

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday April 28th 2014, in Room 2B066, Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol, starting at 7.30pm.

Those Present: John Deaton (Secretary), Martin Fisher (North Somerset AC), Pam Gooding (Life Member), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), John Robbins (President), Mike Willcox (GWR). John Robbins took the Chair for the first two items.

Apologies: Mike Down (Bristol & West AC), Rachael Fisher (Vice-Chairperson, North Somerset), Ian Macintosh (Trustee), Neil Miller (Westbury H. / SW Council), Jim Murphy (Westbury H./Welfare), Ben Redwood (T&F Coordinator), Gareth Thomas (Thornbury RC).

Appointment of Chairperson: In an e-mail on the day of the meeting tendering his apologies, Ben Redwood had offered to take up the post: however the meeting felt that they would like the option of putting certain questions in person to any applicant for the position. The next meeting would be held on a date which Ben could definitely attend: the post would be left open for additional nominations [Update: Ben has subsequently withdrawn his application].

It was agreed that John Robbins would remain in the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: (March 24th, abbreviated Committee meeting): last word of Matters Arising paragraph 6 should read "Birmingham". Otherwise: accepted.

Matters Arising :

1. Sportshall: in the UK Finals, the under-13 Boys came first, the Under-13 Girls second; the Under-15 Boys sixth and the Under-15 Girls fifth.
2. Outstanding affiliation fees: the Secretary had contacted (fairly recently) the three organizations concerned. Bath University AC did not wish to continue membership of the Association; replies from the other two are awaited.

Treasurer's Report:

1. The treasurer issued a financial report (copies available on request). The Current account balance is £7,658.83 (including £1109.22 held for Team Avon); the Lloyds Bank Fixed Term Deposit remains on £15,000, and matures in October 2014. Most outstanding course subsidies have been paid, although a couple await completion of paperwork or confirmation of course attendance.
2. Avon AA's Affiliation Fee to England Athletics for 2014-5 has been paid.
3. The meeting authorized the President (currently John Robbins) to be added as an extra signatory on the Association's bank accounts (two signatures from four nominees to be acceptable).

Officials Secretary's Report :

1. Ray Gooding had conducted a Health and Safety course, and Pam Gooding a Level 2 Field Judges course, at Cheltenham on April 6th. For the Avon / West of England Championships, Ray has had acceptances from a Starts team, four Track Judges and nine Field Officials, but only one Timekeeper (although electronic timing will be in operation). Hilary Nash will contact Bill Kingston regarding the Field

Refereeing of the meeting [update: Bill has subsequently accepted]. Ray will canvass at the Bristol & West AC Open Meeting on April 29th for additional meeting officials.

2. The recent issue of the Officials magazine "For The Record" lists Gordon Robbins as the County's Endurance Officials Secretary, although we are unaware of ever making a specific appointment to that post. John Robbins will liaise with Gordon Robbins to find out what (if anything) has been asked of him in recent seasons in that post.
3. The 2014 UKA Handbook reveals that there will be a restructuring of Officials' grades from 2016.

Road Running / MT matters:

1. Gordon Robbins stood down as Road Running Coordinator at the AGM: the Committee accepted his offer to continue issuing the local Road Race calendar. The medals for the Avon AA 10km Championships (incorporated in the Hogweed 10km) are already with the organizers. John Robbins will liaise with Gordon regarding medals for other County Championship races and other aspects of Gordon's former duties: although these have diminished in recent years, the meeting still felt that it was desirable to have an Avon AA Road Running Coordinator to represent the views of the Road Running community.
2. The North Somerset Relays will not be going ahead this year.

Track and Field / Sportshall Matters:

1. Avon / West of England T&F Championships: Up till Saturday 26th April, Rachael Fisher had received only 15 entries (covering 24 events): however entries have often been slow to come in for this meeting. North Somerset AC had agreed to coordinate numbers issue / medals presentation etc. (they would be briefed to handle general meeting queries). Pat Jefferies was arranging orders for officials' refreshments; we were okay for meeting stationery. Hilary Nash would contact Stuart Nunn to ask about medals [update: in hand] and an announcer [update: recruited]. Zoe Goodman and Hilary could handle results if a team was not already in place:
2. South-West T&F Championships: [Update: date of this meeting has now reverted to the original choice of August 17th]. It is fairly certain that the event will be held at Exeter again. The Association will need to consider matters of Team Management and vest supply (if insisted on for County-scoring athletes) nearer the date.

Cross-Country /Trail Matters:

1. Tri-County Cross-Country Championship: the Wiltshire AA has offered to arrange this at Bath University on Sunday December 14th (the Gwent League has confirmed that there will be no clash with their fixtures). Entries will be handled on-line. The Avon AA was happy to take part under these arrangements.
2. South-West Cross-Country Championships 2014-5: the Secretary had e-mailed the convenors of the SW Championships discussion meeting on April 5th with the County's view that the event should be primarily an Inter-Club event rather than an Inter-County contest: however Avon was in a minority of one over the issue. The matters of team management, selection, vest supply etc. need to be resolved before too long.
3. Cross-Country Coordinator: nobody had been elected at the AGM to fill this position. The search continues: any candidate will not have the task (for two years anyway) of coordinating arrangements for the Tri-County Championships. The post of Senior / Under-20 Men's Team Manager is also vacant.

4. The Secretary will liaise with his Somerset counterpart to ensure timely submission of entries for the UK CAU Inter-Counties Championships (and help secure an optimum team for the T&F equivalent).

Avon Network Matters: No report available: however there is a Network meeting on Wednesday April 30th. One of the items on their agenda is "Search for a Coordinator".

Information from Outside Bodies:

EA Consultations: Neil Miller and John Cant (Westbury H.) had attended the EA Consultation meeting at Exeter, and John Deaton the meeting at Oxford. Club membership Secretaries should be interested in various enhancements to the EA Membership Portal. EA has a balanced budget for 2014-5, but for 2015-6, a reduction in Sport England funding will lead to a potential deficit of around £1.25M. Suggestions had been made at both meetings that road-running clubs could be more rigorous about expecting their competing members to pay the £10 affiliation fee to EA, although this could upset the genuinely non-competitive members of such clubs.

Summaries of the various Consultations will be posted on the EA website shortly after the final meeting of the series (May 9th); EA will then arrange an on-line survey, which the Avon AA urges all member clubs to complete.

Information from Member Clubs / Associations:

Bristol & West AC reports that the Street Sprints / Street Miles meeting is under threat due to administrative and financial cutbacks within Bristol City Council. Clubs anxious to preserve this event should contact Mike Strange (mandc.45strange@blueyonder.co.uk) to indicate their support. The prospects for the Mike Sully races, however, are rather better.

Any Other Business: None.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday June 9th [note: subsequently amended to Monday 7th July] at UWE [subject to room availability].

Meeting Closed at about 8.50pm.