

## Avon Athletic Association

**Minutes** of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday July 25th 2016, in Room 4B003, Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol, starting at 7.30pm.

**Those Present:** Andrew Ballentine (North Somerset AC), John Deaton (Secretary), Martin Fisher (North Somerset AC), Pam Gooding (President), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), John Robbins (Chairperson).

**Apologies:** Rachael Fisher (Vice-Chairperson), Ian Macintosh (Trustee), James Murphy (Westbury Harriers / Welfare), Jim Strudwick (Avon Schools AA) .

**Minutes of previous Committee Meeting:** (June 6th 2016): accepted.

### Matters Arising :

1. AGM 2015 item on Constitution clause concerning distribution of funds in the event of dissolution: continuing minute.
2. Avon AA Sound Equipment, Avon AA Assets List: continuing minute.
3. The Secretary had received an e-mail of thanks from Jim Strudwick on behalf of the Avon Schools AA for the Association's financial support towards the expenses of their competition at the 2016 ESAA Championships.

**Treasurer's Report:** Hilary Nash submitted an updated financial report (copies available on request). Among the points arising:

1. The Association had received a grant from EA in respect of the County T&F Championships
2. "Team Avon" in the YDL Upper Age Group have finished second in the Premier South-West division, so will go into a paper match to decide whether they qualify for the National Finals. This could put the team under financial strain, especially as their coach to the match at Carmarthen was poorly supported. The Association would be prepared to consider financial support if the team reaches the Finals.
3. Bristol University AC would be approached regarding affiliation fees in the new academic year.

### Officials Secretary's Report:

1. Graham Brooks (NSAC) had qualified as a Level 1 Field Judge.
2. The only Officials courses currently available in the immediate area were at Cheltenham on Saturday October 15th (Field Judge, Health & Safety). Ray Gooding was willing to run / arrange Officials courses where there was sufficient demand. The meeting felt that, where possible, officials courses should be held in the Spring, closer to the time when trainees could put their new knowledge into practice.
3. UKA had issued a bulletin on Throws Event Safety: Ray Gooding had circulated this to local officials and the Secretary had distributed it to the Avon circulation list. The meeting wondered what had prompted the issue of this document: an increase in incidents maybe, possibly connected with the use of less-experienced officials? Ray Gooding would make enquiries with UKA.

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4. A course for the theory section for the Level 4 Officials qualification (National / International level) is being held in Birmingham on Saturday November 5th (those wanting to attend for interest / education would still be welcome). However for local officials seeking Level 4 status, there remains the problem of seeking enough meeting reports for upgrading.
5. Keith Reed (SW Council) had requested extra officials for the SW Inter-Counties T&F Championships at Exeter on Sunday August 7th: however many local officials would be committed to BAL / UKWL / Midland League fixtures that weekend.

### **Road Running /Endurance Matters**

1. SW Road Running Championships: Avon had submitted incomplete teams for the Frome 10km, but still managed to finish third in both Men's and Women's competitions, placing the county second overall in each category in the series. However on the entry lists as at July 11th for the third and final round (Sturminster Newton Half Marathon, Sunday August 7th) there are no members of Avon-affiliated clubs [post-meeting note: in the updated list as at July 26th there still aren't any]. John Deaton had submitted an appeal to the Secretaries of Avon clubs with adult endurance sections for competitors for this race: if none comes forward very soon, the County would be obliged to declare that it had no teams for the event.

In the longer term: the meeting felt that a single Championship race per year was more appropriate.

2. Cleeve Road Relays: these are going ahead on Sunday August 28th. The meeting urged all 13 Avon open clubs with adult endurance sections to submit at least one team for this event.
3. Proposed SW Road Relays: a pilot SW Road Relay event is reportedly being scheduled for September, but it will only be for the five original South-West counties (i.e. not for Avon or Gloucestershire). At present there is no suggestion from the SW Council or EA that Avon or Gloucestershire clubs would be coerced into qualifying for National events via South-West events rather than Midlands events, although the situation will clearly need to be kept under observation.
4. Great Bristol Half Marathon: there are some city-centre road works affecting part of the proposed course which may or may not be completed in time for the event. A contingency plan, involving slight relocation of the start and finish line, has been prepared.
5. The Avon AA 10 Mile Championships will be incorporated in the Oldbury on Severn 10 Mile race, to be held on Sunday 11th September.

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

1. UK CAU Inter-Counties Championships (July 30th/31st): various Somerset and Avon athletes have entered the EA Championships, which is a pre-condition for selection for the UK CAU teams.
2. South-West Inter-Counties T&F Championships (Exeter, Sunday 7th August): there have been a range of problems with the on-line entry system, so the entry closing date had been put back to July 31st and the checks on the site against stated standards removed. The entry standards for some field events were unreasonably high (although the organiser had conceded an informal relaxation of the B standards for these): the whole issue of event standards for 2017 and beyond needs to be looked at once the 2016 event is over.

County vests: Hilary Nash would pass the supplies over to John Deaton at Sunday's Avon League match, John would take them to Exeter. New vests would be sold at £10 (a subsidised price), used vests at £5, or vests loaned out against a £5 deposit.

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There were several athletes nominated for the Avon team who had not yet indicated their availability or submitted an on-line entry: John Deaton would send out another reminder to the relevant clubs.

3. Sportshall: Hilary Nash hoped to have the fixture dates for the 2016-7 season soon.

### **Cross Country / Trail Matters**

1. The 2016-7 Tri-Counties Championships will be held at Bath University on Sunday 11th December, and the 2016-7 South-West Counties Championships at Exeter Racecourse on Sunday 8th January.
2. UK CAU Inter-Counties Cross-Country Championships: as requested at the April meeting, the Secretary had sent a letter outlining the Association's concerns to his Somerset counterpart : this had been acknowledged, but no formal response had been received. Unless anyone else from Avon is willing to take on the job, John Deaton is willing to be proposed as leader of the Avon / Somerset team effort.

The meeting considered that the selection policy for the Avon & Somerset teams needs to be set out clearly, and that selection decisions should, if reasonably possible, be made by e-mail discussion, with a face-to-face meeting only being held as a last resort.

**Information from Outside Bodies (e.g. MCAA, EA, SW Council)** There will be a SW Council meeting on Wednesday October 5th: John Deaton hopes to be able to attend.

### **Information from member Clubs / Associations:**

1. The new General Secretary of Bristol & West AC is Owain Jones, [secretary@bristolandwestac.org](mailto:secretary@bristolandwestac.org) .
2. The new Chairman of North Somerset AC is Graham Brooks, and their new Secretary is Andrew Ballentine, [aballentine74@gmail.com](mailto:aballentine74@gmail.com) .

**Any Other Business:** Rachael Fisher has stepped down as the Vice-Chairperson of the Avon AA with immediate effect. The Avon AA is grateful for her work as an Officer of the Association.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Monday September 26th 2016, 7.30pm., at UWE Frenchay Campus (subject to room booking).

**Meeting Closed** at about 8.50pm.