

## **Avon Athletic Association**

**Minutes** of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday February 6th 2017, in Room 2B066, Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol, starting at 7.30pm.

**Those Present:** Andrew Ballentine (North Somerset AC), John Deaton (Secretary), Pam Gooding (President), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), John Robbins (Chairperson), Jim Strudwick (Avon Schools AA).

**Apologies:** Martin Fisher (North Somerset AC), Ian Macintosh (Trustee) .

**Minutes of previous Committee Meeting:** (November 28th 2016): accepted.

### **Matters Arising :**

1. Avon AA Sound Equipment: this had been passed on to Westbury Harriers.
2. The new supply of Avon AA vests has arrived.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

1. Hilary Nash submitted an updated financial report (copies available on request): this, subject to confirmation, would form the basis of the Annual Accounts for the AGM.
2. Hilary had not been notified of any applications for Avon AA Education Course subsidies relating to 2016, although there may be some claims relating to Coach / Coach in Running Fitness courses which the candidate concerned will not finish until 2017.
3. The Association's one-year investment bond: with interest rates so low even on long-term bonds, it might be better to hold the funds in an easily-accessible account. Hilary will examine this matter further.

### **Officials Secretary's Report:**

1. Officials Status Changes: Ben Redwood has resigned as an Official and would be ending his involvement in athletics. Stuart Nunn would be finishing his involvement in athletics at the end of the forthcoming Track season. Trainee Officials Lawrence Duncan, William Jones, Rhian Loughlan, Richard Parsons and Nicola Robson have all had their status deactivated, although in each case it could be restored if the candidate submits to a DBS check.
2. There is a new Officials qualification: Level 1 Endurance Timekeeper. Candidates need to attend / have attended the Level 1 Endurance Officials course and the Endurance Risk Assessment course; they must submit a Record of Experience form showing a minimum of four endurance meetings (these can be retrospective), and undergo (or have undergone) a DBS check. There is no progression beyond Level 1.
3. Ray and Pam Gooding have been invited to tutor on a T&F Health and Safety and Level 1 Field Judge course respectively at Cheltenham on Saturday April 1st (there is also a Track Judge option). There may be a Field Judge course in North Somerset on Sunday March 26th: however EA is being rather disapproving about courses arranged at comparatively short notice.
4. Barry Parker is no longer receiving Record of Experience forms and reports for Level 3's seeking upgrading and for Level 4/5's: these will now go to Derek Redfern [derekredfern@talktalk.net](mailto:derekredfern@talktalk.net) .

5. There will be trials of an electronic Starting System at three venues in the UK in the next few months (none particularly close to Avon).
6. The UKA National Officials Conference will be on Sunday 2nd April at Kenilworth.

Jim Strudwick expressed his thanks to Ray and Pam Gooding for their work at the Avon Schools Cross-Country Championships.

### **Road Running /Endurance Matters**

1. Details of the South-West Road Relays (Saturday 8th April, Exeter Racecourse) have been circulated.
2. SW Inter-Counties Road Running Championships: still no confirmed date for the Great West Run.
3. The Bristol to Bath Marathon will not go ahead in 2017; The Great Bristol 10km and Half Marathon would go ahead, with contingency arrangements in place for the 10km should City-centre road works overrun.

### **Track and Field / Sportshall Matters**

1. Avon Track and Field Championships (Saturday 13th May 2017, Yate Outdoor Sports Centre):
  - 1.1 The 'West of England' part of the event title would be dropped. UK Guest competitors with no Avon qualifications would be welcome, but would not receive medals.
  - 1.2 The Track has been booked, and the prospective Lead Officials contacted. John Robbins would contact the major Track and Field clubs asking them each to take on one part of the meeting organisation (e.g. numbers distribution, results, hurdles moving). Ray Gooding would liaise with Pat Jefferies regarding officials' / volunteers' packed lunches.
  - 1.3 Hilary Nash had obtained the details about the entry system previously operated by Rachael Fisher. However, in view of the likely shortage of activists, the meeting felt that on-line entry should be actively considered, even if this meant having to charge higher entry fees.
  - 1.4 Events: The Under-13s and Under 15s 800m Championships would again be held as part of a separate meeting, in this case the Bristol & West AC Open Meeting at the Kip Keino Stadium on Tuesday 23rd May. Athletes wishing to take part in these Championships will have to enter via the entry system for the main Championships; athletes who fail to do this may still enter the meeting as an Open competitor, but will not be eligible for the Avon AA medals. 3000 metres races will be timetabled for the main Championships day, but may be cancelled if too few competitors enter. A 5000 metres Championship event (Senior Men/Women, Under-20 Men/Women) will be held as part of the Avon AA Open meeting on Tuesday June 20th.
  - 1.5 Mr. Ravi Badgi was again planning to bring a party of athletes to our main Championships.
2. South-West Inter-Counties T&F Championships: these will be held on Sunday 20th August at Exeter. This is a clash with the final round of the British Athletic League; it is also a clash with the second day of the Midlands Younger Age Group Championships (at Nuneaton again). However date clashes were always likely in World Championships year.
3. Midland T&F Championships 2017: the Seniors and Under-20's Championships will be held on Sunday 11th June; the Under-17's and Under-15's (plus Under-13's Quadrathlon) will be held on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th August. All three events are at Nuneaton.

4. Schools Athletics: The Avon Schools Championships will be held on Saturday 10th June at Bath University. A possible change to the County groupings could mean that the County would be allowed more athletes at the ESAA Track and Field Championships. In view of the low Senior Boys/Girls turnouts at County Schools level, athletes would be free to compete in the Midland Under-20's Championships (Sunday 11th June, Nuneaton) instead.
5. Sportshall: the Avon Trials attracted some 160 athletes, largely Under-13's. The first day of the UK Finals clashes with the first round of the YDL Lower Age Group competition.

### **Cross Country / Trail Matters**

1. Tri-Counties Cross-Country Championships: these went ahead successfully.
2. Gloucestershire Cross-Country Championships (January 7th): these were held at the Old Down Country Park, near Tockington. The organiser felt that this had been a good venue for them; it could cater for a larger meeting provided that parking was marshalled more systematically than they had needed to do.
3. South-West Cross-Country Championships (Exeter Racecourse, January 8th): these went ahead successfully, with Avon athletes gaining five individual Gold medals (Dalis Jones U13G; Enya Maylor U15G, Hannah Hobbs U17W; Owain Jones SM; Mike Mewse M60) plus the Senior Men's team Gold. Attendance figures show that a post-Christmas meeting was a much better prospect than a pre-Christmas one.
4. Avon & Somerset team for the UK CAU Inter-Counties: team selection went ahead without the need for a face-to-face meeting. All the athlete nominations have been submitted [post-meeting note: all team members and reserves have been notified]. The Association was willing to provide a level of financial support so that transport could be provided if there was sufficient demand: John Deaton and his Somerset AA counterpart would assess the demand and liaise with the two County Treasurers over possible charges and subsidies.
5. South-West Schools Cross-Country Championships: these were held at Truro, with the racing mostly taking place in foul weather. The Avon Schools AA took two coachloads down; Hugh Sadler won the Senior Boys race; the Minor Boys team took gold.

**Information from Outside Bodies (e.g. MCAA, EA, SW Council)** The EA individual affiliation fee rises to £14 from April 1st 2017.

**Information from member Clubs / Associations:** The Secretary of Hogweed Trotters is now Sonia Cross, sjcross33@gmail.com .

**Arrangements for AGM:** The AGM would be on Monday April 3rd (subject to room booking); to be followed, as in recent years, by an abbreviated Committee Meeting. This means that motions for debate at the AGM must be with the Secretary by Monday March 6th.

In view of the poor attendances at recent Avon AA meetings, John Robbins would contact member clubs urging them to send delegates to the AGM. He would also draw up suggestions for Constitutional amendments which could make it easier to operate the Association with fewer volunteers, maybe making more use of electronic communication.

**Any Other Business** None.

**Date of AGM / Abbreviated Committee Meeting:** Monday April 3rd 2017, 7.30pm., at UWE Frenchay Campus (subject to room booking). **Meeting Closed** at about 9.30pm.