

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday January 19th 2015, 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 (Life Member), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), John Robbins (President). John Robbins took the Chair.

Apologies: Ian Macintosh (Trustee), Jim Murphy (Welfare, Westbury Harriers), Mike Willcox (GWR).

Minutes of Previous Meeting: (November 24th 2014): accepted.

Matters Arising :

1. Addition of John Robbins to list of bank account signatories: done.
2. Matters outstanding: list of sources of free publicity for local endurance events; quotations for medals from alternative suppliers; letter to Ed Warner and Niels de Vos in support of Hertfordshire proposal of priority tickets for major athletics events.
3. Endurance Officials Secretary: no reply had been received from Gordon yet. It was agreed to call at the AGM for elections for T&F Officials Secretary and Endurance Officials Secretary separately.
4. Bristol University Relays: [Post-meeting Update: going ahead on Saturday March 7th]

Treasurer's Report (copies available on request): Hilary Nash submitted his report, effective up to December 31st 2014 (therefore serving as the draft Annual Accounts). Transactions made (or due) since then include:

... purchase of a tent (£332-40): this is available for loan to other Avon AA member organisations, but will need to be collected from, and returned to, John Robbins, with any damage paid for.

... receipt of surplus from the Tri-County Championships (£164); John Deaton holds £15 from sale of programmes.

... an advance payment is required for track hire for the Avon AA Open meetings.

Officials Secretary's Report : (copies available on request)

1. There were few applicants as yet for the Officiating courses at Downend on March 22nd: John Deaton will attend the Avon League AGM on Wednesday 28th January and will publicise the courses then.
2. The planned national forum for County Officials Secretaries in December was cancelled due to lack of demand: EA would look into Ray's suggestion that future events of this sort be conducted by on-line conferencing.
3. Endurance Officials Record of Experience forms: ARC-licensed events should not be included on these.

Road Running / MT matters:

1. The meeting recommends that promotions specify in their race materials how medals / prizes will be allocated to high-achieving Masters entrants.

2. Those present noted the intended promotion in the autumn of a Bristol to Bath Marathon on closed roads. The meeting was uneasy about the influence on the non-athletic public of prolonged road closures, and was unaware who would be licensing the event. John Robbins would contact the race organisers for further information.

Track and Field / Sportshall Matters:

1. Avon / West of England T&F Championships:
 - 1.1 The track and First Aid have been booked. We awaited a reply from Graham Howell on photo-finish availability: it was felt that the use of EDM was not justified.
 - 1.2 Rachael Fisher was prepared to handle entries again; Hilary Nash will process the entry info from Rachael to produce the final timetable, field cards and race schedule with lane draws etc. Ray Gooding would seek out officials, and contact Tony Jefferies about setting out of track equipment. John Deaton would act as Clerk of the Course (Field); North Somerset AC would be invited to handle number and medals issue; John Robbins would handle on-the-day queries.
 - 1.3 For Under-13's and Under-15's, the Championships for either 800m or 1500m would be held as part of the Open meeting on Tuesday May 12th.
 - 1.4 In the past, some events had attracted only one or two entrants: the event prospectus would include a statement that the organizers reserve the right to cancel events if there were too few entrants.
 - 1.5 No late event swaps would be allowed.
2. EA were looking for meeting organizers who would include 2000m Steeplechase events in their timetables, to provide extra opportunities for those seeking qualifying times for the World Youth Games or Commonwealth Youth Games.

Cross-Country /Trail Matters:

1. Tri-County Cross-Country Championships (Sunday 14th December, Bath University): this was very well organised by the Wiltshire AA. Some athletes had assumed that returning the form (prepared by Somerset AA) handed to them constituted an entry to the South-West Championships: it might be better to prepare a separate Avon form in future years.
2. South-West Cross-Country Championships 2014-5:
 - 2.1 The Senior Women's team won; the Senior Men and Under-15 Girls came third.
 - 2.2 Several Avon-eligible entrants failed to register themselves as Avon athletes: the meeting called on clubs to raise awareness of Avon and what area it covers, since anyone born since 1996, or who has moved into the area since then, will never have lived in the 'County of Avon'.
3. UK CAU Inter-Counties Cross-Country Championships: a joint selection meeting with representatives of Somerset AA is scheduled for January 25th. Some of Mike Down / Keith Brackstone / Neil Miller / Steve Parsons would be attending: John Deaton would attend if necessary. Those present would stress to the Somerset representatives the need to submit entries on time this year.

(continued)

Avon Network Matters: Charlotte Fisher (CCSO covering Avon) had sent details to Avon AA clubs about funding available from EA in respect of the Avon Network's under-spend of allocated funds in 2014-5. Applicants would need to meet criteria similar to those currently required for Avon Network projects: applications must be submitted to Charlotte by February 12th, with decisions being made at a meeting on February 18th.

Information from Outside Bodies: John Deaton attended the South-West Council meeting on December 10th. Among matters to report:

... as well as the proposed alignment of UKA Rules with IAAF Rules, there may be another attempt to change the cut-off date for younger age groups from 31st August/1st September to 31st December /1st January.

... there may be an attempt to return the South-West Championships event from its recent format to a straight Inter-County competition

... although Colin Baross (Wiltshire) won the EA Volunteer Coach of the Year award, there were insufficient South-West nominations to justify a South-West Presentation evening. [If a nomination is unsuccessful, there is nothing to prevent a repeat or enhanced nomination in future years. JCD]

... there seems to have been little liaison between the SW Council and the meeting organizers regarding the South-West Indoor T&F Championships

No minutes had (as at January 19th) emerged from the SW Council meeting (Somerset AA are also unhappy that minutes are not regularly issued) [Update: minutes of December 10th meeting have now been issued]. Those at the Avon AA meeting were in general unconvinced of the effectiveness of the South-West Council. The Secretary reminded the meeting that nominations for election to the South-West Council were still open.

Information from Member Clubs / Associations:

1. GWR's Arthur Dagger Memorial Fund is open to applicants for 2015: closing date February 28th.
2. Cy Knibb has stepped down as Chairman of Bristol & West AC: Roger Brocklesby is standing in for the present.

Arrangements for AGM: Those present were concerned about the low turnout at recent Avon AA meetings and responses to various initiatives, and noted the delay in starting the 2014 AGM while a quorum of delegates was reached. The meeting agreed on the following format for the evening:

1. A discussion on the future structure and operation of the Association (John Robbins would draw up a basic format for this section of the meeting)
2. The Annual General Meeting itself
3. An abbreviated Committee meeting to deal with time-critical matters.

Any Other Business: None.

Date of Next Meeting (AGM): Monday March 23rd 2015, at UWE Frenchay Campus [Post-Meeting Update: in Room 2B066, Block B].

Meeting Closed at about 9.40pm.