

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday November 20th 2017, in Room 2B065, Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol, starting at 7.35pm.

Those Present: Andrew Ballentine (North Somerset AC), Roger Brocklesby (Bristol & West AC), John Deaton (Secretary), Pam Gooding (President), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), John Robbins (Chairperson).

Apologies: Ian Macintosh (Trustee).

Minutes of previous Committee Meeting: (September 18th 2017): accepted.

Matters Arising :

1. Officials Polo Shirts, recognition of regular Avon officials: continuing minutes.
2. EA South-West Conference: the Secretary had attended this, but missed almost all of the EA Consultation aspect of the meeting due to motorway problems.
3. South-West Inter-Counties Road Running Championships Round 2 (Great West Half Marathon, Exeter, Sunday 15th October): there was no Avon team at this race. From the seven South-West counties, there were four men's teams and three Women's teams.
4. South-West T&F Championships 2017: the Secretary had raised at the most recent EA South-West Council meeting the matter of entries submitted by athletes who had clearly not met the entry standards. He will monitor the situation for the 2018 Championships.

Treasurer's Report: Hilary Nash's accounts and report were circulated (copies available on request). Matters arising:

1. The Avon Road Relays in August made a surplus of £219.
2. Payment for the medals for the forthcoming Tri-Counties Cross-Country Championships is in progress.
3. Team Avon: almost all of the costs of staging the YDL Upper Age Group Regional Final had been reimbursed. A refund of about £500 is due for the costs of an earlier home match.
4. Avon AA Coaching Subsidies: Bristol & West AC have sent in some claims for 2017, and North Somerset AC have some claims in progress. The meeting gave a final reminder that all claims for courses completed in 2017 must be received by the Treasurer by December 31st 2017.
5. Wind Gauge: Hilary now has the missing tubes, so we have one workable wind gauge. However the suppliers will not sell separately the parts needed for a second gauge; Hilary will investigate alternative suppliers.

Officials Secretary's Report:

1. Qualification Changes: Sue Jones has qualified as a Starter's Assistant Level 1. Sandra Smith-Vokroj has qualified as a Level 3 Field Judge. Various others have attended recent Officials courses but will need to meet experience requirements before qualifying. Jodie Whitehead's qualification has lapsed pending completion of a DBS report.

2. A meeting of South-West Officials Secretaries is due on Saturday 25th November at Exeter (in conjunction with a meeting of South-West County representatives). As Ray is otherwise committed, John Deaton will attend in his place.

Road Running / Endurance Matters South-West Road Relays: these would be held on Saturday 7th April 2018 at Exeter Racecourse. The Secretary had already commented to the South-West Council about the clash of date with the MCAA 6/12 stage Relays but to no avail. The South-West event may again include opportunities for young athletes, who are not provided for at the MCAA meeting.

[Post-meeting note: Racecourse not now available on 7th April].

Track and Field / Sportshall Matters

1. South-West Indoor T&F Championships: Day 1 of the U13/U15/U17 Championships will be held on Sunday December 3rd (entries have already closed). The limits on entry numbers imposed by Welsh Athletics for Field events were met in some cases before the official closing date. Athletes wishing to enter Day 2 of these Championships (Saturday January 6th; entries close Thursday 21st December [error: actually 15th December] at noon) are advised to submit their entries promptly when the on-line entry system opens.

These South-West events may well need extra officials from the South-West.

Athletes are reminded that for Track and Field events (but not Cross-Country or Sportshall), athletes became effectively a year older on October 1st 2017 and so may have moved up an age group.

2. Avon Schools Sportshall Trials: no news yet.
3. Midland Counties AA Indoor Championships: due to changes of dates on which the Barclaycard Arena is available to them, the MCAA Indoor events are now as follows:

... Saturday February 10th: at Birmingham High Performance Centre: some Indoor Field Events
... Sunday February 11th: at Birmingham High Performance Centre: some indoor Track events
(there will be no Outdoor throws events on either day)
... Saturday February 24th: at BarclayCard Arena; Birmingham Games plus some MCAA Championships
... Sunday February 25th: no event.
4. County T&F Championships 2018: the Avon and Wiltshire AAs have agreed that Avon would hold their event on Saturday May 12th and Wiltshire on Sunday May 13th. Hilary Nash has already applied for a permit for the Avon event.
5. Local Open T&F meetings: there would be a meeting between Roger Brocklesby, Keith Brackstone and John Robbins (and possibly others) on Tuesday 21st November to discuss these.

Cross Country / Trail Matters

1. 2017-8 Tri-Counties Cross-Country Championships (Sunday 10th December 2017 at Bath University): The on-line entry system is open (closing date December 4th). The Avon medals have arrived. John Deaton (assisted by Ray and Pam Gooding) would distribute numbers from the Avon AA tent.

Masters medals: as last year, masters athletes would only be eligible for the medals appropriate to their age group on the day of the event, unless they notify the Secretary that they wish to be eligible only for the Senior medals.

Team medals: there will be Avon Gold medals for the U13/U15/U17 age groups (teams of 3); for Seniors there will be Tri-Counties medals (Gold, Silver, Bronze; teams of six men or four women), for which teams from any of the three Counties are eligible.

The event is a direct clash with a Gloucester League fixture, which may well affect turnouts.

2. 2017-8 South-West Championships (Sunday January 7th 2018; entries close 22nd December): these will be at the Aldon Hill Country Park, near Yeovil. The on-line entry system is open.
3. UK CAU Championships (Prestwold Park, near Loughborough, Saturday 10th March): John Deaton was prepared to lead the Avon & Somerset team on the same basis as in 2017.

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

1. South-West Championships events: some incorrect information was given by an MCAA administrator about these events. Participation in a South-West Championships, in any discipline, does not prevent an athlete taking part in a Midland Championships, in the same or any other discipline, at any subsequent time interval.
2. The IAAF Rules which came into force from November 1st 2017 will decrease the time allowed for Field Event athletes (other than Pole Vaulters) in certain circumstances to start their trials (details can be obtained from the Secretary). It is likely that these limits will come into UKA Rules from 1st April 2018.

Information from member Clubs / Associations:

1. Roger Brocklesby reported the unease of Bristol & West AC about the proposed implementation of parking charges (£1 per hour at all times) at the SGS College. Such charges would have an unwelcome effect on parents bringing their children down to any of the sports facilities in the immediate area. The effect on Track and Field meetings, particularly on organisers and leading officials required to be at the venue for long stretches of time, was likely to affect the stadium's viability as a competition venue. The Association was prepared to provide lobbying support if needed.
2. A new version of the North Somerset Council Development Plan may mean that there is a possibility of enhanced Track provision in the Council's area.

Revision of Avon AA Constitution: The meeting discussed the remaining phase of the revision proposals (details of the progress so far available from the Secretary on request). John Robbins would look into wording to clarify the contingent liability of the Trustees.

At the next meeting, the whole draft would be put forward for re-examination, prior to putting the entire document for ratification at the 2018 AGM.

Any Other Business: The meeting noted with sadness the death of Team Bath AC activist Melvyn Potter. Pam Gooding had sent a card to Shirley Potter on behalf of the Association. Melvyn's funeral will be held on Thursday 30th November, at the West Wiltshire Crematorium, Semington (near Trowbridge), at 10.45am.

Date of Next Committee Meeting: Monday January 22nd 2018, 7.30pm., at UWE Frenchay Campus (subject to room booking).

Meeting Closed at about 9.10pm.