

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday January 22nd 2018, in Room 2B066, Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol, starting at 7.35pm.

Those Present: Roger Brocklesby (Bristol & West AC), John Deaton (Secretary), Pam Gooding (President), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Pat Jefferies (Yate & District AC), Mark Lodge (Guest), Phil Lucker (Guest), Penny Mannings (North Somerset AC), James Murphy (Westbury Harriers / Welfare), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), Stuart Nunn (Yate & District AC), John Robbins (Chairperson), Jim Strudwick (Avon Schools AA), Matt Viner (Yate & District AC).

Apologies: Andrew Ballentine (North Somerset AC), Ian Macintosh (Trustee).

Minutes of previous Committee Meeting: (November 20th 2017): accepted.

Matters Arising : Officials Polo Shirts, recognition of regular Avon officials, Wind Gauge: continuing minutes. Other matters are dealt with elsewhere in the Minutes.

(At this point, John Robbins handed the Chairmanship of the meeting to Avon AA President Pam Gooding)

Possible Affiliation of New Club The meeting discussed the application of South Glos AC to affiliate to England Athletics. Mark Lodge and Phil Lucker (Officers of the new Club) addressed the meeting; representatives of Yate & District AC and Westbury Harriers responded; others also expressed their views. The meeting agreed to endorse the view of Keith Reed (Chair, EA South-West Council) that the application should be held back pending a meeting between Keith Reed, Richard Ayling, and the parties concerned.

[Post-meeting note: EA has now approved the affiliation of South Glos. AC]

(at this point, Pam Gooding handled the Chairmanship of the meeting back to John Robbins).

Treasurer's Report: Hilary Nash's accounts and report were circulated (copies available on request). These will form the basis for the Accounts for the Annual General Meeting. A major factor in the deficits in the last two years has been the financial support to the Avon Schools AA and the Avon Schools Sportshall operation.

Officials Secretary's Report:

1. Local Officials: the Level 1 Endurance Official status of Chris Elson, Mike Willcox, Geraint Torrington and Peter Mainstone has been suspended pending the completion of the Risk Assessment module. Bill Kingston's status as a T&F Official has been suspended as his DBS clearance has lapsed: this is presumably an oversight, and Roger Brocklesby will ensure that Bill is contacted and reminded.
2. Ray and Pam Gooding had been on a Tutor Training course in Birmingham in early December. The tutoring process will be significantly different, with more advance preparation required by the tutor. Candidates will have more practical involvement, which may mean that larger (and possibly more expensive) venues will be needed. This may mean an increase in the minimum number of candidates needed for a course to proceed.
3. There will be a national Forum for County Officials Secretaries in early April in the Midlands.

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Road Running / Endurance Matters

1. South-West Inter-Counties Road Running Championships: various options for race venues are being considered. The EA SW Road Running Coordinator had asked that only Counties with clear intentions of fielding teams in the Championships should vote on these options: as the Secretary could not guarantee Avon teams for 2018, he did not intend to submit votes or opinions.
2. Bristol & West AC has been able to replace the Aztec West Fast 5Km series race with the "Filton Flyer" series. This would be based in the Abbey Wood area. For the first half of 2018 there would be five races, on the last Tuesday of February / March / April / May/ June, with a trial event on Tuesday 30th January.

Track and Field / Sportshall Matters The Avon Schools Sportshall Trials will go ahead on Saturday January 27th at the Bristol Grammar School sports hall, and the "Fun In Athletics" Under-11's event on Sunday January 28th.

Cross Country / Trail Matters

1. 2017-8 Tri-Counties Cross-Country Championships (Sunday 10th December 2017 at Bath University): these went ahead successfully, although weather conditions and travel difficulties would have reduced turnouts.

Fourteen medals were undistributed (although two were re-allocated). Hilary Nash was looking into the possibility of more economically-priced medals which could be re-used if unclaimed and would be standardised across the Association's various Championships.

2. 2017-8 South-West Championships (Sunday January 7th 2018); these went ahead successfully, on a fine day but with a bitter wind. Several Avon-qualified athletes did not enter "Avon" as their County in the on-line entry system: some athletes (mainly new to the sport) entered for other counties when they could (or should) have entered as Avon. Member clubs are asked to make their competitors aware of the athletic existence of Avon and the qualifications for Avon Championships and teams.
3. Jim Strudwick expressed his thanks to all officials who had helped with the running of the event, to Westbury Harriers for the use of their clubhouse, and to David Palmer for the excellent course. The Avon Schools teams for the South-West Schools Championships will be notified via the Avon Schools website, not by letter as in previous years.

Pam Gooding was impressed with the meeting organisation and race timings; she found the use of different-coloured numbers for potentially overlapping races useful, and an idea which could be more widely adopted.

The 2019 South-West Schools Cross-Country Championships are due to be held in Avon.

4. UK CAU Championships (Prestwold Park, near Loughborough, Saturday 10th March): the team selection process is under way.

Information from Outside Bodies (e.g. MCAA, EA, SW Council)

1. Member clubs are reminded that the General Data Protection Regulations (GPDR) come into UK Law as from 25th May 2018. Member clubs may need to amend membership forms etc. to advise their members what personal data (computerised or paper-based) is being collected and to whom it might be distributed. As clubs will be sending personal data to England Athletics in connection with 2018-9 EA athlete registration, it might be advisable to have appropriate wording in place from April 1st 2018.

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This would also need to be considered by the Avon AA in connection with County Championships entries, notification about team selection, submission of team entries etc.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.englandathletics.org/england-athletics-news/important-reminder-information-for-clubs-about-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr>

2. EA had asked the Association for its views on the possible affiliation of "Active Soul UK" . As this organisation appeared from its website to be adult-based, with a variety of objectives, and did not appear to present a competitive threat to neighbouring clubs, the Chairperson and Secretary had agreed to present no objection, but advised that further enquiries might be justified if they began to cater for young people.

Information from member Clubs / Associations: Southville RC has a new Secretary: Tom Lacey, contactable on secretary@southvillerunningclub.co.uk . The new Chairman of Hogweed Trotters is Richard Finch richjfinch@hotmail.co.uk ; Sonia Cross remains as Secretary.

Revision of Avon AA Constitution: There were no further comments on the current version of the draft Constitution. John Robbins is still considering wording to clarify the contingent liability of the Trustees. The entire document (possibly with this addition) will then be presented for acceptance by the 2018 AGM.

Any Other Business: Hilary Nash spoke of the venue problems which the Avon Track and Field league might have with the closure of the Yate track for refurbishment during the late summer of 2018. The recent parking charges at the SGAS College were proving a massive disincentive to hiring the Kip Keino Track. Hilary would see if he could secure some form of concession from SGAS College, particularly for leading officials of the meeting, who could be at the venue for several hours (and whose parking ticket would need to be renewed after five hours).

Date of Next Meeting: This will be the AGM, followed by an abbreviated Committee Meeting and will be on Monday March 26th 2018, 7.30pm., at UWE Frenchay Campus (subject to room booking). This means that any items for debate at the AGM must be with the General Secretary by February 26th.

[Note: this means that the date '26th March 2018' will be inserted into item 11 of the proposed Constitution]

Meeting Closed at about 9.05pm.