

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday June 8th 2015, 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), Pam Gooding (President), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), John Robbins (Chairperson).

Apologies: Ian Macintosh (Trustee), Jim Strudwick (Avon Schools AA).

Minutes of Abbreviated Committee Meeting: (March 24th 2015): accepted.

Matters Arising :

1. Bristol to Bath Marathon: the meeting was unaware of what arrangements for a race permit were being made, or whether the required permissions for road closures had been granted.
 2. 2000m Steeplechase: one athlete had competed at the Avon AA meeting on May 10th and none at the Bristol & West meeting on April 21st. John Robbins would investigate whether the event scheduled for the Avon AA Open Meeting on July 21st was still relevant for major meeting qualification times.
 3. The Leading Athletics course (Mondays 13th and 20th April, Bristol) and the Disability Inclusion Training Day (Clevedon, 12th April) both went ahead successfully.
 4. Avon / West of England T&F Championships:
 - 4.1 The 800m events for Under-13's and Under-15's Boys and Girls had gone ahead as part of the Avon AA Open Meeting on Tuesday 10th May (the Under-13 Boys event was held as a Time Trial): most entrants seemed to have understood the entry process. The main Championships went ahead successfully, although with fewer Field Officials than the ideal. Senior entries were disappointing (just two competitors in the Senior Men's track events); the event was on the same weekend as an Upper Age Group YDL fixture, although Team Avon may have been worse hit than the Championships.
 - 4.2 Jim Strudwick had attended the Wiltshire AA T&F Championships, and suggested that certain features of that meeting could be considered when planning for our event next year:
 - ... time slots set aside in the programme for medals presentations
 - ... details of South-West Championships distributed to those athletes who had achieved the qualifying performance
 - ... time trials to replace the need for heats and finals.
- These points would be considered again when considering the 2016 event.
5. Sportshall: the final amount for the Avon AA's support of the Sportshall teams for the National Finals was £740. Dave Turner was extremely grateful for this support, but acknowledged that it could not be a regular contribution. John Robbins would convene a meeting with Dave, Jim Strudwick and Hilary Nash to explore ways of financing future Avon Sportshall teams. John Deaton had attended the EA Consultative meeting at Oxford on May 6th and had raised the subject of Sportshall: the EA representatives at the meeting were sympathetic to the situation, but stated that, even if replacement sponsorship could be found, the funds input are likely to be less than in the Aviva days.

6. UK CAU Fell Running Championships: as Bristol & West athletes Owain Jones and Matt Whitfield decided to join Felix McGrath at the event, Avon & Somerset was able to field a scoring Men's team, which finished fourth (with Owain Jones as 4th individual).

Matters Arising from AGM:

1. Track and Field Coordinator, Cross-Country Coordinator, Road Running Coordinator: posts still unfilled.
2. Constitution item on distribution of funds in the event of Dissolution: there were various recipients suggested for the surplus funds, including England Athletics (but how could we guarantee that the funds would be used in the Avon area?), the member clubs and associations (but on what basis should the funds be divided?), some sort of Trust, or Wesport. John Robbins would seek the views of the three Trustees to ensure that they were comfortable with any arrangements that might be made. If necessary, John Deaton would contact EA and Wesport to see if they would be able to act as fund-holders in the way we might hope for.

Treasurer's Report: Hilary Nash provided a Treasurer's Report (copies [and post-meeting update] available on request). The revenue from the May 10th Open Meeting may appear low, but the entry fees for the 800m Championships events would be included in the main Championships takings.

There has been a general feeling for some time that the Association holds more funds than it needs to, but also that the financial discipline developed during Gordon Robbins's Chairmanship should be maintained, and that projects should not expect subsidy year after year. John Deaton would draw up a draft document (for discussion among the Officers in the first instance) looking at constructive ways of reducing the balances.

Officials Secretary's Report: Ray Gooding submitted his report (copies available on request). Ray has four copies of the 2014-6 UKA Rule Book: free to the first four requests.

Road Running / Endurance Matters: The Avon AA 10km Championships went ahead as part of the Hogweed 10km race on Monday 18th May. The Secretary had found a list of recently-formed running groups in the area, and would contact them, to introduce the Association rather than aiming to recruit them.

Arrangements for 2015 SW Inter-Counties Track and Field Championships

The primary emphasis of the 2015 Championships (Sunday 19th July, Exeter) will be an inter-County competition, with an individual element in addition (as preferred (reportedly) by most of the other counties of the South-West). The entry procedure will be:

- ... Team Managers will notify athletes selected for the County (one athlete per event as of right, a second provided that both have achieved the qualifying standard)
- ... Selected athletes will need to enter (and pay) on-line: as compensation, all such athletes will be allowed their first event free at the Avon AA Open T&F meeting on July 21st. For these events the competitors will need to wear Avon vests.
- ... The County Team declarations need to be completed by June 21st
- ... Selected athletes can enter extra events as individuals, or non-selected athletes enter as individuals, provided that they have achieved the event qualifying standard. For these events, athletes will need to wear their club vests.
- ... Individual entries close on July 5th.

Team Managers: at the time of this meeting, Ken Holmes (Seniors) still has to commit himself finally; Dean Garrett (U13/U15) was okay for the meeting but will probably welcome help; there were no managers for U17's/U20's, but John Deaton will most reluctantly fill in if necessary. County supporters should not expect particularly good results.

County vests: there may very possibly be a logistical problem in getting vests to Exeter, and back in time for their use at the following weekend's YDL Upper Age Group competition with Team Avon. As a more general point: would selling rather than loaning Avon AA / Team Avon vests in the future reduce such problems?

Cross-Country / Trail Matters

The Wiltshire AA had offered to act as lead organisers for the 2015 Tri-Counties Cross-Country Championships, and had proposed that they be held on Sunday December 13th at Bath University. This Association was in agreement.

Avon Network Matters: Nothing to report. It was agreed that this item would be removed from the standard Agenda of the Association.

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

1. Proposed changes of Age Group rules for younger athletes: the Officers discussed this proposal and made a submission to the consultative process in opposition to the changes. EA has carried out a survey of its Regional Councillors on the issue, and since it received a large majority of responses in opposition to the proposal, they have decided to oppose the change and have communicated this to UKA (the UKA Board will have the final decision).
2. UKA is seeking suggestions for changes to UKA rules (other than on Age Groups and on the harmonization with the IAAF Rule Book) ready for the 2016 edition of the UKA Rule Book; affiliated clubs and organizations sending in suggestions need not supply the precise wording, but must submit the general idea on the template form (the Secretary can supply a copy) by July 27th.
3. In accordance with a ruling from the UKA Case Management Group, Tim Snowden's Life Membership of the Association is hereby rescinded.

Information from member Clubs / Associations

Bob Bell has retired as Chairman of Hogweed Trotters: their Chairman is now Will Grey will.hg@hotmail.com and their Secretary is Ian Freestone ian.freestone@blueyonder.co.uk. Stuart Nunn is now using the e-mail address yateac@gmail.com for athletics-related material.

Any Other Business: None.

Date of Next Meeting: Unless major matters arise in the meantime, the next meeting will be on Monday September 28th 2015, 7.30pm., at UWE Frenchay Campus (subject to room booking).

Meeting Closed at about 9.45pm.