

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday 25th November 2019, in Room 3B032, Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol, starting at 7.40pm.

Those Present: Martin Bates (North Somerset AC), Roger Brocklesby (Bristol & West AC), John Cox (Great Western Runners), John Deaton (General Secretary), Kelly Dicks (Great Western Runners), Pam Gooding (President), Penny Mannings (North Somerset AC), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), Stuart Nunn (Yate & District AC), Arthur Renshaw (Thornbury RC), John Robbins (Chairperson), Mike Willcox (Great Western Runners / Life Member).

Guest: Richard Llewellyn-Eaton (Chair, EA South-West Council)

Apologies: Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Ian Macintosh (Life Member), Matt Viner (Yate & District AC).

Mike Smith: the meeting noted with sadness the passing of Life Vice-President Mike Smith, who was the founder and first Chairman of Yate & District AC, and a former Secretary of the Avon Athletic Association. The funeral will be at Westerleigh Crematorium at 11.00am on Wednesday December 4th, with a gathering afterwards at the Yate Outdoor Sports Centre.

Minutes of previous Committee Meeting: (23rd September 2019): Clarification: the Wesport grant towards expenses for the YDL Upper Age Group National Final was also allocated for support for overnight expenses for competitors taking part in some of the earlier events on Finals day, and partial reimbursement of expenses to some parents who travelled independently.

[Post-meeting note: the e-mail address for Betti Farkas in the September 2019 Minutes should have read volunteer@bristolandwestac.org.]

Matters Arising:

1. Replacement for Avon AA banner: the meeting agreed to go ahead with the purchase providing that the price was not too different from the original (lapsed) quote.
2. "Near-Miss" incident: John Robbins had submitted a report to UKA, but indicated its limitations in that the incident was not reported on the day, it had proved difficult to contact anyone who had directly witnessed the incident, and that the potential victim is currently out of the country.
3. Incident at Midland League match: John Deaton would submit a report to the League in time for their AGM on Sunday December 1st [post-meeting note: this has been done].

Treasurer's Report: Hilary Nash had sent in copies of the latest Statement of Accounts (copies available on request). Comments:

1. The Cost of Medals in the report includes those for the Road events and the Cross-Country Championships.
2. Hilary had still to receive financial details from the 2019 B/A/Y Open Series meetings [post-meeting note: now received] and the Avon Road relays (unlikely to be significant, as five 'Fastest Lap' awards were made).

- 3 Hilary reminded the meeting that applications for Avon AA support grants for Coach or Officials courses completed during 2019 need to be made to Hilary by December 31st. He also needs to be notified about Coach or Coach in Running Fitness courses stated but not completed during 2019.

Officials Secretary's Report:

1. Jack Priestley will shortly have his Officials status deactivated because of a lapsed DBS.
2. EA is arranging "taster sessions", with recruits shadowing experienced officials at major meetings: unfortunately there are no such opportunities yet close to Avon. Ray suggested that Avon could arrange such an event, possibly at the County Championships or one of the Bristol & West AC Development meetings.
3. There was a meeting of South-West County Official Secretaries at Exeter on November 23rd: Ray was committed elsewhere on that date, so John Deaton attended in his place. There are plans for an introductory session for prospective officials at Exeter in early Spring of 2020. The meeting was anxious that technical officials should not feel pressured in progressing up the levels if they do not wish to do so.

Road Running / Endurance Matters

1. South-West Inter-Counties Road-Running Championships: the Avon AA did not take part in either of the events in the 2019 series. Richard Llewellyn-Eaton hoped that Avon would be in a position to enter teams in future years. The requirement for County Team competitors to wear County vests is proving an obstacle.
2. A promotion in the Great Run Local programme (similar to Parkrun but held on Sundays) is being planned for Hengrove Park, to start in the New Year.

Track and Field / Sportshall Matters:

1. South-West Indoor Championships: these are on December 1st and January 5th (U13/15/17) and January 19th (U20 and Seniors). The EA SW Council need to provide volunteers to present South-West medals and to help with issue of competitor numbers and collecting spectator fees. Welsh Athletics would probably welcome extra technical officials.
2. 2020 Avon AA T&F Championships: UKA would only issue a licence for Championships on the weekends of May 9th/10th or May 30th/31st (with extra dates for some Counties with particularly large fields). The meeting opted for Saturday 9th May (those present were aware of the BMC meeting scheduled for the same day at Millfield, and the BUCS Championships the same weekend), so the meeting will not clash with the Wiltshire AA Championships (May 10th).

Cross-Country / Trail Matters:

1. Tri-Counties Championships: the organiser had reported no major problems. John Robbins will take the Avon AA tent to Bath, and was authorized to purchase a decorator's folding table for use by the numbers distribution team.
2. The South-West Inter-Counties Cross-Country Championships are being held at Aldon Hill, Yeovil on Sunday 5th January: entries close on December 23rd. John Deaton will be taking Avon vests down.
3. UK CAU Inter-Counties Cross-Country Championships (Loughborough, Saturday 7th March): the county endorsed John Deaton as the lead organiser for the Avon & Somerset team. The Somerset AA have

suggested that each of the principal Somerset and Avon Cross-Country clubs be asked to provide one volunteer to look after one age group on the day.

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

1. The meeting noted the circumstances which led to Zara Hyde Peters deciding not to take up the post of CEO of British Athletics. Clubs need to verify that all those involved in coaching activities have appropriate qualifications and DBS clearance.
2. Richard Llewellyn-Eaton informed the meeting that the EA South-West Council were seeking to co-opt someone onto the Council with a particular interest in road running.
3. The EA National Council had discussed suggestions for limiting the rates of dropout from the sport of athletes in the 16 – 21 age range. Among the suggestions:

.... For athletes aged 16+: make clear the mental health benefits of taking breaks in study routines given by training or competition.

... For athletes aged 18+: clubs should consider reduction of subscription fees, or partial reimbursement of expenses.

Information from Member Clubs / Associations:

1. Kelly Dicks is the new Chair of Great Western Runners, and the new Secretary is John Cox, committee@greatwesternrunners.org.uk.
2. The new Chairman of Southville Running Club is Drew McLennan.

Presentations: John Robbins presentation of mementos to recently-appointed Life Vice-Presidents John Deaton and Pam Gooding and Honorary Life Member Mike Willcox, and was arranging to deliver the mementos to Honorary Life Members Keith Brackstone and Cy Knibb.

Any Other Business:

1. Kip Keino Stadium: The meeting was concerned about the diminishing quality of the Filton facility, with problems including the specification of the Throws cage. Bristol & West AC has been in communication with SGAS College. The Avon AA would keep the matter under consideration. It was suggested that we contact Richard Ayling to see what help he could give.
2. Stuart Nunn reported that the YDL AGM had discussed the matter of equalizing the distances run by Under-13 Boys and Girls. The meeting wondered whether the Association should standardize the distances in its own events, possibly in advance of any decisions by the YDL or the sport in general. Continuing Minute.

[Post-meeting note: the YDL Administrator confirms that, while a straw poll of delegates at the meeting supported a reduction of the Boys' distances to 75m/150m/1200m, no decision has yet been taken.]

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 27th January 2020, 7.30pm., at UWE Frenchay Campus (subject to room booking).

Meeting Closed at about 9.35pm.