

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday September 28th 2015, 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 (President), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), John Robbins (Chairperson), Jim Strudwick (Avon Schools AA), Mike Willcox (GWR).

Apologies: Ian Macintosh (Trustee), James Murphy (Westbury Harriers / Welfare).

Minutes of previous Committee Meeting: (June 8th 2015): Jim Strudwick was representing the Avon Schools AA, not as stated; in item 4.2 of Matters Arising "should be considered" should read "could be considered"; Footnote: June 8th's meeting was a full meeting, not an abbreviated one. Otherwise: accepted.

Matters Arising :

1. Bristol to Bath Marathon: the Association has no connection with this event.
2. Sportshall: the meeting with Dave Turner, Jim Strudwick and Hilary Nash still has to be arranged.
3. Track and Field Coordinator, Cross-Country Coordinator, Road Running Coordinator: posts still unfilled.
4. Constitution item on distribution of funds in the event of Dissolution: continuing minute.
5. Contact with recently-formed running clubs in the area: still to be undertaken.
6. SW T&F Championships: the meeting date of Sunday July 19th was problematic for the Association, particularly as our four main T&F clubs were all involved in YDL Lower Age Group fixtures the previous day. The on-line entry system, and the (original) entry closing date, both caused problems. Team selection and management had proved problematic; John Deaton was the only Team Management at Exeter on the day. Field Officials were again hard-pressed.

The meeting felt that an individual / club SW Championships, corresponding to the Midland Championships, would be preferable to the present format: John Deaton felt that an August event would make team organisation easier, even if a few people were lost to holidays. JD would be attending the SW Council meeting at Exeter on October 7th, and would raise various points concerning the event: at the least, he would seek to get an early decision about the date for 2016.

Treasurer's Report: Hilary Nash presented an updated Financial Report (copies available on request).

1. Updates to report: £100 surplus from GWR Mob Match to be included; subsidy due shortly from YDL towards hosting costs for Team Avon home fixtures. Hilary still has to pursue affiliation fees from those clubs who did not attend the 2015 Avon AA AGM.
2. Avon Vests: there were still some vests to be handed back after the South-West Championships. To ease the problems of vest management for Avon AA and Team Avon events, it was agreed that we would move to a system of selling vests: the price would be £5 (existing stocks) or £10 (new vests); a small stock of loan vests would be maintained for genuine emergencies.

Officials Secretary's Report:

1. Avon currently has 43 recognised and qualified T&F Officials (plus 9 going through qualification), and 19 Endurance officials.
2. Jeremy Dale has been upgraded to a Level 2B Field Official; Suzanne Chivers and Penny Manning have been graded as Level 2A Timekeepers. Mike Harris (Westbury Harriers) is liable to be de-recognised for failure to go through a Health and Safety course.
3. Ray Gooding has only received 14 Records of Experience (Form 10's) so far: they are due in by September 30th. Submission of these forms is particularly important for those seeking grading or upgrading.
4. Difficulties for local officialdom include gaining recognition for helpers only interested in limited roles in officiating, and in obtaining reports on those seeking upgrading.
5. The EA website still shows Gordon Robbins and not Ray Gooding as Avon's Endurance Officials Secretary: John Deaton would try to have this remedied.
6. A re-order of Avon AA Officials Polo-shirts may be needed soon. It was agreed that polo shirts would be issued to new Level 2A officials on submission of their first Record of Experience form.

Road Running / Endurance Matters:

1. Wiltshire AA proposal for a Tri-County Road Running competition (one race in each of Avon / Somerset / Wiltshire): the meeting was interested in the proposal, subject to clarification of details. With changes to the organisation of the Bristol 10km being possible, the meeting considered that an alternative Avon race should be considered for the competition.
2. The EA South-West Council's Road Running Portfolio holder, Tony Gale, had convened a South-West Road Running Forum for Friday 16th October: Andy Heyes would be representing the Association.

Track & Field / Sportshall Matters

1. 2016 T&F Championships: UKA will only issue permits for Championships on Saturday 14th May or Sunday 15th May: the meeting's preference was for the Sunday.
2. Sportshall: provisional dates for 2015-6 are: County Trials January 30th; SW Championships February 27th; National Finals 16th/17th April in Manchester.
3. UK CAU Championships: Avon & Somerset placed 8th in Division 1 (Women) and 3rd in Division 2 (Men). John Deaton hoped that we could strengthen communications with Somerset AA over both T&F and Cross-Country CAU matters.
4. Avon AA Open Meetings: John Robbins and Keith Brackstone were in preliminary discussions about the 2016 B&W/Avon AA events. John Robbins would prefer a May meeting not to be held in the same week as the County Championships. The current arrangement for hiring-in EDM equipment works well, even if local officials may miss experience in the initial setting-up of the equipment. The allocation of Field Events may be revised (with the possibility of a weekend Field-Events-only meeting being considered).

Cross-Country / Trail Matters

1. Arrangements for the Tri-Counties Cross-Country Championships at Bath University on Sunday December 13th are continuing. JD was prepared to issue race numbers to Avon competitors on the day.
2. The South-West Inter-Counties Championships is to be held on Sunday December 20th, at Bicton College again. Some athletes may be reluctant to run two Championships races so close together; with entries for this event possibly closing before the Tri-Counties Championships, there could be problems in trying to select Avon teams. JD should be able to find more about the Championships arrangements at the forthcoming SW Council meeting.

Information from Outside Bodies (e.g. MCAA, EA, SW Council) EA is convening a Competition Providers Forum on Saturday 24th October at the NEC. John Deaton would confirm the likely agenda for this meeting and seek appropriate volunteers to attend.

[Post-meeting Update: UKA's proposals for amendments to the age group rules for the younger athletes have been abandoned].

Information from member Clubs / Associations

1. The URL of the Sole Sisters website is now <http://www.solesistersrc.co.uk/> .
2. The new contact for Bristol University AC is Jonny Monk, jm13884@my.bristol.ac.uk

Any Other Business: John Deaton reported on an accident at the Avon League meeting at Yate on Sunday September 13th, when a Gloucester AC official had stumbled into the empty steeplechase water jump pit. An accident report has been submitted to UKA.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday November 23rd 2015, 7.30pm., at UWE Frenchay Campus (subject to room booking).

Meeting Closed at about 9.40pm.