

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of an abbreviated Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday March 23rd 2015, in Room 2B066, Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol, starting at 8.45pm.

Those Present: John Deaton (Secretary), Mike Down (Bristol & West AC), Rachael Fisher (Vice-Chairperson, North Somerset AC), Pam Gooding (President), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Jim Murphy (Westbury H./Welfare), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), John Robbins (Chairperson), Jim Strudwick (Yate & District AC), Mike Willcox (GWR).

Apologies: Ian Macintosh (Trustee), Neil Miller (Westbury H.), Lesley Nunn (Avon Schools AA), Stuart Nunn (Yate & District AC).

Minutes of Previous Meeting: (January 19th 2015): accepted.

Matters Arising :

1. Priority tickets for major events: letter sent [post-meeting update: Ed Warner (Chairman, UKA Board) has replied, stating that priority ticketing arrangements will be made for affiliated members, officials etc for the two World Championships in London in 2017: IOC and LOCOG restrictions prevented similar arrangements for London 2012].
2. Officiating courses March 22nd: these went ahead successfully, with 19 candidates (16 from Avon, 13 new to officiating: 3 people went through the H&S course, enabling their return to the list of active officials.
3. Bristol to Bath Marathon: John Robbins hoped soon to find contact details for the organizer. The meeting was unaware which body would be licensing the event, and whether permissions for the relevant road closures (required from three local authorities) had been obtained yet.
4. In response to a request from EA for such races, 2000m Steeplechase events have been included in this summer's Bristol & West AC and Avon AA Open T&F meetings.
5. Avon Network unspent funds: Charlotte Fisher (CCSO for Avon) had convened a meeting on February 18th at which clubs presented their projects to make use of these funds. Of the six projects submitted, schemes for a two-evening Leading Athletics course (Mondays 13th and 20th April, Bristol) and for a Disability Inclusion Training Day (Clevedon, 12th April) had been accepted but one to set up another Junior Parkrun had been declined (outside the criteria for the awards; application to Parkrun scheme more appropriate).

Treasurer's Report Transactions since the previous Committee meeting: Coaching course subsidies to Bristol & West AC of £216-67; order for 10 Small Male and 10 Small Female Avon vests from Ridgeway Textiles £324-60; advance payment for Track hire for Avon AA Open Meetings £280-00.

Arrangements for 2015 Avon /West of England Track and Field Championships

1. Graham Howell was available to provide electronic timing for the meeting; Tony Jefferies has arranged for a team to work on hurdles movement; Pat Jefferies would order the appropriate number of packed lunches. Pete Davenport had agreed to be Track Referee; Bill Kingston would be invited to be Field Referee. There were still a number of officials who had not returned their availability form to Ray.

2. The meeting entry form would be available shortly; the entry closing date would be Sunday 10th May.
3. Mr. Ravi Bagdi was hoping to bring a group of young Indian athletes to the Championships again. The principle for awards of medals would be: any Indian athlete in a medal-winning position would be awarded the appropriate medal; Avon-qualified athletes in the same event would be awarded medals as if the Indian athlete(s) had not taken part.
4. Subject to the provision above, the medals to be awarded would be: Under-13's/15's/17's: Gold, Silver and Bronze; Under-20's: Gold only; Seniors: None.
5. The 800m events for Under-13's and Under-15's (Boys and Girls) would be held at the Avon AA Open Meeting at the Kip Keino Stadium on Tuesday 12th May. Entries for these events would be made on the main entry form (to be submitted and paid for by the May 10th closing date: no further payment would be needed on May 12th unless the athlete wished to enter additional events). Athletes who missed the May 10th closing date for those 800m events can still enter the 800m event on Tuesday 12th at the normal charge, but they will not be eligible for the Championship.

Any Other Business Requiring Prompt Attention:

1. A request had been received from Dave Turner (Avon Sportshall Athletics Association) for financial support: in addition to the transport and accommodation costs for the National Finals, the national organizers have costs such as venue hire, t-shirts and medals which were previously met by sponsors. The meeting agreed to give financial support this year, the exact amount to be determined after John Robbins had contacted Dave Turner for a more precise breakdown of current costs and revenue. There needs to be a discussion of how this sportshall venture can be supported and financed in future years.

Those attending any of the EA Consultative Meetings (Exeter April 14th, Birmingham April 22nd, Oxford May 6th) are requested to raise the matter of support for Sportshall Athletics if the opportunity arises.

2. The meeting was happy to accept the offer from Chris Elson (Bristol & West AC) to hold the Avon AA 5K Mob Match in conjunction with the Aztec West 5km race series on June 30th. Great Western Runners will also be holding a Mob Match later in the year.
3. The Association agreed that Felix McGrath (Westbury Harriers) could enter the FRA Inter-County Fell Running Championships (Betws-y-Coed, Saturday 16th May) as an individual competitor representing Avon and Somerset.
4. The meeting discussed the allocation of the Association's votes for the election for members of the EA South-West Council (Secretary will disclose outcome to officers of member clubs).

Date of Next Meeting: Monday June 8th 2015, 7.30pm., at UWE Frenchay Campus (subject to room booking).

Meeting Closed at about 9.40pm.