

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday January 27th 2014, in Room 2B066, Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol, starting at 7.30pm.

Those Present: John Deaton (Secretary), Rachael Fisher (Acting Chairperson, North Somerset AC), Neil Miller (Westbury H. / SW Council), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), Stuart Nunn (Yate & District AC), John Robbins (President), Mike Willcox (GWR).

Apologies : Mike Down (Bristol & West AC), Pam Gooding (Life Member), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Cy Knibb (Bristol & West AC), Ian Macintosh (Trustee), Jim Murphy (Westbury H./Welfare), Neil Newman (Emersons Green RC)

Minutes of Previous Meeting: (November 25th 2013): Avon Network matters: under "Satellite clubs", for "marching" read "matching". Otherwise, the minutes were accepted.

Matters Arising :

1. Treasurer's Report: No St. John Ambulance personnel attended the 2013 County T&F Championships, although a booking had been made.
2. Sportshall: the Under-11's events would now be on Sunday February 9th at Downend Sports Centre (Trials) and Saturday 22nd February 22nd (Finals).
3. The proposed reductions in implement weights for some younger female throwers would now become official from April 1st 2014.

Treasurer's Report: Hilary distributed a draft version of the 2012 [correction: 2013] Annual Accounts. Regarding affiliation fees: the Secretary would e-mail his contacts at the two University clubs and one Open club whose subscriptions were outstanding.

Officials Secretary's Report :

1. Level 2 Officials courses at Downend on March 23rd: only Track Judge and Timekeeper options would be available. The main problem outstanding is that Ray will need one or possibly two digital projectors; anyone who can help Ray out over this matter is asked to contact him.
2. "Introduction to Officiating" session on March 9th: the Committee of Yate and District AC had expressed their lack of interest in the event, since the session would not entitle attendees to any qualification; however North Somerset AC had potential attendees already. The meeting was anxious to find out what help Ray would require on the day: John Deaton would contact Ray about this and about event publicity.

Road Running / MT matters:

1. The Association's Championships events for 2014 would be: Monday May 19th at the Hogweed Trotters 10km; Sunday 7th September at the North Somerset Road Relays; Sunday 28th September [note: since changed to Sunday September 14th] at the Oldbury Power Station 10 miles race.
2. Gordon Robbins would be standing down as Road Race Secretary at the forthcoming AGM. He was planning to pass the organization of the Sodbury Slog to Hogweed Trotters [correction: Bitton RR], and was gradually passing the organization of the Rodway Easy Runner race to Emersons Green RC.

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3. Under a new UKA Rule to apply from April 1st 2014, any runner receiving a race number transferred without authorization will be disqualified, and both athletes concerned will be liable to disciplinary action. The meeting was uncertain about the ARC position on this, but felt that all Avon AA member clubs should strongly discourage this practice.

Track and Field / Sportshall Matters:

1. Sportshall: the Avon Schools Sportshall trials will be on Saturday 1st February at Bristol Grammar School; the South-West Championships will be on Saturday 1st March at Paignton. The meeting was unaware when (or even if) the National Finals would take place.
2. County T&F Championships 2014: The Secretary had not heard whether the Yate track would be available for the Championships on May 17th: Stuart Nunn would contact the track. The Avon League was hoping for a meeting on May 18th [subsequent note: now unlikely, as the Gloucestershire AAA now plan to hold their Championships on that date]. Rachael Fisher was prepared to take entries, but the meeting advised a closing date a week before the event rather than last year's three days. Stuart Nunn would consult Ben Redwood for a list of tasks to be done and an inventory of stationery and medals in stock from last year. We would need to ensure adequate numbers of helpers to handle numbers issue and results.
3. Avon AA Open Meetings: There may be restrictions on throws events on May 13th; various other athletics fixtures at the Kip Keino Stadium may need to be rescheduled.

Cross-Country /Trail Matters:

1. Discussion of John Deaton's paper on the 2014-5 Avon Cross-Country Championships: those at the meeting felt incorporation of the Championships in a Gwent League was not particularly inspiring, and that a stand-alone tri-County Championships was preferred. The concept of the Championships promotion rotating between Avon, Somerset and Wiltshire was welcomed, although for the Avon years, the meeting felt that the County (not a club or group of smaller clubs), should be the organizing body. In view of Avon's work on the tri-county event in recent seasons, the meeting felt that Wiltshire or Somerset should organise the next event.

It was important that any Tri-County meeting does not clash with a Gwent League date. Avon clubs who belong to the Gwent League are urged to send representatives to the Gwent League AGM (usually in May) to try to prevent this clash (and a clash of dates with the South-West Schools Championships).

2. UK CAU Cross-Country Championships: a well-attended meeting had been held to select the Avon/Somerset teams.

Avon Network Matters: The planned meeting of the Network on January 8th had been postponed (no new date yet). Stuart Nunn reported the following developments:

... Satellite Clubs: Mangotsfield (Yate), Abbeywood (B&W), Worle and Weston Super Mare (NSAC) are operating. The Mangotsfield operation is receiving extra funds being channeled via Bristol Rovers FC from the Premier League.

... a Development day (Sunday March 23rd) was being organized for potential competitors for the "Team Avon" team in the Upper Age Groups aspect of the Youth Development League.

... Running groups have been launched at Yate, Bristol and Brislington; a Junior Parkrun will soon be launched at Little Stoke.

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... Coaching Development: progress in this area has been disappointing. The Network had hoped to develop a version of the LCDP (Local Coach Development Programme), but there had been no reaction from local clubs and little from individual coaches. The network needs to know what the clubs want from them. The Network needs half-a-dozen **named** coaches to advise how they can help the Network and the Network help them, e.g. maybe the Network could subsidise coach conference fees if the coach could help organize a Coaching Day. If progress cannot be made locally in this aspect, it is not inconceivable that EA could claw back part of the Network's funding.

Information from Outside Bodies:

1. Both the Midland Counties AA and Northern Athletics have predicted financial problems within the next few years.
2. England Athletics are arranging a series of consultation meetings in the Spring of 2014 similar to those held in 2013: no dates had yet been announced.
3. The South-West Council had issued invitations to one representative of each South West County and Network to attend their meeting on Tuesday February 4th. The Avon AA had no-one available: Stuart Nunn planned to attend on behalf of the Avon Network.
4. England Athletics have issued a document regarding athlete registration and club affiliation. Their planned measures include: invoicing clubs for fees of unregistered athletes competing in their name; increased fees for delayed club affiliation; spot checks at promotions for unregistered athletes. The Secretary would circulate this document to his usual Avon contacts.

Information from Member Clubs / Associations:

1. Mike Willcox reminded the meeting that GWR's Arthur Dagger Memorial Fund was open until February 28th 2014 for grant applications.
2. The track at Yate was liable to be closed for a time in late Summer 2014 for re-surfacing.

Any Other Business: E-mail warnings of Computer Viruses: the Secretary asked Avon activists to forward such e-mails to him for checking rather than circulating to all in their address books, as these often turn out to be hoaxes.

Date of Next Meeting: AGM plus abbreviated Committee meeting, on Monday March 24th 2014, at UWE (subject to room availability).

Meeting Closed at about 9.10pm.