

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday November 23rd 2015, in Room 2B066, Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol, starting at 7.30pm.

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

Apologies: Rachael Fisher (Vice-Chairperson, North Somerset AC), Ian Macintosh (Trustee), Neil Miller (Westbury Harriers).

Minutes of previous Committee Meeting: (September 28th 2015): accepted.

Matters Arising not dealt with elsewhere in the Minutes:

1. Contact with recently-formed running clubs in the area: still to be undertaken.
2. Constitution item on distribution of funds in the event of dissolution: continuing minute.

Treasurer's Report: Hilary Nash had few movements to report on the finances. We had received £158 in interest on our maturing bond. Some clubs still had to be contacted regarding 2015 Affiliation fees. Two course grants were being paid out to North Somerset AC members; some other grants were awaiting confirmation of attendance or the resolution of queries.

Officials Secretary's Report:

1. Sunday March 20th had been pencilled in for level 2 Officials courses in Avon, but as there were courses already scheduled in Salisbury and possible courses in Bath around that time, the Avon courses may not be necessary.
2. Ray Gooding had been invited to a national meeting of COFSecs on April 2nd, with overnight accommodation being provided so that Pam and he could attend the following day's National Officials Conference.

Road Running / Endurance Matters:

1. EA South-West Council's Road Running Forum on Friday 16th October: the Secretary attended, as neither of the other volunteers were able to attend on the nominated day. This forum could prove very useful. The meeting hoped in time to extend the tri-County Road Race competition to a full South-West Inter-County competition [for developments see paragraph 2 below]. The meeting was also keen to develop a dialogue with ARC, but acknowledged that RunBritain would need to simplify its licensing process, particular for established smaller-scale races.

The (Avon AA) meeting was also keen to see a reconciliation with ARC. The meeting noted the number of commercial (possibly unlicensed) races springing up in the area, which may or may not explain the apparent decline in the fields of several local club-promoted races. The meeting could foresee an over-supply of races locally, over-use of some routes, and reaction by the non-athletic public to short-term partial or total obstruction of their right of way.

2. Proposed Tri-county Road Running competition: this has been re-structured as a South-West Inter-County competition, with the backing of England Athletics (this will mean that any Championships races need to be UKA-licensed). The currently proposed races are: Melksham 10 Miles, Sunday 14th February

(now re-licensed by UKA); Frome 10km on Sunday July 17th; a half-marathon in Avon. As those present could not identify a half-marathon in the area that was definitely going ahead, would be UKA-licensed and was not a mass commercial event, the meeting was content to go with the SW Council's backup nomination of the Sturminster Newton (Dorset) Half-Marathon on August 7th.

3. The Association recommends that member clubs supplying volunteers for race operations should make themselves aware of what licensing / insurance arrangements are in force and who benefits from any financial surplus.
4. Runners competing with someone else's number: GWR are now barring the entrant giving away the number (and the actual competitor if known) from further participation in their club's races; Team Bath AC are also concerned about this issue. The Avon AA would urge its race-promoting member clubs either to institute a formal procedure for exchange of numbers, or to take appropriate action against those who hand over or receive numbers when not authorised to do so.

Track & Field / Sportshall Matters

1. 2016 T&F Championships (Sunday 15th May): Hilary Nash would submit a provisional booking with the new Track Management body at YOSC.
2. Avon AA Open Meetings: John Robbins was liaising with Keith Brackstone (Bristol & West AC) to decide on dates for one or more Avon AA open meetings, and with Team Bath AC to ensure that any Avon AA Field Events meeting did not fall too close to TBAC's FieldFest.
3. South-West T&F Championships: the contract for the organisation had been switched from the South-West Athletics Academy and is now to be handled in-house by England Athletics. The date of the event still has to be confirmed.

David Cooke (SW Council portfolio holder for Track and Field) was looking into suggestions of holding the SW event as a seven-way Inter-County match -- our Association was in favour of an individual Championships with inter-county scoring, basically as at present. JD was in contact with David Cooke.

Cross-Country / Trail Matters

1. Tri-County Cross-Country Championships (Bath University, Sunday December 13th): arrangements in hand. Entries from Avon clubs are sparse so far. John Robbins would bring the Avon AA tent and a small collapsible table; John Deaton would act as numbers distributor and "help desk", but would appreciate a helper for the busiest times. The race organisers were currently seeking extra marshals.

The meeting has been hit with some major increases in charges, so may well run a deficit this year. Member clubs are urged to investigate possible alternative venues for this meeting in future years.

2. South-West Inter-Counties Championships (Sunday December 20th, at Bicton College): entries close on Sunday 13th December (i.e. the day of the Tri-Counties Championships). County Team Managers will have until the following Wednesday to nominate their teams: Avon will do this from those individuals who have already entered. John Deaton would seek out Team Managers for the event (Neil Miller has already indicated he is unavailable for the event).
3. UK CAU Inter-County Championships (Birmingham, March 12th): with loss or shrinkage of sponsorships, the UK CAU have found it necessary to charge an entry fee of £10 per age group team.

(continued)

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

1. There will be no indoor meetings at the Barclaycard Arena this winter, therefore no Midland Counties Indoor T&F Championships.
2. Mo Pearson, the SW Council member responsible for Coaching, had asked for views on the Coach Education process. Views expressed (by e-mail and at the meeting): Leading Athletics: worthwhile course; better as two sessions rather than a single 3-hour session. Movement Skills: good, although possibly too much practical work and not enough theory; Regional Technical Day: good, although acoustics of lecture room poor. The Secretary would convey these views to Mo Pearson.
3. The MCAA Office Manager Lyn Orbell has retired: her replacement is Louise Gardner.

Information from member Clubs / Associations

1. The Yate Outdoor Sports Centre (YOSC) is now operated (under licence from Yate Town Council) by a new Charitable Company, YOSC Ltd. For the present, please contact Jeremy Dale at jeremydale@btinternet.com [change of name from that given on Pre-Meeting Notes].
2. GWR's Towpath races for 2016 will have a new race base and a different start.

Any Other Business: None.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday January 25th 2016, 7.30pm., at UWE Frenchay Campus (subject to room booking).

Meeting Closed at about 9.30pm.