

# Avon Athletic Association

**Minutes** of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday June 6th 2016, in Room 2B066, Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol, starting at 7.30pm.

**Those Present:** John Deaton (Secretary), Martin Fisher (North Somerset AC), Pam Gooding (President), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), John Robbins (Chairperson), Jim Strudwick (Avon Schools AA),

**Apologies:** Rachael Fisher (Vice-Chairperson), Ian Macintosh (Trustee), Neil Miller (Westbury Harriers), Mike Willcox (GWR).

**Minutes of previous Committee Meeting:** (April 4th 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: John Robbins would shortly be in a position to store the equipment in his garage as a short-term measure. John Robbins would contact Gordon Robbins to confirm the exact nature and dimensions of the items in question; John Deaton would then circulate clubs to call for offers to store and/or use the equipment. He would also update the list of the Avon AA's assets.

**Treasurer's Report:** (actually delivered later in the meeting due to the Treasurer's unavoidable late arrival)

1. Hilary Nash presented his Financial Report (copies available on request). All the Association's Open clubs were up-to-date with their affiliation fees. There was a coaching course subsidy still to be paid to GWR, and invoices for Track hire and photo-finish facilities at the Championships were awaited.
2. Jim Strudwick submitted a request for support on behalf of the Avon Schools AA: their expenses in competing at the 2016 ESAA Track & Field Championships (at Gateshead) would be higher than usual, particularly over transport. On the basis of 35 athletes + 5 accompanying staff, the Association agreed to support the team at £20 per head, i.e. £800.

## Officials Secretary's Report:

1. Mike Smerdon has been upgraded to a Level 2 Field Judge; Sue Brigden, Bob Lavis and Violet Small had stepped down as qualified officials.
2. The 2016 UKA Rule Book is now available in print [Note: this is obtainable by mail-order from <http://www.ukathleticsbookcentre.co.uk/> ]. There are still some unresolved issues with this handbook, particularly with Field events procedures, and Championships organisers may need to state more specifically matters such as numbers qualifying for later trials on Field events. Also, some standard questions and answers in the Officials upgrading process are not consistent with the new Rule Book.
3. There had been a misunderstanding over who was supposed to be recruiting officials for the Avon AA Open Meeting on May 24th.

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## **Road Running /Endurance Matters**

1. SW Road Running Championships: there are as yet few entries from Avon athletes for Round 2 (Frome, 17th July). For Round 3 (Sturminster Newton Half Marathon, August 7th) we still do not have a Team Manager. For the 2016 series there will be some flexibility over wearing of County vests, but from 2017 this would become obligatory. John Deaton will publicise the Championships again.
2. Proposed SW Road Relays: EA had agreed in principle that a South-West Road Relay could become a qualifying race for the National 6/4 Stage Relays. The meeting felt that Avon clubs should still be able to enter and qualify via the Midlands Relays, but acknowledged that no club should have two opportunities to qualify for the National event.
3. Great Bristol 10km: this went ahead successfully under the new management: several points raised beforehand by local activists regarding the event had been taken on board. The Great Bristol Half Marathon will be held on Sunday September 25th, and the 2017 Great Bristol 10km on Sunday May 7th 2017. The Bristol to Bath Marathon will not be held in 2016.
4. The Avon AA 10km Championships took place on Monday May 16th, incorporated in the Hogweed Trot 10km.

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

1. Avon / West of England T&F Championships: these went ahead well, with 255 entrants in all, although the turnout of Seniors was again disappointing. The few volunteers on number issue / results /medals presentation were hard pressed; the clash with the Great Bristol 10km had also meant the absence of some regular officials and helpers.

The Secretary had received an e-mail of thanks from Mr. Ravi Bagdi on behalf of the party of young Indian guest athletes: he asked if Under-11's events could be considered. The meeting agreed that Under-11's from the Indian party could take part in the Under-13's events, but felt that a separate set Under-11 events would not be advisable.

2. Avon AA Open T&F Meeting on May 24th: these went ahead well: there was a particularly good turnout for the 800m races (which included the Avon AA Championships races for U13/U15 Boys and Girls), but the sprints were less well supported than before. The 3000m race was well supported: it was suggested that this race could in future seasons be designated as the Avon AA Championship event(s).
3. South-West Inter-Counties T&F Championships (Exeter, Sunday 7th August). The chosen date is the day after a BAL fixture and the same day as UKWL and Midland T&F Fixtures, thus seriously weakening Avon's Senior / Under-20's teams: Ken Holmes knows of this situation. The entry criteria would be:
  - 2.1 Each County can enter one athlete at B standard or better, and a second athlete at A standard. These athletes will be required to wear county vests.
  - 2.2 Other athletes at A standard may enter as club athletes wearing club vests: they may be transferred to the County team if a vacancy arises, but in this case must wear a County vest.

Individuals would be asked to enter on-line: the on-line entry portal should be available soon. John Deaton would publicise the Championships conditions and entry standards to the county's T&F clubs and to any other interested parties on request.

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**Cross Country / Trail Matters** Tri-Counties Championships: the Wiltshire AA have found a replacement Cross-Country Secretary, who seems willing to take on the organisation of the Tri-County Championships. One factor to consider: the SW Inter-Counties event is likely to be on either Sunday December 18th or Sunday January 8th: the choice of December 20th for the 2015 event meant that there were three significant events for local athletes (Gwent League, Tri-Counties and South-West Championships) on the three weekends leading up to Christmas: attendances at the Tri-Counties and South-West events were significantly down on the previous season. The meeting felt that it would prefer to use the unclaimed SW Inter-Counties date for the Tri-Counties event.

**Information from Outside Bodies (e.g. MCAA, EA, SW Council)** There will be a SW Council meeting on Wednesday June 15th: John Deaton is unable to attend.

**Information from member Clubs / Associations** Lesley Nunn plans to retire as Avon Schools AA Secretary at the end of the current Track season.

**Any Other Business:** None.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Monday July 25th 2016, 7.30pm., at UWE Frenchay Campus (subject to room booking).

**Meeting Closed** at about 9.25pm.