

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday July 24th 2017, in Room 2B066, Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol, starting at 7.30pm.

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

Apologies: Roger Brocklesby (Bristol & West AC), Ian Macintosh (Trustee), James Murphy (Westbury Harriers / Welfare) .

Minutes of previous Committee Meeting: (June 5th 2017): accepted.

Matters Arising : None.

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

1. The affiliation fee for one of the member clubs was still outstanding: Hilary would send a reminder.
2. Equipment: Hilary had received the laptop computer and laser-jet printer; the wind gauge had arrived but there was an issue with the consignment as delivered. The software still had to be acquired.
3. The track hire bill for the T&F Championships had been paid.

Officials Secretary's Report:

1. Beverley Barrett and Ray Gooding had been upgraded to Level 2 Timekeepers. Mike Strange had stepped down as a Timekeeping Tutor.
2. Pam and Ray Gooding have been asked to attend a two-day Tutor Re-Training course (around November). The Officials education courses would now require more practical involvement by the trainee. The meeting hoped that more courses could be supplied on-line.
3. Andrea Garcia-Lock (SGS College) is trying to arrange an Assistant Officials course for students at the College, which may or may not be available for non-students. There is also the possibility of an Athletics Leader course based at the College.
4. Level 1 Officials courses are available at Cheltenham (September 30th; TK/FJ/H&S) and Salisbury (1st October; TK/TJ/FJ/H&S).
5. We may well need more Avon AA polo shirts by next Track season: Ray Gooding and John Robbins would each make enquiries from potential suppliers on price and quality.
6. England Athletics is encouraging clubs to organise Volunteer Open Days, with a focus on Officials' Taster Sessions. The Association was prepared to give practical help to any club intending to stage one of these meetings, but did not feel in a position to organise such a day itself.

Road Running /Endurance Matters

1. Avon Road Relays Sunday August 27th: [post-meeting note: entry details now published]

2. South-West Inter-Counties Road Running Championships Round 2 (Great West Half Marathon, Exeter, Sunday 15th October): the organisers have agreed that County Team members would be charged £25 against the regular fee of £32 [Note: a Team Manager would be needed to arrange this].

Track and Field / Sportshall Matters

1. Avon AA Open T&F Meeting (Tuesday June 20th): organisationally this went ahead well. However the attendance (on a fine evening, with electronic timing used) was disappointing, with turnout being poor from Avon AA clubs. The Secretary was asked to contact the County's Track and Field clubs for their views on the Avon meetings.

John Robbins was disappointed with the small financial surplus for the labour expended: he would discuss the situation of the Avon / B&W event series with Keith Brackstone. The choice of meeting dates at the Kip Keino stadium for 2017 had been restricted by the Bristol City Women's FC fixtures, but these are likely to revert to Winter dates for 2018.

2. South-West Inter-Counties T&F Championships (Sunday 20th August, Exeter): entries for this event close on Sunday August 6th. John Deaton had put out a plea for Team Managers for this meeting (so that he could operate principally as a Field Official on the day), but had received no response so far.
3. Sportshall dates for 2017-8: "Fun In Athletics" (Under-11's) Regional Championships: Sunday 28th January at Wellsway School, Keynsham; South-West Sportshall Championships: Saturday 3rd March, Torbay Leisure Centre; UK Finals: Weekend 14th/15th April, SportCity, Manchester.

Cross Country / Trail Matters

1. 2017-8 Tri-Counties Cross-Country Championships: the Wiltshire AA has offered to promote this again, on Sunday 10th December 2017 at Bath University. The meeting supported the proposals.
2. 2017-8 South-West Championships: the proposed date is Sunday January 7th 2018; venue to be announced. UK CAU Inter-Counties Championships: arranged for Saturday 10th March at Prestwold Park, Loughborough.

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

1. Proposals for UKA Rule Changes from April 2018: no Avon club had advised the Secretary of any proposals they planned to submit. However Leighton Buzzard AC were planning to submit a proposal that an extra County qualification should be that an athlete is a first-claim member of a club affiliated to the County Association. The meeting was happy to see the Leighton Buzzard AC proposal being submitted, and urged that clubs examine the full list of proposed changes with exact wording [Note: publication is scheduled for 2nd October 2017] and express their views [Note: final date for submission will be 6th November 2017].
2. On September 30th EA South-West Region will be holding a Conference afternoon, at Buckerill Lodge, Exeter (starting around 2.00pm, ending around 6.00pm). This will include the annual EA Consultation meeting for the South-West and the EA South-West Volunteer awards presentations. More information to follow.

Information from member Clubs / Associations: None.

Revision of Avon AA Constitution: The meeting discussed the second phase of the revision proposals (details of the progress so far available from the Secretary on request).

Any Other Business

1. Photography: some of those present at the YDL Upper Age Group fixture at Yate on Sunday 23rd July had been concerned about the apparent actions of one photographer. The meeting acknowledged that with the advent of camera-phones etc. it was difficult to monitor the making of images of an athletics meeting, but felt that those involved with meeting organisation and officiating need to be vigilant about potential problems.

The meeting emphasised the need for those wishing to take photographic or video images to sign in, and to observe any special requirements for a particular competition. Perhaps some system of stickers (as used on throwers' personal implements at major meetings) or wristbands could be devised?

2. John Robbins suggested that we should consider using some of our financial balance to give some sort of recognition for those regularly acting as Avon AA Officials (all disciplines). Possibilities included wet-weather gear or sweatshirts; John R. would welcome other ideas. We would also need to draw up a definition of "regularly acting".

Date of Next Committee Meeting: Monday September 18th 2017, 7.30pm., at UWE Frenchay Campus (subject to room booking).

Meeting Closed at about 9.20pm.