

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday November 24th 2014, in Room 2B066, Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol, starting at 7.30pm.

Those Present: John Deaton (Secretary), Pam Gooding (Life Member), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), John Robbins (President), Mike Willcox (GWR). John Robbins took the Chair.

Apologies: Rachael Fisher (Vice-Chairperson, North Somerset AC), Ian Macintosh (Trustee), Jim Murphy (Welfare, Westbury Harriers).

Minutes of Previous Meeting: (September 15th 2014): Photo-Finish and EDM for 2015 Open meetings had been arranged by Keith Brackstone, not as stated. Otherwise: accepted.

Matters Arising :

1. Addition of John Robbins to list of bank account signatories: matter in progress.
2. Sources of free publicity for local endurance events: continuing minute.
3. Quotations for medals from alternative suppliers: continuing minute
4. Throwing the Weight: the Secretary still had to reply to Matt Spicer.

Treasurer's Report: Hilary Nash delivered his report (copies available on request). The current account balance as at November 18th is £7,864-52 (including £36-62 held on behalf of Team Avon; match hosting and travel allowances are awaited); the Lloyds TSB Fixed Term Deposit account of £15,000-00 has been allowed to roll over, at a slightly better rate of interest. There are some sets of Annual Accounts still awaiting independent examination.

Officials Secretary's Report :

1. Ray had presented a Health & Safety course at Cheltenham on October 18th (attendance included 4 from Avon). Pam had presented a Field Judge course on the same day: a Track Judge course went ahead but a Timekeepers course was cancelled. A Level 2 Endurance Officials and Risk Assessment course went ahead the next day at Downend (attendance included 4 from Avon).
2. Ray has organized Level 2 Field Judge and Timekeeper courses (with appropriate Health and Safety module) for Downend on March 22nd. EA were anxious that Counties organize more Officials courses, but the meeting felt that Avon should hold back until local demand had been assessed. The meeting felt that EA were too often putting on courses without assessing local requirements; also that their policy on venue hire meant that they rejected certain venues (notably Filton College) as being too expensive, while declining offers from some tutors to base smaller courses in their own homes free of charge.
3. Carol Strange has been upgraded to Level 2C Track Judge status.
4. Ray had received notes of the Midlands and SW Seminar (much discussion concerning allocation of officials to high-level meetings) and of the SW County Officials Secretaries meeting (copies of both reports are available from the Secretary). The next SW Officials Conference will be on Sunday 21st March 2015 at Exeter.

5. Paul Ross (SW Council Officials Coordinator) had e-mailed the Secretary asking who the Avon AA Endurance Officials Secretary was. The EA website refers to Gordon Robbins as holding this post, presumably because of Gordon's previous role as Avon AA Endurance Coordinator (he stepped down at the 2014 AGM). The Secretary would contact Gordon to clarify his position on the matter.

Road Running / MT matters:

1. Bristol University AC had planned a Relays meeting on the Downs for November 22nd, but had postponed it until March (exact date to be advised).
2. Bristol City Council would promote the Bristol 10km (31st May) and Bristol Half Marathon (September 13th) in 2015. The Bristol Cross-Country is likely to go ahead in some form in 2015.

Track and Field / Sportshall Matters:

1. Avon / West of England T&F Championships:
 - 1.1 The County would only receive a Permit for Championships meetings on May 16th/17th or May 23rd/24th. There was a YDL Upper Age Group fixture involving Team Avon on May 16th: the meeting considered that the loss of YDL athletes /activists unable / unwilling to do two matches in a weekend would probably be less than the loss of athletes / activists lost to a meeting on a Bank Holiday, so opted for Sunday May 17th (subject to track availability) for the Championships date.
 - 1.2 Ben Redwood was unavailable to act as Championships Organiser: Rachael Fisher was available, but not in a position to take full charge of the organizing. It was envisaged that the duties would be shared among a core of activists (as happened last year), with clubs being asked to take ownership of various aspects of the meeting (e.g. number issue, equipment moving).
 - 1.3 The preferred method of entry (paper or on-line) would be left to the discretion of the volunteer who would be handling them.
2. SW T&F Championships: the 2015 event is scheduled for Sunday July 19th at Exeter.
3. Local Open T&F meetings: John Robbins and Keith Brackstone had agreed that at each of the meetings at Kip Keino Stadium there would be two throwing events; this, plus the availability of EDM, should mean that all competitors will be able to have six trials. The Hurdles events have been removed from the programmes because of poor turnouts in previous seasons [Post-meeting update: the first Bristol & West Open Meeting has been brought forward to Tuesday April 21st].
4. [Post-Meeting update: the Avon Schools Sportshall Championships/Trials will be at Bristol Grammar School, on January 31st]

Cross-Country /Trail Matters:

1. Tri-County Cross-Country Championships (Sunday 14th December, Bath University): on-line entries made before November 28th will be included in the meeting programme. Packed lunches would be available for meeting officials. Still needed were: a tent from which Avon numbers could be issued; one or more volunteers to issue numbers; small table and a couple of chairs; some extra marshals.

The medals ordered have arrived. Medal allocation: Masters athletes would only be eligible for one medal: the Open medal (which would take precedence) or the medal in their actual age group. The meeting declined the Secretary's suggestion of team medals for a combined U17/U20 team competition.

The Secretary reminded the meeting that Under-11's would not be charged an entry fee, but their entries would still need to be submitted by the closing dates for other age groups (Paper: December 8th; On-Line: December 11th). There would be no Team award for Under-11's.

2. South-West Cross-Country Championships 2014-5: these have now been moved to Bicton College, but remain on Sunday January 4th 2015. On-line entries will close on December 15th, so potential competitors effectively need to enter this before the Tri-County Championships. As last year, Avon AA would not be making any late entries to pad out County teams. Arrangements would be needed to ensure that a supply of Avon AA vests would be available on the day.

Team Arrangements: Steve Parsons would be able to say shortly whether he would be able to manage the Young Athletes teams at the meeting; Keith Brackstone would be invited to manage the U20/Senior Women; we still need a Team Manager for the U20/Senior Men.

3. UK CAU Inter-Counties Cross-Country Championships: we would need to organize a joint selection meeting with the Somerset AA, and to ensure that Championships entries were submitted in time.

Avon Network Matters: A Workshop scheduled for October 18th ("Whitehall to Worlds") had been cancelled because of low response. No news has been received of any further meetings, workshops or other initiatives.

Information from Outside Bodies: There will be a meeting of the South-West Council on Wednesday December 10th: John Deaton was authorized to attend on behalf of the Association.

Information from Member Clubs / Associations: The Secretary of GWR is now Paul Glennie, e-mail address P.Glennie@bristol.ac.uk . Jane Wallace is no longer Secretary of North Somerset AC; until a successor is announced, NSAC enquiries should be directed to Martin Fisher on MartinFisherwsm@aol.com .

Any Other Business:

1. The Secretary had received a copy of a letter from the Hertfordshire AA to Ed Warner and Niels de Vos (UKA) asking that a supply of pre-public-sale tickets to major athletics meetings should be made available to members of affiliated athletics clubs, in a scheme similar to that run by the RFU. The Secretary would write letters to Ed and Neil in support of this proposal.
2. The meeting was concerned about the low attendance at recent Committee meetings, particularly at the few clubs represented. John Robbins would prepare a letter to member clubs, pointing out the possible effects on athletics in the area if the Avon AA were unable to operate effectively, and to ask clubs what they expected from the Association.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday January 19th 2015, at UWE [subject to room availability].

Meeting Closed at about 9.30pm.