

## Avon Athletic Association

**Minutes** of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday 26th November 2018, in Room 2B054, Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol, starting at 7.35pm.

**Those Present:** Martin Bates (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), Matthew Viner (Yate & District AC).

**Apologies:** Pat Jefferies (Life Member / Yate & District AC), Ian MacIntosh (Life Member), James Murphy (Welfare / Westbury Harriers), Arthur Renshaw (Thornbury RC). Car-parking difficulties may have prevented others from attending.

**Minutes of previous Committee Meeting:** (24th September 2018): accepted.

### Matters Arising :

1. Cleeve Road Relays: the organizers had made a donation of £100 to the Avon AA.
2. New groundsheet for Avon AA tent: John Robbins has obtained this and been reimbursed.
3. Avon AA extra-small vests, broken section of Avon AA banner: continuing minute.
4. Avon AA medals: Hilary Nash had obtained supplies of standard medals for all Championships events, which would be issued at the Tri-Counties Cross-Country Championships and subsequent Avon Championships on all disciplines..

**Treasurer's Report:** Hilary Nash issued his Financial Report (copies available on request). Matters arising:

1. There are some grant requests from North Somerset AC pending.
2. Team Avon is due for a £101 transport grant from the YDL.
3. Clipboards for Avon Officials: Hilary is still looking for a design with up-to-date data.

### Officials Secretary's Report:

1. Barry Smart has retired from all officiating duties for family reasons.
2. Heather and Jack Priestley have been appointed as Level 1 Field Judges and Carol Strange as a Level 2 Starter's Assistant. Jean North, Gordon Robbins and Susan Chivers have had their status as officials de-activated.
3. Five prospective Field Judges and a prospective Timekeeper from Avon attended a Level 1 Officials course at Taunton on November 25th. The next Level 1 course in the immediate area (Field Judges plus Health and Safety only) will be at Downend on Sunday March 3rd.
4. Record of Experience forms: several officials in the area still have to return these to Ray. All those seeking upgrading at any level will from now be required to put something in the "What Did I Learn?" column, whether using paper or on-line forms.

(continued)

5. Bath University Athletic Club are planning to hold an inter-University T&F meeting next Spring, and have approached Ray for advice. Further details are awaited.

**Road Running / Endurance Matters** The South-West Inter-Counties Road Running Championships went ahead, with two SW County teams contesting the first event (Great Western Half Marathon, Exeter, October 14th) and four contesting the second (Gloucester 10km, October 28th). With no Avon Team Managers available, the county was not represented at either meeting.

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

1. Avon AA T&F Championships 2019 location: because of delays to the refurbishment, YOSC is not currently accepting bookings before the beginning of June; the Kip Keino stadium has become unviable for competition because of parking issues; the hire of the Bath track is to become even more expensive.
  - 1.1 There may be some flexibility about the choice of weekends for the Championships: John Deaton to enquire with John Temperton of UKA. [Post meeting Note: an e-mail from the UK and Home Counties Competition Group states that "Counties are permitted to choose a date of their choice if they no longer wish to stage their championships on the weekend of 11 / 12 May".]
  - 1.2 We could consider approaching adjoining Counties about the possibility of holding joint Championships for 2019. John Deaton would prepare predictions of numbers at hypothetical joint events: if numbers on particular events could be excessive, we could offer to stage our own Championships in those events at other Open meetings.
  - 1.3 If allowed, we could divide our Championships events between various Open meetings around the County (e.g. Heavy Throws at a proposed Yate AC FieldFest event).
2. Sportshall: Dave Turner and Hilary Nash would help with the organization of the Avon Trials (Saturday February 16th, Bristol Grammar School), but would attend the South-West and National events as officials. Connell Macquisten of Bristol & West AC has volunteered to help with the Team Management.

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

1. Tri-Counties Cross-Country Championships: entries are currently below expectations.
  - 1.1 The organizer has asked for five marshals from each County. John Robbins can obtain some safety fencing which if used at certain points of the course could reduce the need for marshals.
  - 1.2 Ray Gooding was willing to help John Deaton with numbers issue at the busiest times
  - 1.3. Set-up and Take-down of the course: John Robbins will collect the stakes from Henrietta Anstey on Saturday 8th; Alex Copping (organiser) will return them on Monday 10th. There is a critical need for volunteers to help with the dismantling of the course on Sunday after the racing.
  - 1.4 Medals: individual Gold, Silver and Bronze medals will be awarded in each age category; the Under-17 team award would be replaced with a joint Under-17 / Under 20 competition.
  - 1.5 We still need someone to present the individual medals at the end of each race.
2. South-West Individual / Inter-Counties Cross-Country Championships (Sunday 6th January 2019, Aldon Hill, Yeovil): Entries are open. Under the 2018 conditions, it should be possible to give almost all Avon athletes (other than Seniors) places in the County team. John Deaton will be taking supplies of Avon vests down to Yeovil: hopefully it will be possible to take the Avon AA tent down there.

3. UK CAU Inter-Counties Cross-Country Championships (Saturday 9th March, at Prestwold Park (near Loughborough): the meeting supported the nomination of John Deaton as lead Organiser. John had sent a discussion document on the selection and organization process to the Somerset AA (copied to John Robbins; available to Avon-affiliated clubs on request), which had been largely accepted by the Somerset AA. This broadly proposed a refined version of the system used in 2018.

The meeting was anxious that potential team members were fully aware that the ESAA Championships are a week after the UK CAU event, and do not withdraw “to save themselves”, often depriving others of a chance to compete.

The meeting was also anxious that the selectors should not be bound by arbitrary rules on team selection.

Keith Brackstone is willing to act as Senior Women’s Team Manager again. John Deaton would approach Chris Elson to see if he is willing to manage the Senior Men’s team again.

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

1. EA Affiliation for 2019-2020: the individual fee will remain at £15 but the fee for clubs and associations will rise to £150.
2. There is a new Athletics in the South-West Website at <http://www.athleticssouthwest.org.uk>
3. EA is introducing a new online Safeguarding course: from April 1st 2019 it will need to be taken by all newly-qualifying coaches, and by all other coaches as their coaching licences fall due for renewal. The cost will be £10.
4. There may be some changes to the organizational structure of EA Regional Councils, including the South-West Council
5. There may be some funds available for athletic projects in the Avon area. The Secretary will contact Richard Ayling for further information.

**Information from member Clubs / Associations:** None.

**Any Other Business:** None.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Monday January 28th 2019, 7.30pm., at UWE Frenchay Campus (subject to room booking).

**Meeting Closed** at about 9.20pm.