

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday June 5th 2017, in Room 2B066, Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol, starting at 7.30pm.

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

Apologies: Martin Fisher (North Somerset AC), Ian Macintosh (Trustee), James Murphy (Westbury Harriers / Welfare) .

Minutes of previous Committee Meeting: (April 3rd 2017): accepted.

Matters Arising :

1. UK CAU Inter-counties Cross-Country Championships 2017: Hilary Nash had heard nothing from the Somerset AA Treasurer regarding financial reconciliation.
2. Sportshall National Finals: after discussion with Dave Turner, John Robbins had offered the £750 figure provisionally agreed by the Avon AA Management Committee for financial support, and this was gratefully accepted. The teams had performed very well (Under-13 Boys 2nd; Under 13 Girls 6th; Under-15 Boys 4th). The meeting congratulated Dave Turner and Hilary Nash on their work with the teams.

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

1. All but one of the member clubs not excused their affiliation fee for their attendance at the AGM had paid their current year's affiliation fee.
2. Avon AA Education Course subsidies relating to 2016: Hilary had received two late notifications, but as they were from a club which had had a recent change of Treasurer, it was agreed to pay these. The Secretary would issue reminders about subsidies for 2017 at the appropriate time.
3. Hilary had submitted a funding grant application to England Athletics for various items of equipment and expenditure in connection with the County Championships. We will be receiving an award of £500 dependent on submission of appropriate receipts. The request for support included the following items: Laptop computer £265; Laser-Jet Printer £100; Computer Software £60; Electronic Timing charges £75; Gill compact Wind Gauge £480 (prices approximate).

The Committee agreed to fund the excess costs of these items. The Wind Gauge will be assigned to the Yate Outdoor Sports Centre for use on Long Jump and Triple Jump events.

4. Some additional Avon AA vests had been ordered. (cost £166.80).

Officials Secretary's Report:

1. A couple of local officials had encountered problems with renewing their licences because of problems with the on-line DBS system.
2. There was still a shortage of officials for the Avon AA Open T&F Meeting on Tuesday 20th June.

3. In view of the recent UKA Photography / Video policy, Ray had redesigned the Photography sign-in form for use at the County Championships. John Deaton would recommend use of a suitably re-titled document by the Avon Track and Field League.
4. There may be an Assistant Officials or Level 1 Officials course in the near future based at SGAS. Andrea Garcia-Lock would be put in touch with Tina Beresford (EA). It is not clear yet whether such a course would be available to non-SGAS people.

Road Running /Endurance Matters

1. South-West Road Relays (Saturday 8th April, Exeter Racecourse): these went ahead, with limited response, although this could have been affected by severe traffic problems on the M5 that day. The Exeter venue was good but expensive; measures under consideration for future events included alternative venues and a reduction to 4 stages for Senior Men.
2. South-West Inter-Counties Road Running Championships Round 1 (Glastonbury, 30th April): without a Team Manager available on the day, Avon was unable to field teams. There were few athletes from Avon clubs in the higher reaches of the race.
3. Avon AA 10km Championships: these were incorporated in the Hogweed 10km event on Monday 22nd May: the Secretary does not have the Championships results to hand yet.
4. John Robbins has been appointed as an Official for the 2017 World Championships Marathon.

Track and Field / Sportshall Matters

1. Avon Track and Field Championships (Saturday 13th May 2017, Yate Outdoor Sports Centre) Turnout was better than last year (possibly due to the switch, by agreement with the Wiltshire AA, to a Saturday event). The cost of medals was lower than last year because of a change of supplier.

The number of officials was adequate, although the meeting could have benefitted with more. The Committee was grateful to Yate & District AC activists for taking on much more than their share of the ancillary work on the meeting.

The meeting proposed a vote of thanks to Hilary Nash for all his work on handling entries and entry fees and on processing entry lists. Hilary considered that we will need to look towards on-line entries in the future: he is investigating a system being used by the Cheshire AA for their Championships. This may mean that entry fees may need to increase.

Mr. Ravi Bagdi (on behalf of the party of Indian athletes) had sent an e-mail of thanks to the Association for the work of all those involved in the staging of the Championships.

2. County Under-13 / Under 15 800m Championships: these were held as part of the Bristol & West Open Meeting on Tuesday May 23rd. The response was good, although it put the meeting administrators under pressure at times. Not all athletes and supporters had appreciated the fact that the Championships would be run on a Time-Trial basis if (as actually happened) there were too many competitors in an age group for a single race to be held safely.
3. Team Avon won Round 2 of their YDL Upper Age Group division, so with a reasonable result in their third-round match, they will qualify for the Regional Final.
4. South-West Inter-Counties T&F Championships (Sunday 20th August, Exeter) John Deaton hoped to have more information about this meeting after the EA South-West Council meeting on June 19th.

Cross Country / Trail Matters

1. The Secretary had received news of the death of John Collins, joint-founder and Chairman of the Gwent Cross-Country League for many years until stepping down at the end of last season.
2. Roger Brocklesby stated that Bristol & West AC were looking for Cross-Country venues in the area, with the aim of offering to stage Gwent League fixtures in future years. However Cross-Country venues and associated costs were becoming more expensive, and the Gwent League may need to use some of its financial reserves in supporting potential meeting promoters.
2. There is no news yet of plans for the 2017-8 Tri-Counties Cross-Country Championships.

Information from Outside Bodies (e.g. MCAA, EA, SW Council) UKA has brought out a new policy guidance document on Photography / Video at Athletics meetings: the document seems to acknowledge the difficulties of enforcing policies in the era of camera-phones etc. The Committee would urge member clubs to read the document if they have not already done so.

[the guidance document can be found at <http://www.britishathletics.org.uk/governance/policies/use-of-photographic-video-images-of-children-young-people-under-the-age-of-18/>]

Information from member Clubs / Associations: Geraint Torrington has stepped down as Secretary of Westbury Harriers: a replacement has not yet been appointed, but people should still use the e-mail address secretary@westburyharriers.co.uk . Alternatively, contact James Murphy or Neil Miller

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

Any Other Business None.

Date of Next Committee Meeting: Monday July 24th 2017, 7.30pm., at UWE Frenchay Campus (subject to room booking).

Meeting Closed at about 9.00pm.