

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday 28th January 2019, in Room 2B054, Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol, starting at 7.30pm.

Those Present: Roger Brocklesby (Bristol & West AC), John Deaton (Secretary), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), Penny Mannings (North Somerset AC), John Robbins (Chairperson), Matthew Viner (Yate & District AC).

Apologies: Martin Bates (North Somerset AC), Pam Gooding (President), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Pat Jefferies (Life Member / Yate & District AC), Ian MacIntosh (Life Member).

Minutes of previous Committee Meeting: (26th November 2018): accepted.

Matters Arising : Covered at other points in the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Hilary Nash issued his Financial Report (copies available on request), which if no corrections are needed will become the Annual Accounts for the AGM. Matters arising:

1. Team Avon has received its transport grant from the YDL
2. The Grant Applications from North Somerset AC had been paid; of the Grant applications by Bristol & West AC, some had been paid, but some would be held back until the coaches had completed all phases of their qualification.
3. Independent Examiner of Accounts: Continuing Minute.

Officials Secretary's Report: Ray Gooding was unable to attend the meeting, but had sent a Report in advance.

1. Ray had been handling the case of a local activist who had had problems with their DBS renewal [post-meeting note: the issue over this particular activist has been resolved]. The meeting moved to a more general discussion of DBS issues: the meeting reminded all members that a qualified coach who has let their DBS lapse is in effect an unqualified volunteer, and clubs should take note of this point, particularly if the coach has moved from another club.
2. Deactivated Officials: Alison Bailey (B&W), Shane Cox (NSAC), Anthony Mattis (B&W)
3. There is a Level 1 Field Judge course, with associated Health & Safety module, at the Downend Folk House on Sunday March 3rd. Take-up was as yet low; John Deaton had publicized it to the Avon League clubs, and would give extra publicity nearer the date.
4. (from JCD) The National Officials Conference will be held on Sunday April 7th, at Hinckley, Leicestershire. Applications should open shortly: officials of all grades would benefit from attending.
5. (from JCD) The organizers of the South-West Inter-Counties Track and Field championships (Sunday 21st July) are urging each County to provide a group of T&F officials for this event.

Road Running / Endurance Matters: South-West Inter-Counties Road Running Championships: as last year, there will be two Championships events. Tony Gale (SW Council Road Running Portfolio holder) has been canvassing the views of South-West counties on when and where these events should be held: with no immediate prospect of Avon teams at these meetings, the Secretary has abstained from the discussions.

Track and Field / Sportshall Matters

1. Avon AA T&F Championships 2019: the various options:
 - 1.1 Championships on the recommended weekend of 12th/13th May? Jeremy Dale is not accepting bookings for the Jefferies Arena (YOSC) until the first weekend in June; the meeting rejected the idea of holding the meeting at Kip Keino Stadium (parking problems and other issues) or at Bath University (cost, not an easy venue for meeting administration; lack of shelter in poor weather).
 - 1.2 Championships at the Jefferies arena on a later date? It would be difficult to find a single date among the crowded mid- to late-season fixture list; the Avon League fixtures still have to be fitted in somewhere.
 - 1.3 Dividing Championships events between a number of existing meetings? John Robbins has already been in discussion with Di Viles of Team Bath AC about incorporating some events in the TBAC FieldFest (Sunday 14th April) or their regular evening Open meeting (late June). Both B&W and Yate & District AC are hoping to hold various Open meetings at the Jefferies arena, and maybe these meeting could host some of the events.

The meeting preferred option 1.3. This does mean that we would be unable to host Mr. Bagdi's party of young Indian athletes.

2. Sportshall: the "Fun In Athletics" meeting went ahead successfully on Sunday January 27th; the Avon Schools Sportshall Trials will take place on Saturday 16th February at the Bristol Grammar School Sportshall.

Cross Country / Trail Matters:

1. Tri-Counties Cross-Country Championships: the event went ahead well. The support was a bit down on previous seasons, with numbers of Somerset and Avon Senior Women being particularly disappointing. The event has been held at the same venue since 2010: is this discouraging entries? The direct clash of date with a Gloucestershire XC League meeting would not have helped.

The organizer for the past three years, Alex Copping (Wiltshire AA), is stepping down from the role, and the Wiltshire AA would like one of the other two Counties to take over the organisation. The Somerset AA has offered to promote for the 2019-20 season: the meeting was happy to accept this offer.

The meeting felt that there needs to be a discussion between the three counties about the future development of the event. Perhaps one county could act as lead organizer for one year, with the others taking responsibility for certain aspects of the meeting (e.g. entry handling). Venues: at the very least, we need a contingency venue for the Championships as an alternative to Bath University.

2. South-West Individual / Inter-Counties Cross-Country Championships (Sunday 6th January 2019, Aldon Hill, Yeovil): the event went ahead well. However the future of Aldon Hill as a Cross-Country venue is not guaranteed.
3. UK CAU Inter-Counties Cross-Country Championships (Saturday 9th March, at Prestwold Park (near Loughborough): Keith Brackstone is assembling the Senior Women's Team and Chris Elson the Senior Men: the remaining age groups selections are being decided under the same process of agreeing ranking lists used in 2017 and 2018.

Simon Prior has agreed to take the Wells City Harriers tent up to Loughborough. The Avon AA tent could serve as a backup, but it had only just fitted into John Deaton's car last year, and he would strongly prefer that someone else collects and returns it.

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

1. England Athletics EGM: this is being held on Wednesday January 30th, in Central London, to amend the Articles of Association of EA to allow for the proposed reforms of the EA Regional Council structure (the Councils would be renamed and re-constituted as Regional Forums if the motion passes). With proxy voting closing 30 minutes before tonight's Meeting, the Officers took a decision (as the Constitution allows) to cast a proxy vote in favour of the proposals.

[Post-meeting Note: the Motion received more positive than negative votes; however any amendment to the EA Articles of Association would require a 75% vote in favour, and this was not achieved].

Whether or not the EGM motion is passed, current EA Regional Council Chair Keith Reed [name added March 2019] and current Council member Mo Pearson would be required to stand down, as they have served their maximum terms under either the current or proposed regulations. Elections for Council / Forum members, under the current or new regulations as appropriate, need to be held before April.

2. The South West Council was considering taking the meeting promotions aspect of their work into some sort of legally recognized organization (probably a CIC), to protect its activists in case of financial mishap.
3. EA Annual Affiliation / Registration: from April 1st, the individual registration fee will remain at £15, but the Club / County / Other Body Affiliation Fee will rise to £150.

Information from member Clubs / Associations: None.

Any Other Business: On some recent coaching courses, participants had felt that some material was directed too much towards the coach / individual athlete situation, when the candidate was more likely to be dealing back at their club with a group situation; also that material was not always aligned towards the age or experience level of the candidate.

Date of Next Meeting (AGM / Abbreviated Committee Meeting): Monday March 25th 2019, 7.30pm., at UWE Frenchay Campus (subject to room booking). This means that any Motions for debate at the AGM must be with the General Secretary by Monday 25th February.

Meeting Closed at about 9.10pm.