

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday January 31st 2022, by Zoom, starting at 7.00pm.

Those Present: John Cox (GWR), John Deaton (General Secretary), Kelly Dicks (GWR), Pam Gooding (President), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Penny Mannings (North Somerset AC), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), John Robbins (Chairperson), Jim Strudwick (Avon Schools AA)

Apologies: Debbie Brooks, Andrea Garcia-Lock (SGS College), Ian Macintosh (Life Member), Arthur Renshaw (Thornbury RC).

The meeting noted with sadness the passing of Audrey Butler, a long-serving member of Great Western Runners.

Minutes of previous Committee Meeting: (22nd November 2021): Accepted.

Matters Arising:

1. Intercom Radios: No response from members yet.
2. Officials' Polo Shirts: An augmented supply was needed, but Ray and John Robbins would wait until nearer the Track season to see how many potential Avon officials would proceed to qualification and therefore would be entitled to a vest..

Treasurer's Report: (Distributed in advance; copies available on request):

1. The affiliation fee for SGS College has been received.
2. UK CAU Inter-Counties Cross-Championships; John Deaton has submitted entries for 10 Avon and Somerset teams, at a cost of £215-00. The fees are a significant increase from those for the last running of the event in 2020. In recent years The Avon AA has met the entry fees and the Somerset AA the cost of re-stocking Avon and Somerset vests. This cost division may no longer be appropriate: Hilary Nash was authorised to negotiate with the Somerset AA Treasurer on this matter as he saw fit.

Officials Secretary's Report: This was distributed in advance (copies available on request).

1. Added to Avon Lists: Jim Lawrence [name added] Timekeeper level 3; Field Judge level 2; Track judge level 3

Deactivated: James and Leanne Briffit (North Somerset AC), Kevin Davies and Ryan Macquiston (Bristol & West AC), John Morgan (Westbury Harriers)
2. Ray had been trying to progress a Level 2 Timekeeper through EA's system since mid-October without success. John Deaton will try to raise this at the EA SW Council meeting.

Road Running / Endurance Matters:

1. The meeting recommended the following events (subject to discussion with Arthur Renshaw) as 2022 Avon County Road Championships: Hogweed 10km on Monday 30th May; Cleeve Road Relays (Sunday 28th August); Oldbury Power 10 Miles (Sunday 18th September).
2. The Chew Valley 10km will be going ahead on Sunday 12th June with increased numbers of participants allowed; the Towpath Series races will also be going ahead in 2022.

Track & Field / Sportshall Matters:

1. South-West Indoor T&F Championships: the remaining events for Under-13s / Under 15s / Under 17s have been rescheduled to Sunday February 20th. It will not be possible to hold Under-20 or Senior Championships this season.
2. The Avon Schools Sportshall Trials, scheduled for Saturday 29th January, have been put back to Saturday 30th April. This would fall well after the likely date of any South-West Sportshall Championships, so Avon would be unable to field teams in the event this season (even if it takes place).
3. Avon AA Track and Field Championships:
 - 3.1 The meeting was aiming for Championships events in the afternoon of Saturday 14th May and all day on Sunday 15th May, both at YOSC. The morning of Saturday 14th May was already booked for Yate Junior Academy sessions. It would be advisable not to timetable too many events for younger athletes on the Saturday afternoon.

We would want to consider how middle-distance events for Under 13 and Under 15 Boys and Girls could be scheduled to allow athletes to contend for both 800m and 1500m medals.
 - 3.2 The Somerset AA were interested in holding some of their Championships events in collaboration with Avon's. Somerset normally holds a two-day Championships at Yeovil on the UKA-recommended Championships weekend, involving many entrants from the county's Independent Schools. However the Yeovil track is not available on the Saturday afternoon. The Secretary would contact David Cooke (Somerset AA Secretary) to outline the Avon AA situation, and to ask him to liaise with John Robbins to discuss potential cooperation.
 - 3.3 Yate & District AC had offered to lead on the provision of meeting officials. However there will be plenty of other activists required, including on numbers issue and medals presentations.
 - 3.4 John Robbins would be approaching Steve Grant regarding handling entries. EA were endorsing the use of an Entries / Results system by Roster Athletics, but the meeting felt that Steve (if willing) should be given discretion over the system he used, and that we would prefer to learn the experiences of other clubs and promoters with the Roster system before backing it for Avon AA use [Post-meeting note: Yeovil Olympiads AC are using it for their Spring Open meetings on 16th and 18th April].
 - 3.5 [Post-meeting note: Mr. Ravi Bagdi is interested in bringing a party of Indian athletes to the Championships again. How they would be affected by Covid regulations in force at the time in Britain and on their return to India is not yet clear].
4. South-West T&F Championships: These are scheduled for Sunday 17th July at Exeter Arena. One problem is that David Cooke, the Lead Organiser for the last few years, will be out of the country for part of the build-up to the event.

Cross Country / Trail Matters

1. Tri-Counties XC Championships (Sunday 19th December, Bath University): these went ahead well, although more communication from the Lead Organiser (a Somerset activist) in the build-up to the event would have been helpful. All the Avon medals have now been distributed.

It is understood that Stuart Nunn recovered promptly from his medical issue at the event.

The organiser had been accepting entries up till noon on the day before the event: the meeting considered that this was too indulgent, giving no time to resolve queries such as County eligibility, and tempting competitors into waiting for a weather forecast before entering. The meeting recommended that entries should close about a week before the event.

[Post meeting Note: Many attendees at the event were unaware of the University's extension of car parking charges to cover Sunday daytimes, and that these are only payable via a mobile phone app. This needs to be considered by those attending YDL fixtures or Open meetings at the University on Sundays].

In the 2022-23 season it would be Avon's turn to be Lead Organising County. John Robbins was prepared to coordinate the initial arrangements. The meeting put forward the following suggestions:

- 1.1 The meeting should not be held on the last Sunday before Christmas. An earlier date needs to be considered (maybe even moving into late November?) and other local promoters (notably the Gloucester League) advised of the date well in advance.
- 1.2 For Seniors: a Short Race (about 6.6km) and a Long Race (about 10.3km), each open to both Men and Women.
- 1.3 Running Under-11 Boys and Under-11 Girls together
- 1.4 Providing the same distance of races for Under 17/20 Women as for Under 17/20 Men

Even if Avon activists agree with all / most of the above proposals, they would each need to be agreed with the Wiltshire AA and the Somerset AA.

2. South-West Inter-Counties XC Championships (Sunday January 2nd 2022, RNAS Merryfield, near Ilton, Somerset): these went ahead well, and the EA SW Council is considering returning there for the 2022-23 season (potentially on Sunday January 8th 2023). The shorter-than-normal Senior Men's race had met with considerable (but not unanimous) approval.
3. UK CAU Inter-Counties Cross-Country Championships (Saturday 12th March, Prestwold Park, Loughborough): teams and reserves will shortly be announced. John Deaton is hoping to secure the use of a club tent from a Somerset or Avon club, and is seeking some volunteers to act as "meeters and greeters" at the tent, and to help with vest issue.

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

1. EA South-West Volunteers Awards 2021: Yate & District AC won the Club of the Year award; the Coach of the Year award went to Bruce Holden (with Sam Hillier-Smith as runner-up); Henrietta Anstey won the Newcomer to Officiating award; Ellen Taylor the Unsung Hero award; and James Viner the Young Official of the Year award. However for the second successive year no South-West individual or organisation was short-listed for a National Volunteer award.
2. The Government is pledged to introduce "Protect Duty" legislation in response to the 2017 Manchester Arena bombing. The major Games and major Road Race events will already have (understandably unpublicised) measures in place to combat possible terror attacks, but it is not yet clear how smaller-scale events would be expected to respond. Member clubs are advised to keep the situation under observation.

Information from Member Clubs / Associations

1. The new Secretary of Southville Running club is Penny Guess, penny@southvillerunningclub.co.uk.

2. Jim Kyle had sent in a description of the Adaptive and Para-Athletics activities under way at Yate Outdoor Sports centre: see Appendix 1 of these Minutes for more details.

Jim had also given details of a programme for deaf people and families based at SGS College, Wise Campus (available on request). A formal Certificated course at the college entitled “Supporting the Athlete in the Family”, inspired by the Canadian programme designed for parents, is under development.

There is a budget for training of coaches and officials who would be interested to become involved in either sphere, and Jim is keen to reach out to existing experienced coaches/officials with an interest in this area of work.

Any Other Business: Damaged Seiko Printer / Stopwatch: Ray had been in touch with Seiko’s UK headquarters, who were willing to examine the watch and to give a quotation for its repair (if feasible). Ray was authorised to post the watch to Seiko and would be reimbursed the cost: further action would depend on the estimate.

Date of AGM / Abbreviated Committee Meeting: Monday 14th March, 7.00pm. by Zoom.

The meeting discussed whether meetings from May onwards should be held by Zoom or in person, and whether Mondays were still the best (or least-worst) option for holding meetings. The Secretary would canvass views on this and enquire whether UWE would be able to host meetings yet.

Meeting Closed at about 8.20pm.

APPENDIX 1

Yate Adaptive and Para-Athletics

Since May 2021, Yate Athletics Club has a new programme with support from Sport England and South Gloucestershire Council and Yate Town Council, to provide special adapted sessions in athletics. We have moved from old terminology like “disabled” athletics and “disability” athletics which focus on what people cannot do, to activities which are adapted to empower and develop the individual.

We have a simple approach:

“Respect the person and adapt the activity”

The development plan for Adaptive Athletics is long term and it expects to work with people with a wide range of needs and skills.

From January 2022, Adaptive Athletics is expanding to include older school children as well as adults with a wide range of disabilities. We concentrate on what people can do and adapt our athletic challenges to match. We have a range of new equipment for fitness and a range of racing wheelchairs, frame runners and seated throws.



We welcome those who are just beginning their journey, as well as those with aspirations for International Paralympic success.

Sessions are:

- Mondays 10.30 to 12.00 adults with physical disability
- Mondays 12.00 to 1.30 pm wheelchair racing and frame running
- Fridays 4.15 to 5.15: Primary school age adaptive athletics
- Fridays 5.30 to 6.30pm 12 to 15 year old adaptive athletics
- Fridays 6.30pm to 8pm - youth and adult para-athletes

The sessions are based at Yate Outdoor Sports Complex, and are funded by Sport England and Yate Town Council.

For more information contact Jim; adaptive4athletics@gmail.com

Yate Outdoor Sports Complex, Broad Lane, Yate, BS37

