

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Meeting of Officers of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday July 7th 2014, in Room 2B066, Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol, starting at 7.30pm.

Those Present: John Deaton (Secretary), Rachael Fisher (Vice-Chairperson / North Somerset AC), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), John Robbins (President). John Robbins took the Chair.

Apologies: Mike Down (Bristol & West AC), Pam Gooding (Life Member), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Ian Macintosh (Trustee), Neil Miller (Westbury H. / SW Council), Neil Newman (Emersons Green RC), Gareth Thomas (Thornbury RC), Mike Willcox (GWR).

NOTE: in view of the low attendance, it was agreed to constitute the meeting as a Meeting of Officers, with the business discussed to be ratified at the next Committee Meeting.

Appointment of Chairperson: No nominations had been received.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: (April 28th 2014): no-one had contacted the Secretary contesting the contents of the draft Minutes distributed shortly after the meeting, and as the President and Treasurer considered them accurate, the Minutes were accepted.

Matters Arising :

1. Affiliations: Somer AC and Town and Country Harriers no longer wished to remain with the Association. Bristol University AC wished to re-affiliate: it was agreed that their affiliation fee could run from September to August in line with the academic year.
2. Addition of John Robbins to list of signatories for the Association's bank Accounts: still to be actioned.
3. EA Consultation: on-line survey closes on July 18th.
4. The Bristol Street Sprints / Miles will not go ahead for 2014: a B&W working party is meeting to discuss arrangements for the Mile Sully meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Hilary's report had been circulated in advance of the meeting (copies available on request). There were a small number of outstanding affiliation fees. The First Aid invoice for the May Open meeting is outstanding, but is expected shortly after the July Open Meeting.

Officials Secretary's Report : EA now considers some local Officials inactive after their failure to obtain or renew DBS clearance; others may soon lose their status through failing to attend the required Health and Safety course (Track and Field) or Risk Assessment (Endurance). Ray would like to arrange Level 2 Timekeeper, Field Judge and Endurance Officials course plus a Health and Safety course over the next few months: the meeting endorsed these proposals.

Road Running / MT matters: No volunteer had come forward as Road Running Coordinator: Gordon Robbins is continuing to issue the Avon Race Diary. Stuart Hancock and Kate Brittain [correction: Britten] were reviving the Avon Road Relay Championships (Sunday August 31st, Cleve Cricket Club, 11.00am): Mike Down was happy to act as Avon AA liaison with them. John Robbins would liaise with Gordon Robbins concerning medals ordering for the Relays and the 10 Mile Championships.

Track and Field / Sportshall Matters:

1. Avon / West of England T&F Championships 2014: the meeting had gone ahead well with duties divided among various people, although it would have been preferable to have one person with overall oversight of the arrangements. The following comments were made:
 - 1.1 The concept of holding the U13/U15 800m events in the Avon AA Open Meeting on the preceding Tuesday was well received: it has been suggested that more Championships events (perhaps a Senior 3000m / 5000m) could be held at an Open meeting. Not all competitors had understood the entry fee arrangements.
 - 1.2 Mr. Ravi Bagdi, the coach to the group of Indian athletes who took part in the Championships, had sent an e-mail thanking us for allowing their participation in the event. The Indian athletes had been awarded medals if they finished in a medal-winning position; other Avon medals were awarded as if the Indian athletes had not taken part.
 - 1.3 The manual entry system worked well, although confirmation of online payments was sometimes tricky; however an online system could be considered for the future if it had suitable facilities and flexibility. The Entry Form needs to be redesigned.
 - 1.4 Medals: a formal presentation would be preferable, but with limited helpers available, the meeting considered it safer to allow medalists to collect their awards from the administration table. Various medals not collected on the day have been (or will shortly be) passed to the respective clubs. It was felt that we should obtain alternative quotes for medal supply.
 - 1.5 Meeting enhancements: we had hoped to use electronic timing, but the equipment was out of action; there were probably too few long-throws competitors to justify future use of EDM. There may be scope for extra publicity of the event.
2. South-West T&F Championships: the closing date for entries is July 30th. The Association will not make use of the reported extension to August 6th for extra "County Team members", and will not be issuing County vests .
3. UK CAU Inter-Counties T&F Championships: The Secretary has passed information about the entry system for these Championships to Ken Holmes. Clubs with athletes wanting to be considered for this event (the Avon & Somerset team is allowed two athletes per event at most, and entry standards operate) need to contact Ken Holmes well before August 14th.

Cross-Country /Trail Matters: There were still no volunteers for the positions of Cross-Country Coordinator or Senior / Under 20 Men's Team Manager. Arrangements are in hand for the Tri-County Cross-Country Championships: the Secretary had only received one opinion so far on the matter of the Under-20's event.

Avon Network Matters:

1. A Network meeting was held on April 30th; a proposed meeting on June 25th did not take place. A Gait Analysis workshop was held on June 4th in Bristol, and a workshop on "Preparations for Winter" is scheduled for September 6th in Bristol.
2. The future of the Avon Network in its present form must be in some doubt. There is currently no paid Coordinator and few activists: the funding for this year's activity is basically the unspent allocation from last year. With EA's potential funding deficit from 2015 onwards, Network funding may be a target for cutbacks. Participation by Local Authority representatives had dwindled; doubts were expressed whether the county's clubs were showing enough interest in what the Network was trying to do. John Robbins would contact Stuart Nunn to clarify the current situation.

Information from Outside Bodies:

1. The Secretary had received five copies of the new edition of the UKA booklet "How to Judge Field Events". It was agreed that one copy should go to each of the five Track and Field clubs in the Association.
2. The Royal Society of Medicine is organizing a South-West Sports Medicine conference on Wednesday 24th September at UWE. Details can be found at <https://www.rsm.ac.uk/events/events-listing/2013-2014/groups/regional-programme/ree07-south-west-sports-medicine.aspx>.

Information from Member Clubs / Associations:

1. Gareth Thomas (Chair, Thornbury RC) is shortly moving from the area. The Association is grateful to Gareth for his work, particularly in his promotion of the Oldbury Power Station 10 Mile event (our Championships race for many years).
2. The Portishead MT promotion will go ahead on Sunday 28th September, but there will only be a 10km option this year.

Any Other Business:

1. The meeting discussed Secretary's draft proposals on County medals allocation and made various amendments. An updated version would be circulated.
2. A coach had e-mailed the Secretary asking for financial support: while sympathetic to the coach's case, the meeting felt that the application may be more suitable for the Avon Network, who may be in a position to give financial support in return for a contribution in kind, e.g. presentations at a future workshop.
3. The meeting was sorry to hear that Ray Jaeckels (former Race Director of the Bristol Half Marathon and current Technical Director) is currently in hospital.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday September 15th at UWE [subject to room availability].

Meeting Closed at about 9.00pm.