

## Avon Athletic Association

**Minutes** of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday November 28th 2016, in Room 2B066, Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol, starting at 7.30pm.

**Those Present:** Andrew Ballentine (North Somerset AC), John Deaton (Secretary), Martin Fisher (North Somerset AC), Pam Gooding (President), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), James Murphy (Westbury Harriers / Welfare), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), John Robbins (Chairperson).

**Apologies:** Ian Macintosh (Trustee) .

**Minutes of previous Committee Meeting:** (September 26th 2016): accepted.

### **Matters Arising :**

1. Constitution clause on distribution of assets: John Robbins would incorporate this topic into a series of suggestions he is drawing up (in consultation with the other Officers) for the future operation of the Association.
2. Avon AA Sound Equipment: it was agreed to pass this on to Westbury Harriers.
3. Avon AA Assets list: the Secretary has updated this, and will send out the list along with the Minutes.

**Treasurer's Report:** Hilary Nash submitted an updated financial report (copies available on request).

1. Hilary has placed an order for additional Avon AA vests.
2. The Associations one-year investment bond has matured: Hilary has not yet decided how to re-invest the sum.
3. Hilary had made a donation of £30 to St. John Ambulance in respect of their volunteer's work at the Avon Relays.
4. Grants for Coach / Officials Education Courses:
  - 4.1 South Gloucestershire and Stroud College (SGAS) had applied for grant support for EA Coach Education courses attended by two of their students (one Bristol & West AC member, one Westbury Harriers member) and one parent volunteer (not attached to a club). The meeting felt that while support would not normally be provided to non affiliated bodies the two athletes did meet the Avon AA criteria and support was agreed. The parent volunteer did not meet the criteria and the meeting decided not to support that application. In agreeing partially to grant-aid the College, the meeting was clear that this should not be seen as a precedent. It was agreed to encourage SGAS to affiliate to the Association, if they wished to benefit from grants in the future. Grants are available in respect of attendees completing eligible courses provided the attendees are members of an athletics club and their sponsoring group is represented at the Avon AA committee meetings.
  - 4.2 The Treasurer had received a list of applications from Bristol & West AC for grant support for various courses attendees dating back to 2014. The meeting agreed to provide grant support for the courses attended in 2016 but not for those attended in 2014 or 2015.

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- 4.3 Other Avon AA affiliated clubs wishing to claim grant support for Coach / Official courses attended during 2016 must contact Hilary Nash by 31st December 2016.
- 4.4 For 2017 and beyond, applicants or their clubs for Avon AA grant support would need to submit an application form; the clubs would need to confirm that the applicant had completed the course, and was working in the capacity for which they had been trained. The application must be submitted to the Avon AA Treasurer by 31st December in the year in question. John Deaton would check that the application form was available on the County website <http://www.avon-aa.org.uk/>.

#### **Officials Secretary's Report:**

1. Officials courses, Susan Jones, Sam Chivers and Nicola Robson had taken Level 1 Field Judge courses, and Carol Strange had taken Level 1 Endurance Officials and Starters Assistant courses. Also, five officials had completed their Endurance Risk Assessment course.
2. There are no Officials courses currently planned for this area: Ray Gooding urged clubs to contact him to state what requirements they had for such courses. He suggested that any courses should be held around late March. EA had been rather slow in paying for the hire of the Downend Folk House rooms for previous courses: the Association agreed to advance the hire fees if necessary.
3. Ray Gooding had received requests for officials from:
  - ... Welsh Athletics for Officials (particularly Field Judges) for Sunday December 4th at Cardiff
  - ... Avon Schools AA for Timekeepers and Recorders for their Cross -Country Championships on Saturday January 21st at Ashton Court School
  - ... South-West Veterans AA for officials at their T&F Championships (Exeter, Sunday June 18th).
4. Officials are now able to complete their Records of Experience ("Form 10s") on-line, but COFFSecs are currently unable to access this information.
5. EA are in the process of re-training Field Judge tutors, although Ray and Pam Gooding had not yet gone through the process.

**Road Running /Endurance Matters** The Secretary has collected the bronze medals from the 2016 South-West Inter-Counties Road Running Championships, and is arranging their distribution. The events for the 2017 event are the Glastonbury Round the Tor 10km (Sunday 30th April) and the Great South-West Half-Marathon (Exeter in October, exact date to be announced).

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

1. The Avon Schools Sportshall Trials will be held on Saturday 28th January at Bristol Grammar School: there will be a £1 charge per competitor. The South-West Championships will be on Sunday 11th March at Torbay; the National Championships will be on the weekend of 22nd / 23rd April, which is unfortunately on the same weekend as Round 1 of the YDL Lower Age Group competition.
2. The meeting agreed to hold the 2017 Avon / West of England T&F Championships on Saturday 13th May, subject to Track booking. The meeting had concerns about a potential shortage of helpers; it was suggested that each of the County T&F clubs could take on one aspect of the meeting administration. It may be necessary to use on-line entry. The Under 13's and Under-15's races 800m Championships for Boys and Girls would again go ahead as part of a separate evening open meeting.

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3. The date for the South-West Inter-Counties T&F Championships for 2017 has not yet been confirmed: one change for 2017 will be that there will be only one entry standard per event, hopefully meaning that the entry system will be simpler.
4. Bristol & West AC are provisionally scheduling Open T&F meetings for 23rd May and 18th July, and an Avon AA Open meeting is provisionally scheduled for 20th June. Bristol & West AC are also considering a Night of 5000m Races (possibly on a Saturday): if this goes ahead then the Avon AA might seek to use these as County Championships events. The Association may also consider moving the 3000m Championships events to the Avon Evening Open Meeting.

### **Cross Country / Trail Matters**

1. Tri-Counties Championships: the Avon medals have arrived, and the Tri-Counties organiser has the Senior team medals. John Robbins would arrange for the Avon AA tent, a table and two chairs to be taken to the venue as the base for number issue. Ray and Pam Gooding would be available to help if needed.

Entries were still fairly sparse, particularly from the Senior Women. The Secretary had felt unable to press for a reduction of the entry fee for Seniors, as some entries had already been taken by the time of the last Committee meeting. He would send a reminder about the approaching entry deadline.

Awards for Masters athletes: masters will only be awarded the medal appropriate to their age group, unless they notify the Secretary in advance that they wish to contend for Senior Men's/Women's medals instead.

2. Avon & Somerset team for the UK CAU Inter-Counties: John Robbins hoped to be able to discuss the situation with the Somerset AA Chairman (possibly others) in person.

**Information from Outside Bodies (e.g. MCAA, EA, SW Council)** The amount of money available to England Athletics for 2017-2021 has still to be announced: this could have effects for good or ill on athletics in our area.

### **Information from member Clubs / Associations:**

1. The new contact for Sole Sisters RC is Kim, at [info@solesistersrc.co.uk](mailto:info@solesistersrc.co.uk).
2. The new Chairman of Great Western Runners is Catherine Mills, [catherinemills81@gmail.com](mailto:catherinemills81@gmail.com), and their new Secretary is Andrew Woods, [andrew.woods@email.com](mailto:andrew.woods@email.com).

[Post-meeting note: Stuart Hancock (Avon Relays organiser) now uses the e-mail address [stuart@cofresh.com](mailto:stuart@cofresh.com)]

[Post-meeting note: Jim Strudwick is now Secretary and Treasurer of the Avon Schools Athletic Association: his e-mail address is [secretary@avonschoolsathletics.org.uk](mailto:secretary@avonschoolsathletics.org.uk). Ken Holmes is the Association's Chairman.]

**Any Other Business** North Somerset AC were looking to enhance their provision of High Jump and Pole Vault at their training track at Clevedon. The Secretary would supply NSAC with the e-mail address of the new EA CCSO responsible (Richard Ayling), who may be able to advise them on possible courses of action.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Monday February 6th, 7.30pm., at UWE Frenchay Campus (subject to room booking).

**Meeting Closed** at about 9.30pm.