

## Avon Athletic Association

**Minutes** of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday January 27th 2020, in Room 2B054, Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol, starting at 7.30pm.

**Those Present:** Roger Brocklesby (Bristol & West AC), John Cox (Great Western Runners), John Deaton (General Secretary), Kelly Dicks (Great Western Runners), Pam Gooding (President), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Tom Lacey (Southville Running Club), Penny Mannings (North Somerset AC), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), Stuart Nunn (Yate & District AC), Arthur Renshaw (Thornbury RC), John Robbins (Chairperson), Jim Strudwick (Avon Schools AA).

**Apologies:** Martin Bates (North Somerset AC), Ian Macintosh (Life Member), Matt Viner (Yate & District AC).

**Minutes of previous Committee Meeting:** (26th November 2019): Accepted.

### Matters Arising:

1. Replacement for Avon AA banner: this has arrived and was fine.
2. "Near-Miss" incident: No response from UKA.
3. Incident at Midland League match: No response from Midland League.

**Treasurer's Report:** Hilary Nash had distributed copies of the latest Statement of Accounts (copies available on request). Comments:

1. County medals: because of the common medal design, there had been no need to re-order in 2019, hence no charge to the Accounts.
2. There was a drop in Championships income because of the non-availability of the Yate track in May 2019 and the consequent decision to incorporate Championships in the Open events; some athletes would normally have competed in the standard Championships and in the corresponding Open Meetings.
3. Hilary is aware of potential claims for course subsidies from Bristol & West AC and Yate & District AC.
4. Hilary intends to carry out a stock check of Avon AA vests before Team Avon's YDL season starts; there may be a need to re-order.

### Officials Secretary's Report:

1. Stephanie Brooks, Sam Hillier-Smith, Liam Hillier and Matt Lewis are now recognized as L1 Field Judges.
2. There is a Level 1 Track Judges course at YOSC on the morning of Sunday 15th March, and a Level 1 Timekeepers course on the afternoon of the same day (it is possible to take part in both). [Post-meeting note: the details are now on the EA website]. There is an Introduction to Officiating day at Exeter on Saturday 14th March, although there is no indication of any qualification arising from it.
3. Bath University AC is arranging a Relays meeting on Wednesday 29th April.

[Post-meeting note: on the day after the meeting, Ray received information from EA which would have been included in his report. This can be found in Appendix A.]

## **Road Running / Endurance Matters**

1. South-West Inter-Counties Road-Running Championships organiser Tony Gale had called for views on the format of the 2020 Championships. The Secretary did not express any views because of Avon's non-participation in recent seasons, , but will keep the local clubs informed of the outcome.
2. The Great Run Local series event at Hengrove Park has started (Sundays, 9.30am start).

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

1. The YDL has decided that Under-13 Boys should race over the same distances as Under-13 Girls (i.e. over 75m / 150m / 1200m). This, however, does not commit any other promoter. The majority view of the meeting was in favour of 75m / 150m / 1500m for the Avon AA Championships and Open meetings.
2. The Avon Schools Sportshall Trials will be at the Bristol Grammar School Sports Hall on Saturday 1st February.

## **Cross-Country / Trail Matters:**

1. Tri-Counties Championships: the event went ahead without major issues. The Somerset AA is willing to organize the event for 2020 and 2021 but not beyond that.
  - 1.1 There were problems with parking because of a major Cross-Fit competition also contending for space. We need to ensure that our event instructions make our arrangements for parking clear, and that STV staff and any of the other event's parking staff were aware of our event.
  - 1.2 The on-line entries system was rather cumbersome, and was probably more suitable for a Marathon rather than a Championship event (e.g. we do not need to know an entrant's home address and expected finish time)
  - 1.3 We need to decide whether Avon team results should be based on athletes' position in the combined races, or simply on relative position against other Avon athletes.
2. The South-West Inter-Counties Cross-Country Championships (Yeovil, Sunday 5th January) went ahead well, although illness and practical difficulties meant that we had no Avon AA vests available. The Aldon Hill venue will still be available in the short term as a Cross-Country venue.
3. UK CAU Inter-Counties Cross-Country Championships (Loughborough, Saturday 7th March): the team selection process is under way.
4. Race Distances for Senior Women: Southville RC and Great Western Runners consider that Senior Women should compete over the same distances as Senior Men. The meeting sympathized with the principle of gender equality, but recognized the practical difficulties which might be involved.
  - 4.1 Tri-Counties Championships: any change would need to be agreed with the Wiltshire AA and the Somerset AA.
  - 4.2 John H. Collins Gwent League: there would be practical difficulties to overcome: for example, even with the current Senior Women's distances, the tail-ender women are sometimes passed by the winner of the next race. The Gwent League finish team did not welcome the thought of a combined Men's and Women's race.  
The Gwent League is reportedly carrying out a survey of clubs during the 2019-20 season and to be discussing the matter at the 2020 AGM (usually in May): the participant clubs from Avon would be urged to attend this.

Another potential issue: the U11 / U13 / U15 races are contested over the same distances:  
Should the joint U17 / U20 races also operate over the same distances?

**Information from Outside Bodies (e.g. MCAA, EA, SW Council):** None.

**Information from Member Clubs / Associations:**

1. The Jefferies Arena Track at Yate has received its TrackMark. The Bath University track and the Whitehall track are working towards Track Mark; the Kip Keino track's cage has failed its TrackMark inspection.
2. Yate & District AC has been accepted into the UK National League (the competition formed from the amalgamation of the British Athletics League and the UK Women's League).

**Any Other Business:** None.

**Date of Next Meeting:** (AGM and abbreviated Committee Meeting): Monday 30th 2020, 7.30pm., at UWE Frenchay Campus (subject to room booking). This means that motions for debate at the AGM must be with the General Secretary by Monday March 2nd.

{Post-meeting note: Gordon Robbins is willing to accept re-nomination as a Trustee}

**Meeting Closed** at about 8.50pm.

## **APPENDIX A.**

### **Information from England Athletics on January 28th 2020**

1. Due to complaints from officials that have had to wait a long time to receive a report, EA has now set a 4 week turn-around time for its completion.

2. Level 2 question papers are being reviewed to ensure that they are up to date with regard to the Rules. Starter/Marksman questions are to be separated so that those wishing only to be a Marksman don't have to answer the Starters questions. The pass rate required for all level 2 questions is now set at 75%. However, there is still no specific instructions to tutors on how to mark these questions, so open to variation.

3. Resulting from my scrap with a level 1 tutor and EA last year concerning an under 16 year old trainee, EA has produced the following statement.

"We have a number of young officials who can't yet apply for their level 1 licence due to the DBS requirements, but have completed more than enough experiences to reach even their level 2. As long as the level 1 requirements have been met (attendance at a course and the relevant experiences) any additional experiences they get after this can be used towards level 2 - they don't need to wait until the level 1 licence has been received. A report however, cannot be completed on an individual until they have their level 1 licence. Wording on the forms will be changed to reflect this."

4. Technology will be emphasised on applications to levels 3 and 4. Also the pass rates were agreed at 85% for level 3 and 90% for level 4. These are assessed by the Tri-Regional contact.

5. Any person attending an EA taster session will get a free place on a level 1 course and paired with a mentor to support them

(End of Appendix A)