

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday May 20th 2013, in Room 2B026, Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol, starting at 7.30pm.

Those Present: Keith Brackstone (CC Coordinator), John Deaton (Secretary), Rachael Fisher (Vice-Chairperson, North Somerset AC), Cy Knibb (Bristol & West AC), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), Lesley Nunn (Avon Schools AA), Stuart Nunn (Chairperson / Yate & District AC), Ben Redwood (Yate & District AC, T&F Championships Organiser).

Apologies : Mike Down (Bristol & West AC), Pam Gooding (Life Member), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Bob Lavis (Hogweed Trotters), Ian Macintosh (Trustee), Neil Miller (Westbury H. / SW Council), Gordon Robbins (Road Running Co-ordinator), John Robbins (President), Gareth Thomas (Thornbury RC).

Minutes of Previous Meeting: (March 18th, abbreviated meeting after AGM): Accepted.

Matters Arising from AGM / subsequent Committee Meeting:

1. Insurance: the BA/UKA website's Insurance pages made it clear that injuries such as a broken arm would not be covered unless liability could be established against someone. However this would not necessarily involve individuals in litigation: potential claimants should send details of the incident to John Temperton at BA. Continuing minute.
2. EA consultative meetings: the Secretary and Chairperson attended the one at Exeter on April 25th.

... Regional Councils: EA had recognised that Councils needed to communicate more with their constituent bodies; the Councils would be encouraged to publish minutes of their meetings.

... EA Membership: the general opinion of the meeting was that this should be done through the clubs rather than by individuals

... Most delegates seem to accept reluctantly the need for small increases in due course in affiliation fees, provided that costs were monitored [other area meetings were reportedly less sympathetic].
3. Stopwatches: Two Seiko printer watches had arrived (one for Avon AA, one for Bristol & West AC for which the County had been reimbursed). Ray Gooding was holder of the Avon AA watch.

Secretary's Report: Matters covered under other categories.

Treasurer's Report: Hilary Nash supplied a Financial Report up to mid-May 2013 (copies available on request).

... Affiliation fees for 2012 were still outstanding from Bath University AC and Bristol University AC.
... Somerset AA had requested part-payment of an invoice for Avon & Somerset team vests: the Association was content to pay half the costs but asked Hilary to clarify with Somerset AA exactly what the overall revenue / costs situation was over the UK CAU Cross-Country Championships joint team.

Officials Secretary's Report : Copies available on request. Matters mainly discussed under other categories.

Avon Network Matters: The Network Plan for 2013-7 had been submitted to England Athletics: until the exact details of the sum (if any) awarded to the Network was known, and what degree of discretion the Network would have in its use, the next Avon Network meeting would be delayed.

Proposals submitted in the Plan included:

- ... Coaching: Various Coaching Days: also, inviting clubs to nominate coaches for sponsorship(e.g. for courses or conferences); in return, such coaches would be expected to contribute to coaching days and/or to mentor other coaches.
- ... Officiating: Similar sponsorships? Chances for officials to set up and operate EDM equipment?
- ... Volunteers: Training / Discussion event for Team Managers? Other volunteers?

The Network would need to focus on increasing participation, but also on attracting these participants into clubs. The Network will seek to encourage the development of “satellite clubs” (localised groups of athletes). [However note that BA/UKA Rule 2 Para 1 says in part: “No Club may form a branch”.]

If sufficient funds are allocated, the Network would seek to appoint a paid part-time Coordinator: the Network would hope to be in a position to specify what the Coordinator should do.

Track and Field Matters:

1. Avon / West of England T&F Championships: with two days to go until entries close, Ben had received 143 entries, with £732 of entry fees. The medals (to be given instead of certificates) were due soon. Ray Gooding had a basic core of officials for the day, but several local officials had not replied to repeated contacts. Ray appealed for more volunteers from the local clubs. All catering at Yate now had to be provided by the Circadian Trust (the Track management company at YOSC); the meeting agreed 7-1 to accept their offer of packed lunches for officials and other meeting workers at £1-80 each.
2. Avon AA Open meetings: the meeting on Tuesday May 14th had had a disappointing attendance, presumably because of the foul weather. Team Bath AC had indicated that their members would be more likely to attend Open meetings on a Wednesday.
3. South-West Inter-Counties T&F Championships (Sunday 11th August): the Association had had no delegates available to attend the meeting convened by Sonya Ellis to discuss the meeting. In this case, and without any evidence of strong opposition from other Counties to the 2012 format, we would need to accept whatever the 2013 format turned out to be.

Cross-Country Matters:

1. A meeting of South-West County Cross-Country coordinators took place in April: the South-West Inter-County Cross-Country Championships for 2013-4 would be in a format similar to the previous event and on roughly the corresponding date.
2. The Tri-County Cross-Country Championships event on Sunday 8th December 2013 will probably be run in conjunction with the Gwent Cross-Country League.

Road Running / MT matters: The meeting was concerned that some local individuals were reportedly gaining the Leader in Running Fitness award, then setting up running groups and charging participants significantly more than a club would but doing little more than taking them for a run.

Avon Schools AA Matters: Nothing to report.

Sportshall matters: The Avon AA had been unable to supply any delegates to the proposed meeting in Exeter concerning Sportshall . [later news: the meeting did not go ahead]. With the cessation of Aviva’s sponsorship, the future format of this well-supported activity is uncertain.

England Athletics SW / MCAA / EA / UKA matters: BA/UKA were asking for proposals for Rule changes for possible implementation in the 2014 Handbook. The Secretary can supply information about the process.

Club News: The composite Bristol & West AC / Yate AC Midland T&F League team had won their first Division 2 match. Christina Jones and Lucy Bryan had broken Bristol & West AC records; Emily Wright (Yate AC, still U17) had guested in the Loughborough International meeting.)

Any Other Business: None.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday July 22nd: Stuart Nunn would book a room. [Note: meeting later cancelled]

Meeting Closed at about 9.05pm.