

# Avon Athletic Association

**Minutes** of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday November 25th 2013, in Room 2B066, Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol, starting at 7.30pm.

**Those Present:** John Deaton (Secretary), Mike Down (Bristol & West AC), Rachael Fisher (Acting Chairperson, North Somerset AC), Pam Gooding (Life Member), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Neil Miller (Westbury H. / SW Council), Jim Murphy (Westbury H./Welfare), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), John Robbins (President), Gareth Thomas (Thornbury RC).

**Apologies :** Cy Knibb (Bristol & West AC), Ian Macintosh (Trustee), Mike Willcox (GWR).

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** (September 16th 2013): The meeting acknowledged that discussions at the Avon Network meetings on how they might help promote officiating in the area did not imply that they were attempting to usurp the role of the Avon AA Officials Secretary. With this proviso, the minutes were accepted.

## **Matters Arising :**

1. Insurance: matter not being actively pursued at this time.
2. Track & Field Championships 2013: the interval between Ben's entry closing date and the event itself was the second shortest of all the country's County Championships. It was agreed that requests to invoice schools or other bodies for future Championships entry fees would be declined and payment with entry insisted on.

**Treasurer's Report:** Hilary supplied a Financial Report up to 25th November 2013 (copies available on request).

1. Affiliation fees for 2012 were still outstanding from Bath University AC and Bristol University AC.; the decision of Town and Country Harriers whether to re-affiliate was awaited.
2. The Lloyds Bank Fixed Term Deposit bond had matured: Hilary had agreed to re-invest in a bond for 12 months at 1.1%.
3. St. John Ambulance had no record of a booking for our 2013 T&F Championships, so would not be invoicing us for the meeting. Hilary had paid them for their other bookings.

**Officials Secretary's Report :** Copies available on request.

1. Ray's list of officials removed from (or in danger of removal from) the UKA Officials Register included several voluntary withdrawals, but included others still involved in the sport whose loss of status could affect local meetings. Clubs are advised to contact the officials concerned.
2. Ray and Pam Gooding are now both qualified to tutor the Level 2 Generic and Health and Safety modules for Level 2 Officials courses. Ray was also in the process of gaining recognition as a verifier for DBS purposes.
3. Arrangements for Level 2 Officials courses at Downend on March 23rd were in hand: at this time, Track Judge, Timekeeper and Field Judge courses were on offer for the moment, but room availability would probably mean that only two of these courses could go ahead. Details should appear on the England Athletics website soon.

4. Arrangements for the “Introduction to Officiating” were in hand. The course will mostly be practical, with the limited time indoors helping to reduce course costs. The morning session would probably cover Track officiating, with the afternoon covering Field Judging; lunch would not be provided. The course would confer no qualifications, so could not be announced on the EA website. The Avon Network could partially fund the event (but not, under their operating conditions, fully); the Avon AA agreed to contribute to the costs.

**Avon Network Matters:** The most recent meeting of the Network was on Wednesday November 6th (notes available on request).

... Coaching Development / Sponsorship: Keith Brackstone is in process of contacting clubs and individuals (including about those interested in Endurance coaching). Keith was dismayed that he had been unable to get a list of qualified local coaches from UKA/BA because of concerns about Data Protection: this made it even more important that clubs should respond to Keith.

... Satellite Clubs: Mangotsfield (Yate) up and running; Abbeywood (B&W) should start soon, but there are problems matching [correction: matching] the plans to the EA specifications for a satellite club. Worle (NSAC): imminent. Bradley Stoke: cannot proceed because there are no suitable free times at the local sports centre.

... Officiating, Sportshall: as reported in the corresponding sections of these Minutes.

... Club Development: John Robbins reported that this aspect would start soon.

The next Avon Network meeting is scheduled for Wednesday January 8th 2014 [note: subsequently postponed].

#### **Track and Field / Sportshall Matters:**

1. Sportshall: the two Development competitions held at Bristol Grammar School on October 19th (for Under-13's) and November 16th (Under-15's) attracted disappointing numbers, although the standard of those attending was high. Events in the near future include:

... Saturday 1st February: Avon Schools Sportshall Championships, Bristol Grammar School

... Sunday 2nd February: Under-11's South-West (North) Championships, UWE [update: trials now on 9th Feb. at Downend SC; Championships at Keynsham on Feb. 22nd].

... Saturday 1st March: South-West Sportshall Championships, Paignton

The Sportshall website [www.sportshall.org](http://www.sportshall.org) now bears the logo of Eveque: it is likely that the loss of the sponsorship by Aviva may mean that teams or participants will need to contribute more towards the costs of regional and national meetings.

2. County T&F Championships 2014: BA/UKA are now prepared to issue permits for County T&F Championships for the late May Bank Holiday weekend or for the previous weekend. In view of that, and the likely unavailability of several activists over the Bank Holiday, the Association decided to go for Saturday 17th May (subject to track availability and the evolving fixtures situation). The meeting appreciated that this may provide problems for Ben Redwood.
3. Avon AA Open Meetings: John Robbins had opted for Tuesday 13th May and Tuesday 22nd July for the 2014 meetings (Bristol & West AC would be promoting two similar meetings): the choice of dates was restricted by prior bookings by other users. The 13th May Avon AA meeting could possibly include some County Championships events.

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## **Cross-Country Matters:**

1. County Cross-Country Championships: Keith Brackstone had resigned as Avon Cross-Country Coordinator, and passed the course bookings over to the Gwent League. John Deaton had taken on the arrangements for holding an Avon Championships incorporated in the Gwent League fixture at Bath University on Sunday December 8th. The meeting agreed the following points:
  - 1.1 All Avon Championships competitors would be required to enter the Gwent League race, either via their club's normal entry procedure or as a guest. This is done on the day: failure to register for the Gwent League race will mean disqualification from the Avon Championships.  
  
Note: Wiltshire AA and Somerset AA are operating their Championships differently: Avon AA member clubs who have athletes wishing to compete for either of these Counties need to be aware of the possibility of double-charging for Gwent League entries.
  - 1.2 Avon Championships entries need to be sent to John Deaton: there will be no charge for entries this year, but entries must be received by Thursday December 5th. Avon competitors will collect their numbers from the Avon AA tent in the race field.
  - 1.3 There will be Avon individual medals issued for age groups from Under-13's upwards: JD will discuss the possibility of medals for Senior teams on a tri-County basis with his Wiltshire and Somerset counterparts.
  - 1.4 The first three Avon **OR** Somerset Championships finishers in each race (note: **not** three Avon plus three Somerset!) will be selected for the Avon/Somerset team for the UK CAU Championships on Saturday March 8th in Birmingham, subject to them confirming their availability.
  - 1.5 Avon Championships results will (hopefully) be posted on the Avon AA website on the evening of the meeting, but without times until these can be obtained from the Gwent League website.

The future of the Tri-County Cross-Country Championships would be discussed with Wiltshire and Somerset in the New Year: John Deaton stated that his intervention this year was on a strictly one-off basis. The meeting passed a vote of thanks to JD for his work on the event.
2. South-West Club / Inter-Counties Championships: Neil Miller and Steve Parsons had offered to look after the U13/15/17 teams: Mike Down declined to look after the Senior and Under-20 teams: John Deaton agreed to do this.

## **Road Running / MT matters:**

1. The Association's 10-Mile Championships were successfully held in conjunction with the Oldbury on Severn 10 Miles event on September 29th.
2. A pamphlet "Getting started as an Endurance Official" is available for download from the EA website.

## **Information from Outside Bodies:**

1. The South-West Council is holding its annual Presentation evening on Thursday December 5th in Exeter: Neil Miller would be attending as a member of the South-West Council, but neither the Acting Chairperson nor the Secretary are able to attend, so there is an opportunity for someone else to attend as an Avon AA representative.

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2. A BA/UKA Rule change reducing the weights of some throwing implements for younger female throwers (U15 Girls' and U17 Women's Shot to 3.0kg; U17 Women's Hammer to 3.0kg; U15 Girls' and U17 Women's Javelin to 500gm.) is fairly certain to be implemented. [subsequent note: these changes will definitely come in from April 1st 2014]. This would mean that for some meetings (e.g. the YDL Lower Age Group matches), 2.72kg., 3.0kg. 3.25kg. and 4.0kg. shots would be required, with a significant risk of athletes using the wrong implement.
3. It appears that the BA/UKA policy towards meeting permits has changed, and that permits will now be required for all Open meetings.

**Information from Member Clubs / Associations:**

1. The Secretary of Southville Running Club is now Laura Collacott; [secretary@southvillerunningclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@southvillerunningclub.co.uk)
2. The current contact for Town and Country Harriers is David Higenbottam; his e-mail address is [davidhigenbottam@gmail.com](mailto:davidhigenbottam@gmail.com) .
3. The new Chair of Sole Sisters RC is Ruth Finch; [ruth.coleman@talk21.com](mailto:ruth.coleman@talk21.com) , and their new Secretary is Emma Stock Coles; [emmajstock@hotmail.com](mailto:emmajstock@hotmail.com) .
4. The Secretary of Hogweed Trotters is now Mark Stephenson, [stephenson.mark5@sky.com](mailto:stephenson.mark5@sky.com) .
5. The Secretary of Somer AC is now Jayne Bryla; her e-mail address is [pjb5958@aol.com](mailto:pjb5958@aol.com) .

**Any Other Business:** None.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Monday January 27th 2014, at UWE [now confirmed: Room 2B066, BlockB].

**Meeting Closed** at about 9.45pm.