

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of an abbreviated Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday April 3rd 2017, in Room 2B066, Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol, starting at 8.20pm.

Those Present: Andrew Ballentine (North Somerset AC), John Deaton (Secretary), Martin Fisher (North Somerset AC), Pam Gooding (President), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Catherine Mills (GWR), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), John Robbins (Chairperson), Andrew Woods (GWR).

Apologies: Mike Down (Life Member / Bristol & West AC), Ian Macintosh (Trustee), James Murphy (Welfare / Westbury Harriers), Jim Strudwick (Avon Schools AA).

Minutes of previous Committee Meeting: (February 6th 2017): accepted.

Matters Arising : None.

Treasurer's Report: Hilary Nash submitted a list of transactions since the Annual Accounts (copies available on request).

1. Financing of the Avon & Somerset UK CAU Cross-Country team: Ian Humphreys (Somerset AA) had arranged for the re-stocking of the Avon & Somerset vest supply, and collected the sales and hire revenue for these; he also hired a minibus and collected fares for this. John Deaton (£80) and Keith Brackstone (£20) had submitted and paid for the team entries; both had been reimbursed from Avon AA funds. The two County Treasurers would be left to agree any financial reconciliation thought necessary.
2. The Secretary had received a request from Dave Turner for financial support for the Avon Sportshall teams for the UK Finals (Manchester, April 22nd/23rd). The meeting was prepared to support the venture to a tentative figure of £750; John Robbins would contact Dave to establish the current financial position of Avon Sportshall venture before agreeing the exact amount. It is understood that some clubs are financially supporting their athletes on the teams.
3. The Wiltshire AA has forwarded £200, being our share of the surplus from the December 2016 Tri-Counties Cross-Country Championships.

Officials Secretary's Report:

1. As they had not attended a Risk Awareness course by March 31st 2017, the following have lost their status as Level 1 Endurance Officials: Chris Elson, John Goodland, Peter Mainstone, Arthur Renshaw, Barry Smart, Geraint Torrington, Karen Walsh.
2. Level 1 Officials Course at Cheltenham (April 1st): Ray Gooding had delivered the Health & Safety aspect of this, and Pam Gooding the Field Judge aspect. 13 trainees attended, but none from Avon.
3. Sandra Smith-Vokroj is seeking one or more reports as part of the upgrading process. It is unlikely that we could provide any reporting opportunities at the County Championships: Ray Gooding would contact Roger Lee and John Deaton would contact Keith Reed regarding other opportunities.
4. The proposed Level 1 Field Officials course scheduled for North Somerset in late March did not go ahead. The meeting was disappointed that EA were apparently asking for as much as six months notice to be given for intended courses.

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5. National figures show that 40% of those who attend Level 1 Officiating courses do not go on to apply for their licence.

Road Running /Endurance Matters

1. South-West Inter-Counties Road Running Championships: the two component events would be the Glastonbury Round The Tor 10km (April 30th) and the Great West Run Half Marathon (October 15th). The organisers would be insisting on County vests being worn. John Robbins was prepared to select teams from available entry lists [Post-meeting note: the volunteer to take on the administration of the team on the day at Glastonbury has found themselves double-booked].
2. Avon Road Relays: the meeting would like to increase attendance of Avon teams at this meeting (the regular clash with the Severn Bridge Half Marathon is probably one discouraging factor). Catherine Mills suggested use of Facebook to increase interest in this race and generally build links among the local Road Running community.

Track and Field / Sportshall Matters

1. Avon AA T&F Championships: arrangements were in hand. It was agreed that the clubs with larger numbers of entrants would be asked to collect their competitor numbers and distribute these themselves. It was agreed that South Gloucestershire and Stroud College (SGS) could put in a batch entry with payment made through the College administration system. The General Secretary would send a batch entry form to Mr. Ravi Bagdi for his party of Indian athletes, who would be allowed to pay on the day.

Any Other Business:

1. England Athletics has issued a statement about its strategy following Sport England's funding allocation for the 2017-2021 cycle. The number of EA employees has been reduced from 84 to 59. The Secretary will send out a condensed version of their statement. The local effect: Richard Ayling (formerly CCSO for Avon / Gloucestershire / Somerset / Wiltshire) has been appointed the Club Support Manager for the South-West, while the other SW CCSO (Anneliese Shannon) declined an alternative post and has left EA's employment.
2. Andrew Woods thanked the Avon AA Officers and Committee for their recent work for athletics in the County.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday June 5th 2017, 7.30pm., at UWE Frenchay Campus (subject to room booking).

Meeting Closed at about 9.30pm.