

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday September 26th 2016, in Room 3S803, Block S, UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol, starting at 7.50pm.

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

Apologies: Martin Fisher (North Somerset AC), Ian Macintosh (Trustee), Jim Strudwick (Avon Schools AA) .

Minutes of previous Committee Meeting: (July 25th 2016): Page footers: the meeting was a regular Committee Meeting, not an abbreviated one. Otherwise: accepted.

Matters Arising :

1. AGM 2015 item on Constitution clause concerning distribution of funds in the event of dissolution: continuing minute.
2. Avon AA Sound Equipment, Avon AA Assets List: continuing minute.
3. Team Avon did not qualify for the YDL Upper Age Group Final via the paper match, so no financial support was necessary.
4. The Officials course at Cheltenham on Saturday 15th October now includes a Track Judge option.
5. Bulletin on Throws Safety: Ray Gooding had heard nothing back from UKA.

Treasurer's Report: Hilary Nash submitted an updated financial report (copies available on request).

1. An order for additional County vests will need to be made: John Deaton will supply a count of the vests he holds after the South-West T&F Inter-Counties meeting.
2. Hilary had not yet seen the accounts from the Avon Relays, but would be happy for the organiser to retain any surplus to serve as working capital for future promotions.

Officials Secretary's Report:

1. Officials status changes: Andrew Ballentine is now a Level 1 Field Judge; Colin Hickey is back onto the register as a Field Judge; Carole and Graham Bishop (Thornbury RC) are withdrawing as qualified Endurance Officials.
2. UKA have published "Make It Official", outlining the future of Officials development.
3. Ray Gooding responded to an EA questionnaire to COffSecs on Recruitment and retention of Officials.
4. Ray also received a document on the use of Social Media: the meeting felt that the matters discussed were probably more appropriate for clubs than for counties.

(continued)

5. Ray has arranged an Endurance Officials Level 1 plus Risk Assessment course at Downend on Sunday October 30th. He had begun arrangements for a Starters / Starters Assistant course for 2017, but as a Starters Assistant option was an option on offer at Level 1 Officials courses at Millfield on Sunday November 13th, he was not proceeding further with this venture.

Road Running /Endurance Matters

1. SW Road Running Championships: despite having no teams at the final race, Avon finished third in this competition, and all those who ran for Avon in the first two races will receive EA medals.

Tony Gale (SW Council RR Portfolio holder) is seeking views from the SW counties on the 2017 programme. The suggestions on number of Championships events vary from one (Avon's view) to four; the initial proposal on the table is for two events: the Round the Tor 10km (Glastonbury, May) and the Great West Run (Half Marathon, Devon, October). If more than nominal work is expected from the Team Managers for such a series, a volunteer will need to be found from the Avon Road-Running community. Tony hopes that matters can be resolved via e-mail discussion.

2. The Avon AA Road Relays Championships (Cleeve Road Relays) and the 10 Mile Road Running Championships (incorporated in the Oldbury-on Severn 10 Mile race) both went ahead successfully.
3. Proposed SW Road Relays: the pilot SW Road Relay event proposed for September was postponed until Spring 2017. The English Road Running Association is not prepared to allocate places in future Men's National 6-stage and 12-stage relays to qualifiers from a South-West Relays Championships, so teams from Avon and Gloucestershire are likely to be admitted to the Spring 2017 South-West event.
4. Great Bristol Half Marathon: this went ahead very successfully, with the various waves of runners leaving almost exactly on time. Ray Jaekels (a former Organiser) was taken back into hospital shortly before the day, missing the race for the first time in 28 years.

Track and Field / Sportshall Matters

1. South-West Inter-Counties T&F Championships (Exeter, August 7th): despite the loss of potential Senior / under 20 athletes to BAL / UKWL / Midland League fixtures, Avon finished fifth. Although the meeting went well enough on the day, the lead-up to the event was disappointing, with an unsatisfactory entry system and excessively tough standards, particularly on field events (later informally eased). John Deaton had prepared a discussion paper for the South-West Council, calling for more consideration for the fixture commitments of Avon and Gloucestershire clubs, and for simplifying the whole competition structure.
2. Sportshall: the 2017 South-West finals will be on Saturday 11th March, with the UK Finals on the weekend of 22nd/23rd April in Manchester. The date of the Avon Schools Trials has yet to be confirmed.

Cross Country / Trail Matters

1. Tri-Counties XC Championships (Bath University, Sunday 11th December): on-line entries are now open, at <https://www.entrycentral.com/XC2016>. Those present were disappointed that the entry fee for Seniors was £12, as such a high entry fee could discourage athletes in an age category already struggling for entrants. JD would contact the organisers to see if the Senior fee could be eased: the Committee appreciated the expenses involved in a meeting at Bath University, but would be willing to consider a reduction of entry income as the equivalent of a subsidy from the Counties rather than a funding failure.

JD was prepared to issue Avon competitor numbers on the day.

2. The Gloucestershire AA will be staging their 2016-7 Cross-Country Championships at the Old Down Park near Tockington on Saturday January 7th. The Committee is seeking a volunteer to attend this event to assess whether this venue could be suitable for a future Tri-Counties Championships should the need arise.
3. UK CAU Championships (Saturday 11th March, near Loughborough): John Robbins would contact the Somerset AA to propose John Deaton as the lead Organiser for the Avon & Somerset team for this event.

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

1. There is an EA Competition Providers Forum in Birmingham on Saturday October 1st: John Deaton will be attending.
2. This year's Midland Cross-Country Relays will be at Wolverhampton on Saturday October 22nd, and will include races for U13s/U15s/U17s and Masters categories in the Senior events for both genders.
3. The EA Individual Registration Fee for 2017-8 will rise to £14; the club affiliation fee will still be £100.
4. John Deaton has been co-opted onto the EA South-West Council.
5. The Gloucestershire AA has a temporary website at <https://www.athletics4u.co.uk>
6. Facilities: the Taunton track is likely to be refurbished soon, but there are long-term concerns over the tracks at Carn Brea and Salisbury.
7. Richard Ayling, the new CCSO covering Avon / Gloucestershire / Wiltshire / Somerset, would like to meet the Officers and/or Committee of the Association in due course. The Chairperson and Secretary would seek suitable contact dates.

Information from member Clubs / Associations: None.

Any Other Business

1. Ian Mackintosh wishes to step down as a Trustee when his current term expires.
2. The meeting was concerned about the low attendances at recent business meetings of the Association: continued low turnouts could hamper the Avon AA's work. The Officers are giving the matter further consideration.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday November 28th 2016, 7.30pm., at UWE Frenchay Campus (subject to room booking).

Meeting Closed at about 9.30pm.