

## Avon Athletic Association

**Minutes** of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday 24th May 2021, by Zoom, starting at 7.00pm.

**Those Present:** Debbie Brooks, John Cox (GWR), Kelly Dicks (GWR), Mike Down (Bristol & West AC / Life Member), John Deaton (General Secretary, Pam Gooding (President), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Penny Mannings (North Somerset AC), James Murphy (Welfare / Westbury Harriers), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), John Robbins (Chairperson), Jim Strudwick (Avon Schools AA).

**Apologies:** Ian Macintosh (Life Member), Neil Miller (Westbury Harriers), Arthur Renshaw (Thornbury RC).

**Minutes of previous Committee Meeting:** (8th March 2021): Accepted.

**Matters Arising:** None.

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

1. Most Avon AA member clubs had paid their 2021-22 Affiliation Fee.
2. England Athletics will no longer accept affiliation fee payment by cheque. So Hilary Nash found it necessary to pay the Avon AA 2021-22 EA Affiliation fee from his own assets, to be reimbursed from Avon AA funds.
3. The Avon AA has received a grant from the second phase of England Athletics club / county grant allocations.
4. Avon AA grants towards costs of Coach and Officials education courses (with prior notification) will still be available: requests for grants for other reasons will be considered on their merits.

**Officials Secretary's Report:** This was distributed in advance (copies available on request).

### Road Running / Endurance Matters:

1. Avon AA Road Running Championships:
  - 1.1 10km Championships: in recent years this has been incorporated in the Hogweed 10km in May, but there is no news of any re-arrangement of this event. The Sundayshill 10km (July) or Chew Valley 10km (rescheduled for September) would be possible alternatives.
  - 1.2 Road Relays: scheduled to go ahead on Sunday 29th August.
  - 1.3 10 Miles Championships: the Oldbury 10 Mile race normally held in September / October is unlikely to go ahead. A Half-Marathon could be an alternative.
2. Arthur Renshaw is taking over the publication of the Avon Race Diary previously distributed by Gordon Robbins. Arthur requests that any club / organisation promoting (or hoping to promote) a Road or Multi-Terrain event in the Avon area should notify him of the intended dates.
3. South-West Inter-Counties Road Running Championships: Tony Gale (South-West Road Runners) is assessing county views on the arrangements (probably involving two races: a 10km and a 10 Mile / Half Marathon). Arthur Renshaw would be given discretion to assess Avon athlete interest and to respond accordingly.

4. Bristol & West 5km Series at Odd Down: Trial races have gone ahead successfully: the main races of the series will go ahead on the last Wednesdays of June, July, August and September (the June race, however, is already full). There is also the possibility of a series of 3km races for Under-17s.

#### **Track And Field / Sportshall:**

1. Avon T&F Championships 2021: it was agreed to aim for a single-day Championships, on Sunday 26th September. This would be dependent on enough clubs and individuals volunteering as technical officials and ancillary workers. Fixture congestion, and a shortage of offers of officials and ancillary helpers, ruled out various options for earlier dates.

One drawback with a single-day Championships is that U13/U15 Boy/Girl athletes may not compete in the 800m and 1500m on the same day. It was agreed that we would look for an alternative date /venue for the 800m races for these age groups.

2. South-West Inter-Counties T&F Championships (Sunday July 18th, Exeter): although this date falls after the scheduled lifting of Covid restrictions nationally, there may be limitations (meeting logistics and venue restrictions) affecting the meeting. The official details of the entry procedure should be available soon. The organiser is trying to compromise between allowing counties to field fairly-full teams while ensuring a good quality of competitor.

In recent years, John Deaton has acted as Team Manager for Avon on the day of the meeting, but would prefer to be working as a Field Official. Volunteer(s), please!

3. Bristol & West AC will not be promoting the Night of the 5000s in 2021. However there are plans for a similar event in Taunton in August, which may possibly serve as the South-West Championships.
4. The Somerset AA are hoping to be able to stage a Track and Field Championships over the weekend of August 21st / 22nd, and are willing to accept guests from the Avon AA. The organisers are aware that this is also the weekend of the Area Under-15 and Under-17 T&F Championships. They are also hoping for support from Avon officials for the meetings.

#### **Cross-Country / Trail Matters:**

1. Equality of XC Distances: the Secretary had contacted the Wiltshire and Somerset AAs for their views of what should happen in the Tri-Counties Championships races, but had not had replies yet.
2. Format of 2021-22 Tri-Counties Championships: remembering that all proposals would need to meet with the agreement of the Wiltshire and Somerset AAs, suggestions included:
  - 2.1 Running all male and female races concurrently, thus cutting down the duration of the meeting
  - 2.2 Holding a Long Race and a Short race for Seniors, with men and women eligible for both
  - 2.3 A combined meeting with the Avon Schools AA
  - 2.4 Avon AA going it alone
2. Tri-Counties Team medals for Avon (Under 13s / 15s/17s: only Gold medals issued): these would be decided on the relative positions of only the Avon athletes in each race. Team medals for Seniors are only awarded for competition between club teams from the three counties [note: a club's team members must each qualify for one of Avon / Somerset / Wiltshire, but not necessarily all for the same County].

### Information from Outside Bodies:

1. The Secretary reminded delegates that there was still time to submit proposals for amendments to the 2022-24 UKA Rule Book.
2. The new UKA / World Athletics ruling on competition shoes can be read at

<http://www.uka.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/UKA-World-Athletics-Shoe-Rule-FAQs-April-2021.pdf>

However the meeting's impression was that, for non-elite competitors who wear standard brands of shoes bought at reputable sports-goods dealers, there should be no cause for alarm.

3. The Avon T&F League was disappointed to find that they were required to affiliate to England Athletics before a competition licence would be issued: this despite all six clubs being EA-affiliated and their respective Counties (Gloucestershire AA, Avon AA) both being EA-affiliated. The South-West T&F League has been approached similarly. John Deaton has raised this with Richard Llewellyn-Eaton (EA South-West Council Chair).

### News from Member Clubs / Associations:

1. Jim Strudwick notified delegates of a change to the Avon Schools AA procedure on English Schools T&F Championships nominations: that athletes in the top 25 on Power of 10 **and/or** those who have achieved (or are close to) the relevant English Schools Entry Standard for their event to contact him by Saturday 19th June.
2. Athletes interested in being selected to compete for Avon in the South-West Schools Combined Events Championships (26th/27th June, Yeovil) are asked to contact Dave Turner as soon as possible if they have not already done so.

### Any Other Business:

1. John Robbins was impressed with the following link, on the topic of responding to a Sudden Cardiac Arrest, and urged that it be disseminated beyond the sphere of coaching:

[https://www.ukcoaching.org/sca?utm\\_campaign=Club%20Matters%2013%20May%202020&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=CMA\\_CLUB%20MATTERS&utm\\_content=](https://www.ukcoaching.org/sca?utm_campaign=Club%20Matters%2013%20May%202020&utm_medium=email&utm_source=CMA_CLUB%20MATTERS&utm_content=)

2. Penny Mannings had had reports of some discourteous reactions towards runners in the Clevedon area.

**Date of Next Meeting:** The decision on the date of the next meeting (and whether it would be held in-person or remotely) would be deferred until the general athletics situation becomes clearer.

**Meeting Closed** at about 9.00pm., with thanks to Benedict Westhenry for arranging the Zoom meeting,