

## Avon Athletic Association

**Minutes** of an abbreviated Management Committee meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday March 21st 2011, at the Civil Service Sports and Social Club, Filton Road, Bristol, starting shortly after 8.45pm.

**Those Present:** Stuart Nunn (Chair, Yate & District AC), Keith Brackstone (CC Coordinator), John Deaton (Secretary), Mike Down (Bristol & West AC), Rachael Fisher (North Somerset AC), Pam Gooding (Life Member), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Bill Kingston (Life Member), Cy Knibb (Bristol & West AC), Neil Miller (Westbury Harriers / SW Council), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), Lesley Nunn (Avon Schools AA), Gordon Robbins (Road Running Co-ordinator, Bitton RR), John Robbins (President), Tim Snowdon (Avon Network), Mike Strange (Life Member), Gareth Thomas (Thornbury RC), Mike Willcox (GWR).

**Apologies :** Janet Jenkins (Fry Club Joggers), Ian Macintosh (Life Member / Trustee), Jim Murphy (Westbury H. /Welfare).

**Minutes of Previous Meeting** (January 31st 2011): Avon AA Coaching Course Subsidies: for “preceding year” read “following year”. Sportshall: Lesley Nunn pointed out that the February 15th events were convened by the Schools Competition Managers and were not Avon Schools AA events. Otherwise: accepted.

### **Matters Arising:**

1. Officials Secretary reimbursement: John Deaton had received a very pleasant reply from Chris Jones (EA) which did not however offer any assurance of finance.
2. Bath Half Marathon: Gordon Robbins reported on his concerns about the 2011 event. At the 2010 event he had been seriously worried about the use of a lead car, as he considered the arrangements for segregating leading runners on various parts of the course from lapped runners to be inadequate. He had signed off the licence for the 2011 event only after receiving an assurance that no “safety car” would be used in this year’s race. But Gordon, and some BARR officials, observed a lead car and two Police motorcycles at the head of the race for at least part of the time. Gordon considered that the cones used to segregate leaders from lapped runners were too small and inconspicuous, and had been knocked out of position in some instances.

Members were concerned about whether medical staff could reach a runner promptly in an emergency, whether athletes dropped from the leading bunch would necessarily get an unimpeded run, and even whether the course could cope safely with the number of entries accepted. However it was unclear what the Association could do to make any impact on these issues.

**Treasurer’s Report:** There was no significant change from the position which Hilary had reported on at the AGM. The next Management Committee meeting would need to decide on the maximum total amount of Avon AA Coach Education subsidies for the year May 2011 – April 2012. The Treasurer was holding funds in the Avon AA account on behalf of the Team Avon National Junior T&F League team.

**Track and Field Coordinator’s Report:** Mike Strange would soon be distributing his report on the financing of Track and Field athletics within the County. Mike was unclear about the financial arrangements for the joint Avon & Somerset team for the UK CAU Inter-County Track and Field Championships; however members were none too clear about the financing of the equivalent Cross-Country event either. Mike Strange would look further into the matter.

(continued)

### **Any Other Business:**

1. Mike Willcox mentioned the “Avon AA Mob Match”, with part of the funds going to the Avon AA, advertised as being incorporated in the Bridge Inn race on June 28th; he was concerned that this might detract from the existing Avon AA Mob Match incorporated in GWR’s Towpath 10K series race scheduled for July 22nd. Gordon Robbins would contact Chris Elson (B&W) to see if a suitable compromise could be worked out.
2. John Terry (Westbury Harriers) had enquired about the possibility of an Avon team taking part in the Inter-Counties 10 Mile race at Llandudno on Sunday May 22nd. The meeting felt that as the race was being held a long way away, and was in the week between the Bristol 10km and the National 10km races, the chance of putting out a team truly representative of the County’s strength was too remote.
3. Neil Miller asked whether the Avon AA could obtain some sort of banner to indicate the Avon (or Avon and Somerset) team base at crowded events such as the UK CAU Inter-County Cross-Country Championships. Gordon Robbins would seek sample prices.
4. Jackie Hilleard (WESPORT) was planning to organise a workshop for clubs either seeking Clubmark status for the first time or renewing their accreditation.
5. Avon Network: Tim Snowdon reported that the Network was preparing a bid for a third year of funding, which would need to be submitted by April 22nd ready for presentation to a Panel in the second week of May. The funding (if granted) would run from September 2011 to the end of August 2012. The application document required Tim to state how the work of the Network would be continued once funding ended: the Association needs to start thinking about how it would absorb some at least of the Network’s functions when that happens.

**Date of Next Meetings:** Monday May 23rd then Monday July 11th; both at the Civil Service Sports and Social Club.

**Meeting Closed** at about 9.50pm.

## **APPENDIX A.**

### **Changes of Eligibility affecting Avon clubs (January and February)**

Shaun	Antell	North Devon RR to Bristol & West	e.d. 01/02/2011
Paul	Banks	Great Western Runners to Teignbridge Trotters	01/02/2011
Siana	Jones	Westbury Harriers to Thames Valley Harriers	e.d. 1/03/2010
Matthew	Washburn	Weston AC to Birchfield Harriers	e.d. 01/02/2011