

# Avon Athletic Association

**Minutes** of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday September 15th 2014, in Room 2B067, Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol, starting at 7.30pm.

**Those Present:** John Deaton (Secretary), Rachael Fisher (Vice-Chairperson, North Somerset AC), Pam Gooding (Life Member), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), John Robbins (President), Mike Willcox (GWR). John Robbins took the Chair.

**Apologies:** Craig Carscadden (Thornbury RC), Mike Down (Bristol & West AC), Cy Knibb (Bristol & West AC), Ian Macintosh (Trustee), Neil Miller (Westbury H. / SW Council).

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** (July 7th 2014, Officers Meeting): name of joint organizer of Avon Road Relays should read Kate Britten. Otherwise: accepted.

## Matters Arising :

1. Addition of John Robbins to list of bank account signatories: still to be done.
2. The "Mike Sully" meeting will go ahead. It will not incorporate the UK Cross Challenge this year, but will be known as "The Bristol Cross-Country, Incorporating the Mike Sully Trophy and Gemma Butler Bowl". It will be held on Saturday 25th October; Run Bristol will apply for the licence for the use of Ashton Court, but otherwise the meeting will be promoted by Bristol & West AC.
3. South-West Inter-Counties T&F Championships (Exeter, August 17th): Avon finished fourth. There was a fairly good turnout of Avon athletes, with no apparent issues over the non-issue of County vests. The event generally went off well, although Field officials were hard-pressed to cover the required duties even taking account of the cancellation of the Pole Vault events.
4. The "How to Judge Field Events" booklets have been distributed as agreed.

## Treasurer's Report:

1. The Treasurer's Report had been distributed with the pre-meeting material (copies available on request): a slightly updated version of the report will be issued shortly. The Lloyds TSB Fixed Interest Bond due to mature in October 2014 would be allowed to roll-over.

Team Avon had had a successful season, gaining a place in the National Finals via a paper match. However their funds (held within the main Avon AA accounts) currently show a deficit of £460-38. In view of the benefits to local athletics which the joint team is providing, and the financial success of the Avon AA Open Meetings, the meeting agreed to transfer £500 to the Team Avon funds.

## Officials Secretary's Report :

1. Ray's Officials Secretary's Report was distributed in advance of the meeting (copies available on request). Several activists who had received "clean" DBS forms had neglected to send these on to UKA Welfare (who no longer receive information directly from DBS). Ray receives a monthly report from EA listing those local officials whose qualifications have lapsed, and is able to remind those who were unaware of the requirement to send the DBS form. However it would appear that some people still active in the sport locally are declining to apply for DBS clearance and/or Health & Safety courses. The Association would continue to monitor the situation.

Ray reminded the meeting that under-16's could not undergo DBS checks, and so could not gain (or continue to hold) UKA licences: they would need to apply (or re-apply) after they had turned 16.

2. Pam Gooding expressed concerns about the use of the Rotational Shot Putt technique in competitions. Hilary Nash stated that its use was banned in Sportshall Athletics; John Deaton remarked that when Refereeing or leading Shot Putt events he gave extra warnings on safety to the officials when a rotational putter was in action. On any event, a Field Referee would have the right to exclude anyone whose technique (or lack of it) was a potential danger to themselves or others at the event site.

#### **Road Running / MT matters:**

1. The meeting passed a unanimous Vote of Thanks to Stuart Hancock and Kate Britten for their organization of the Avon Road Relays on August 31st. In response to points raised by Stuart and Kate:  
  
... the Association is happy for the event to continue, and will try to persuade those Avon endurance clubs who did not take part in 2014 to support the event in 2015  
  
... We will leave decisions on levels of entry fees to Stuart and Kate: the Association sees the event as encouragement of local distance runners rather than as a source of revenue.  
  
... the meeting notes that the current event site is not available on Sunday mornings from the beginning of September as it will be in use for football.  
  
The Secretary will reply to Stuart and Kate.
2. The Secretary would try to draw up a list of sources of free publicity for local endurance events.

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

1. Avon / West of England T&F Championships: the weekend(s) allocated to Counties for their Championships would probably not be known until mid-October when the UKA Fixtures Calendar was normally issued. The Secretary would check with Ben Redwood whether any on-line entry system specifically for County Championships was available, and what work he would be available to do for the 2015 event. The entry form could do with a re-design.  
  
Hilary Nash would seek quotations for medals from alternative suppliers.
2. UK CAU T&F Championships: the 2015 event is scheduled for August 1st/2nd (i.e. away from the Bank Holiday weekends).
3. Local Open T&F meetings: provisional bookings at the Kip Keino Stadium had been made for Bristol & West AC meetings on April 28th and June 16th, plus Avon AA Open meetings on 12th May and 21st July (all Tuesdays). We would consider again incorporating some County Championships events in the Avon AA meetings. John Robbins [Correction: Keith Brackstone] had arranged with EA for Photo-Finish / Electronic Timing / EDM for the four meetings (including an operator with responsibility for setup) at a cost of around £110 per meeting. JR felt that if the availability of automatic timing could be advertised, the extra number and quality of entries would justify the extra cost.

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

1. Tri-County Cross-Country Championship: Stuart Henderson (Wiltshire AA) confirms that arrangements are in hand for the event; Ray Gooding has had a fairly good response from Avon officials for help with

the event. The Secretary had had only one reply to his call for views on provision for Under-20's, so felt unjustified in opposing Stuart's proposal that the Under-20's run with the Under-17's, for 2014 at least.

The Secretary would contact Stuart for clarifications of various points (including entries for Under-11's; responsibility for medals issue)

The Secretary would contact Somerset AA to confirm whether high placings in the Tri-County races should entitle certain athletes to automatic selection for the UK CAU Championships teams (subject to acceptance of invitation in good time), and to try to gain better response to Team Managers' invitations to compete.

2. South-West Cross-Country Championships 2014-5: this will be at Killerton House (Devon) again [Update: moved to Bicton College], on Sunday January 4th 2015. John Deaton would prefer it if someone else managed the Senior / Under 20 Men's teams.

**Avon Network Matters:** Workshops scheduled for September 6th ("Preparing for Winter") and September 11th ("Drills and Exercises for Distance Runners") had been cancelled because of low response.

**Information from Outside Bodies:** The affiliation fees to England Athletics will increase from April 1st 2015 to £12 (individuals) and £100 (clubs/organizations). JD suggested that a reduction in the Avon AA affiliation fee could be considered to help ease the situation for our smaller clubs: this would need a motion to the AGM.

**Information from Member Clubs / Associations:** Rachael Fisher informed the meeting that funding had been granted towards an 80-metre sprint track, long-jump runway and throws cage at Clevedon School, as the first stage of what could be full Track and Field facilities at the site.

#### **Any Other Business:**

1. Throwing the Weight: the meeting considered the e-mail from Matt Spicer (Bristol & West AC) regarding the Weight throwing event. The meeting felt that until a regular demand for competition could be established, we could not consider a slot in Avon AA Open meetings. However the meeting was interested in Matt's proposals for use of these implements as a training aid for the standard throws events; maybe this could be used as a base for the establishment locally of Weight throwing as another standard throwing event in the sport. The Secretary would reply to Matt's e-mail.
2. EDM Equipment: in view of the scheme under which John Robbins [Correction: Keith Brackstone] was able to hire EDM equipment (see Track and Field section), and reported interest from Bristol & West AC in the hire/lease of such equipment, it was not felt necessary for the Avon AA to consider purchase of EDM equipment at this time.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Monday November 24th 2014 at UWE [subject to room availability].

**Meeting Closed** at about 9.10pm.