

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of an abbreviated Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday April 4th 2016, in Room 2B065, Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol, starting at 7.30pm.

Those Present: John Deaton (Secretary), Rachael Fisher (Vice-Chairperson, North Somerset AC), Pam Gooding (President), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Neil Miller (Westbury Harriers), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), John Robbins (Chairperson), Jim Strudwick (Avon Schools AA), Mike Willcox (GWR).

Apologies: Ian Macintosh (Trustee), James Murphy (Welfare / Westbury Harriers), Mike Strange (Life Member).

NOTE: At the scheduled start time of the AGM, there was not a quorum for a General Meeting: the Chairperson (John Robbins) proposed, and those present agreed, that the planned Abbreviated Committee Meeting should be held first.

Minutes of previous Committee Meeting: (January 23rd 2016): accepted.

Matters Arising : AGM 2015 item on Constitution clause concerning distribution of funds in the event of dissolution: continuing minute.

Treasurer's Report: There were few transactions since the end of the financial year: we had received £200 from the Wiltshire AA as our share of the surplus from the Tri-Counties Cross-Country Championships.

Officials Secretary's Report:

1. Ray Gooding had attended a meeting of County Officials Secretaries and the National Officials Conference on the weekend of April 2nd/3rd.
2. Ray and Pam Gooding presented an EA Field Judges course at Clevedon School on March 20th. There was an EA Assessor present: this will be a more regular feature of EA Coaching / Officiating courses.
3. Officials Tutors will be re-trained over the next 18 months; courses will have a greater emphasis on practical work. The Health and Safety aspect of courses will in future be presented on-line, with candidates required to answer certain questions successfully before being able to proceed to the next stage of the course.
4. Competition providers are likely to become more responsible for officials recruitment and development, with more involvement from County Officials Secretaries, who may be expected to meet every six months or so to monitor progress.
5. Starters' Guns: development of a substitute implement was in hand, but reliability, cost, and suitability for the task was still an issue. Ammunition could also be a problem soon.
6. The UKA Rules (including the new Officials gradings) for 2016-8 came into force on April 1st: these can be read on-line, but the print version is not yet available. John Deaton still had some unresolved queries over the new Rulebook: he will be contacting John Temperton of UKA about these.

Arrangements for Avon AA / West of England T&F Championships:

- 1 The meeting would benefit from extra officials: however with the Bristol 10km requiring fewer officials than in previous years, the potential problem with Timekeepers at the Championships may be eased.

2. Rachael Fisher would be available to receive entries until the entry closing date (Sunday May 8th); Hilary Nash would handle queries after that date and allocate athletes to heats where necessary. Entry fees would need to be paid before the day.
3. Meeting Roles: Jim Strudwick would act as Meeting Manager; Pete Davenport would be Track Referee; Bill Kingston would be Field Referee (subject to availability: if not, then John Deaton); Hilary Nash would contact Stuart Nunn to see whether Yate AC would be able to handle results. A group of the newly-trained North Somerset AC Field Officials would act as a unit under the leadership of Martin Fisher.
4. The Under-13s and Under-15's Boys and Girls 800m Championships would be held as part of the Avon AA Open Meeting on Tuesday May 24th at the Kip Keino Stadium. Championships entries would need to be made as part of the main Championships procedure.
5. Medals: Gold, Silver and Bronze for Under-13's, Under-15's and Under-17's; Golds for Under-20's and Seniors.

2016 UK CAU Cross-Country Championships: Avon AA activists were unhappy with the pre-meeting organisation by the Avon & Somerset lead organiser (a Somerset activist). Many of the problems emerged because the list of team members and reserves emerged far too late from the selection meeting (March 2nd when a more realistic date would have been February 2nd). Even then, of the 85 names (excluding Seniors), 42 had beside them "No Contact Info". Several parents had complained of the lack of information. There was a particular problem with the Under-15 Boys team: on the evening before the meeting there were nine athletes for the eight race places: without a stroke of good fortune, and without the athletes and parents being cooperative and understanding, this could have blown up into a major row.

The Secretary had had a preliminary discussion with his Somerset AA counterpart: JD would prepare a letter for presentation to the forthcoming Somerset AA Committee meeting (after consultation with the Chairperson).

SW Inter-Counties Road Running Championships: The first leg of the 2016 Championships was held on Sunday February 14th in conjunction with the Wiltshire 10 Mile race at Melksham: Avon finished second in both Men's and Women's races, behind Wiltshire but ahead of Somerset and Gloucestershire (Devon, Dorset and Cornwall failed to finish teams). The second leg will be at the Frome 10km on Sunday 17th July, and the third leg at the Sturminster Newton Half Marathon on Sunday August 7th. In both cases the Avon team will be required to wear County vests: this will provide practical problems, particularly for the August 7th event, which clashes with the SW Inter-Counties T&F Championships. The meeting would prefer an indicator on the race numbers to indicate county affiliation. JD will be attending a SW Road Running Group meeting on Friday April 8th.

Any Other Business:

1. SW Schools Cross-Country Championships: this was held at Cheltenham on Saturday February 6th in foul conditions: despite this, all the Avon competitors finished. At the National Championships the best team placings were Inter Girls (9th) and Junior Girls (10th): the best individual placing was by Hannah Hobbs (6th IG), who went on to finish 4th IG in the Schools International meeting at Falkirk.
2. Avon AA Sound equipment: Bitton RR were no longer able to store this: discussion on a long-term home for this was deferred.
3. EA SW CCSOs: Anneliese Shannon is currently on maternity leave; Charlotte Fisher will leave her post on April 15th.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday June 6th 2016, 7.30pm., at UWE Frenchay Campus (subject to room booking).

Meeting Closed at about 9.00pm.