for a set representation to always attend such meetings due to other work / Coaching / Club commitments. During discussions Tim Snowdon suggested that the representation become rotational and that we recognise both Track & Field & Road / Cross Country clubs as well as the overall executive of the Association and that smaller clubs get an opportunity to attend and contribute to meetings. He suggested that the Chair becomes the lead representative plus 1 rep from T&F and 1 from Road / Cross Country and also that only 1 representative from any single club attend these meetings at any one time.

Action - Secretary, to inform Wesport of these decisions and establish a communication link to Avon AA.

Actions

Tim Snowdon outlined his present actions and objectives in line with priorities established. The main thrust of Tim’s initial effort will be directed to the continued involvement of promising young athletes emerging from Sports:hall events organised through the schools by the Wesport Competition Managers team and in directing services toward Coach Development and Coaching services.

Network Conference

It was felt that attendance at this Conference was essential to the County. Tim Snowdon was already intending to attend and Cy Knibb volunteered his availability and will be the second representative of the County.

CLUB NEWS

Bitton Road Runners

Be advised the secretary is now

Gordon Robbins

16 Common Road

Hanham Abbots

Bristol

BS15 3 LJ

Email gordon.robbins@talktalk.net

Bristol & West AC

Bristol & West AC were pleased to highlight their winning of the Midland League and note that Mansfield who finished 2nd this year were clear victors in the British League promotion match (which B&W chose not to contest on this occasion). Despite their similar success the B&W Women’s team also chose not to contest the UK Women’s League Qualifying match on this occasion despite there being only 5 teams competing.

GWR

Are wishing to send a grant application related to the Towpath Mob Match. This was relayed to the Treasurer in the amount of £125.00.

Action – Treasurer

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

35th ANNIVERSARY DINNER

The 35th Anniversary Dinner of Avon AA is planned for the evening of Sat 17th July 2010. The Garden Suite of the Redwood Hotel & Country Club is already booked. It is hoped that all make a note in their diary's to attend this function. Guest of Honour will be Bruce Tulloh (the barefoot runner and former European 5,000m Champion) who will be our Guest Speaker and will make the Life Membership presentations.

Some discussion surrounded the fact that the Secretary had written to all Life Membership candidates asking them to reserve the dates in their diaries and indicating that they would be our guests at the Dinner. The President as organiser of the event felt that being a 'Guest' implied that the Association would not be expecting payment for attendance. In view of the reduced financial position of the County he suggested that it would set a precedent if the £25 be waived in this instance. It was agreed that there was an expectation for these guests to pay for their tickets.

Action – Secretary to clarify to Life Membership candidates.

Life Member Awards

The Secretary has now formally informed the award recipients and has received responses of thanks from Diana Viles and Tim Snowden.

Packers Track

Bristol & West AC reported on a meeting with Councillor Simon Cook on the matter of the Packers facility. Coucill opinion was still positive but that finance still remained as a holding factor to progress.

MEETING CLOSED

At 9.33 pm Next Meeting Date – Mon 30th November 2009.

APPENDIX

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

England Athletics, July 2009

Applicable from 01/08/09

From Road Runners Club to Great Western Runners – Andrea BEETLES

From Shelton Harriers to Great Western Runners – Helen BREW

From Bristol & West AC to Birchfield H – Cameron WALKER-SHEPHERD

England Athletics, August 2009

Applicable from 01/09/09

From Bristol & West AC to Bideford AAC – Kevin HEYWOOD

From Team Bath AC to Reading Road Runners – Sarah URWIN-MANN

From Hyndburn to Bristol & West AC – Nicola BREAKS

From Bristol & West AC to Stroud & District AC – Robert GALT

From Bristol & West AC to Yate & District AC – Robyn BRAILEY

From Wells City Harriers to Team Bath AC – James DUNLOP

From Clevedon AC to Bristol & West AC – Luke JACOBS