

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday 20th May, 2019, in Room 2B054 Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol, starting at 7.30pm.

Those Present: Martin Bates (North Somerset AC), Roger Brocklesby (Bristol & West AC), John Deaton (General Secretary), Pam Gooding (President), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), Stuart Nunn (Yate & District AC), John Robbins (Chairperson), Matt Viner (Yate & District AC).

Apologies: Ian Macintosh (Life Member), Penny Mannings (North Somerset AC), Mike Strange (Bristol & West AC / Life Member).

Minutes of previous Committee Meeting: (25th March 2019): accepted.

Matters Arising: None.

Treasurer's Report: Hilary Nash provided his Financial Report (copies available on request). Points arising:

1. Nine clubs had paid their Avon AA Affiliation fee for 2019-20.
2. The county was in line for a grant of £500 from EA towards enhancing the County Championships. It was suggested that we spend the funds on a display board for field events height / distances: however the cost would be around £600 - £700 depending on supplier / discount. It was agreed that the Avon AA would meet half the excess and Yate & District AC the other.
3. Clipboards for Avon AA Officials: the funds from the 2018 Championships grant were still unspent. The plan had been to supply clipboards with various Track and Field data inscribed on them, however we still have to identify a supplier whose product displayed up-to-date data. Once a satisfactory supply had been identified, we would order 60 clipboards, to be issued to existing active officials and to new officials once they had qualified officially. Continuing minute.
4. Hilary had placed an order for additional Avon AA vests to a value of about £150.
5. The Avon AA Affiliation Fee to England Athletics had been paid.

Officials Secretary's Report:

1. Andy Mead had been de-activated as an Official due to a lapsed DBS.
2. Ray Gooding had investigated the EA "Athletics Hub", and wondered whether there is more to it than a portal for course application for the average official or coach. The Secretary would investigate this with EA, and enquire whether the current paper application form for Officials was still acceptable.

Road Running / Endurance Matters

1. The Cleeve Road Relays (Sunday 25th August) will incorporate the EA South-West Road Relay Championships.
2. The EA South-West Road Running Championships will be incorporated in the Chippenham Half Marathon (Sunday 8th September) and the Gloucester 10km (Sunday 24th November). Unless volunteer(s) come forward to act as Avon AA Team Manager(s), there will be no Avon AA teams in either event.

Track and Field / Sportshall Matters:

1. Avon AA Championships: it is unlikely that the Yate Track refurbishment will be completed in time for the first of the scheduled B&W / Avon / Yate Open meetings. So:

- ... The June programme will be re-scheduled for Wednesday 17th July
- ... The July programme will be re-scheduled for Wednesday 14th August
- ... The August programme will be re-scheduled for Wednesday 4th September

Amendment: all the Long Jump championships will be held in Meeting 1, with the Long Jump removed from Meeting 2.

Steve Grant is in the process of updating the on-line entry system for the three meetings. The details for these meetings will include the closing dates for County Championships entries (in each case, these will be before the day of the meeting). The meeting proposed a vote of thanks to Steve for his work.

The 1500m Championships will be incorporated in the Team Bath AC Evening Open Meeting on Wednesday 26th June. Entries for the County Championships aspect of this meeting will close 40 minutes before the scheduled start of the 1500m races. The Committee proposed a vote of thanks to Di Viles of Team Bath AC for agreeing to host our Championships races.

In place of the county's 3000m Championships, there will be a 5000m Championships incorporated in the Bristol & West AC Night of the 5000s meeting on the evening of Saturday July 27th. The Championships may be held as a separate race or based on comparing times from various heats, depending on the number of entries.

2. South-West T&F Championships (Exeter, Sunday 21st July):
 - 2.1 The on-line entry system is already open
 - 2.2 The SW meeting is again on the day following the final round of the YDL Lower Age Group fixtures (possibly involving all four of our T&F clubs). If athletes / transport providers can only spare one day of the weekend, the Committee would urge them to support their club's meeting.
 - 2.3 Team Management: until a volunteer can be found, John Deaton would administer the Avon AA team in the interim. Anyone with queries regarding Avon team selections should contact John Deaton and not the meeting organiser.
3. Due to the delay in re-opening the Yate track, the Avon Schools AA T&F Championships (Saturday 8th June) has been transferred to the Kip Keino Stadium. The meeting was concerned about possible deficiencies of equipment at Kip Keino. John Robbins would contact Jim Strudwick to discuss the position: John Deaton was prepared to visit the track at a suitable time to check the equipment. If there was any throws equipment shortage, it may be possible to bring in equipment from YOSC or Whitehall.

Parking at SGAS College: The equipment monitoring parking at the site has been vandalised and so (as at May 9th) there was no charge for parking at the site. However the equipment will doubtless be repaired eventually, and the charges may well be re-introduced without notice.

Cross-Country / Trail Matters:

1. Tri-Counties Championships: awaiting news from Somerset AA.
2. South-West Championships: information on the date and venue for the 2019-2020 meeting should be available after next month's EA South-West Council meeting.

Information from Outside Bodies (e.g. MCAA, EA, SW Council):

1. The Secretary had received information about the plan to pilot “England Athletics Blast”, described in the document as a “Fun, exciting new competition format for all ages and abilities, measuring and rewarding both Improvement and Performance”. He would send out this information with the draft Minutes of tonight’s meeting.
2. EA South-West / EA National Volunteer Awards nominations: the closing date for these had been amended to Thursday 11th July.

Information from Member Clubs / Associations: None.

Any Other Business:

1. The Committee was concerned about the long-term prospects for the Kip Keino Stadium for athletics, and remarked on the amount of public money spent on the facility. John Robbins would discuss with Roger Brocklesby the best way to proceed.
2. John Robbins had located a suitable image of the Avon AA badge, so preparation of the mementoes for the new Life Vice-Presidents and Honorary Life Members could proceed.
3. Replacement for Avon AA banner: still to be processed.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 29th July 2019, 7.30pm., at UWE Frenchay Campus (subject to room booking). If the Officers felt that there was insufficient business to justify a face-to-face meeting on July 29th, then the next meeting would be on Monday September 23rd.

Meeting Closed at about 9.05pm.