

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes [UNRATIFIED] of an abbreviated Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday 18th March 2024, by Zoom, starting at 7.35pm.

Those Present: Martin Bates (North Somerset AC, David Britton (Bitton Road Runners), Debbie Brooks (Yate & District AC), John Deaton (General Secretary), Mike Down (Life Vice-President), Roland Gibbard, Pam Gooding (President), Ray Gooding (Life Vice-President / Endurance Officials Secretary), Steve Grant (Track and Field Officials Secretary), James Murphy (Welfare / Westbury Harriers), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), John Robbins (Life Vice-President), Jim Strudwick (Avon Schools AA), Mark Thomas (Team Bath AC), Mark Watts (GWR).

Apologies: Andy Heyes (Clevedon AC), Ian Macintosh (Life Member), Neil Miller (Westbury Harriers), Arthur Renshaw (Thornbury RC).

Chair of Meeting: John Robbins took the Chair of the meeting.

Minutes of previous Committee Meeting (January 22nd 2024): accepted.

Matters Arising:

1. Officials Secretary's Report: Until further announcements are made, Officials seeking a Level 1 qualification will still need to work at four recognised athletics meetings in order to qualify. There are therefore some Avon trainee Officials who still await qualification.

2. Road Running Championships: John Deaton will confirm with Arthur Renshaw the position of the Avon AA Championships aspect of the Hogweed 10km race.

3. UK CAU Inter-Counties Cross-Country Championships (9th March, Nottingham): the event went ahead successfully. However, John Deaton felt that far too much of the work for what should be a two-County team effort had devolved onto him. In particular:

3.1 The sale of Avon & Somerset team vests (previously handled by the Somerset AA), fell to him

3.2 No-one was available to transport a gazebo-style tent to Nottingham, although the Avon AA and a number of the Somerset AA and Avon AA clubs have these. John's own bivvy-tent had sufficed on the day, but only because conditions were fine and dry, which cannot be guaranteed for a Cross-Country season fixture.

John had discussed the situation with David Cooke (Somerset AA). They had suggested a Zoom meeting, to be held well before the start of the next Cross-Country season, with at least two activists from the Somerset AA or Somerset clubs, and at least two activists (not counting John Deaton) from the Avon AA or Avon AA clubs, to discuss the organisation for the 2025 event.

Avon & Somerset finished scoring teams in seven of the ten categories (including an 8th place for the Junior Women, where we have not finished a team at all in recent years), The disappointing aspect was that A&S failed to finish scoring teams in the Senior Men's and Senior Women's competitions.

Treasurer's Report: (Distributed in advance; copies available on request):

The Treasurer reported that further entry fees £322.74 had been received for track meetings including £296.74 for the May meeting since drafting the circulated report.

(continued)

Coaching grants were approved for Leader in Running Fitness courses attended by Great Western Runners x 1 = £53.34 and Yate and Sodbury Striders x 3 = £160

An Athletics Coach coaching grant application was submitted by Bitton Road Runners for a course attended on 9/10 March. A one third grant of £93.34 was agreed to be payable when all course requirements are met.

A contribution to the accounts examiner re 2023 was discussed and agreed to make a payment of the same amount as for the 2022 accounts examination.

Arrangements for Avon AA T&F Championships 2024

The situation (as at March 18th) for the various aspects of the Championships was:

... Sprints and Hurdles (April 14th, YOSC): Entries are coming in (Entry closing date is April 4th, unless the meeting limit of 200 athletes is met before then)

... Main Meeting (May 12th, YOSC): Entries are coming in. We will be joined again by Mr. Ravi Bagdi's party of Indian athletes. (Entry closing date is May 3rd).

Steve Grant was seeking a Level 2 Photo-Finish Judge. If one can be found, we can apply for a Level 2 Licence for the Track aspect of the meeting, so that qualifying times can be recognised for the major Under-18s Championships [Post-meeting note: none can be found, so the Licence will remain at Level 1].

... Steeplechase, 3000m Championships (May 12th, Yeovil) Entries not yet open. John Deaton will confirm with David Cooke (Somerset AA) the distances for the Senior Men's and Senior Women's Steeplechase races. [Post-Meeting Note: Avon AA medals will not be distributed on the day]

... U13/U15 1500m races, Quadkids (June 25th, SGS Filton): Entries are open (Entry Closing date is June 20th).

,,, Avon AA Masters Championships (July 21st, YOSC): Details to follow.

Information from member Clubs / Associations: Angela Kell has been appointed as the new Secretary of North Somerset AC (secretary@nsac.org.uk). [Post-meeting Note: Ann Dale Anndale01@btinternet.com has been appointed as the new Secretary of Yate & District AC].

Any Other Business: Jim Strudwick was disappointed with the Avon Schools results at the English Schools Cross-Country Championships (Saturday 16th March, Pontefract), with a number of drop-outs or no-shows from the selected teams. There were fairly few teachers currently involved with Avon Schools athletics, and extra help from the Association may be needed.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 20th May 2024, 7.00pm, via Zoom. Items for discussion need to include:

- ... the Avon AA vacancies for Chairperson and one Trustee
- ... how to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Association
- ... whether to appoint additional Life Vice-Presidents or Life Members.

Meeting Closed at about 8.25pm.