

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday September 18th 2017, in Room 2B066, Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol, starting at 7.30pm.

Those Present: Roger Brocklesby (Bristol & West AC), John Deaton (Secretary), Pam Gooding (President), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), John Robbins (Chairperson).

Apologies: Andrew Ballentine (North Somerset AC), Ian Macintosh (Trustee), James Murphy (Westbury Harriers / Welfare), Jim Strudwick (Avon Schools AA) .

Minutes of previous Committee Meeting: (July 24th 2017): accepted.

Matters Arising :

1. Officials Polo Shirts, recognition of regular Avon officials: continuing minutes.
2. EA South-West Conference: the venue had been changed to the ISCA Centre (next to the Exeter Arena). The meeting had recently been re-timetabled:

1pm-1.15pm:	Welcome and introductions;
1.15pm-2.15pm:	Update from EA Consultation and Feedback [this part would be free of charge];
2.15-2.35:	Break;
2.35-3.35:	Workshop 1 (choice from: coaching, clubs or officials);
3.40-4.30:	Workshop 2 (choice from: Track & Field, Road Running/MT, or Cross-Country);
4.30:	Closing remarks, updates from council and conclusions;
5pm:	Food/refreshments, arrival of evening delegates;
5.45pm:	Recap of day; Special guest;
6.45pm:	Presentation of SW Awards;
8.00pm:	Close.

Treasurer's Report: Hilary Nash's accounts and report had been circulated in advance (copies available on request). Matters arising:

1. The outstanding club affiliation fee had been received
2. The issue of the wind gauge was on-going
3. Hilary's request for a stock check on Avon AA vests: continuing minute.

Officials Secretary's Report:

1. Colin Hickey would shortly be leaving the area; Ray Gooding had sent an e-mail thanking Colin for his services to local athletics.
2. Some officials in one area had had difficulties in obtaining contact details of those in another, with "Data Protection" often being stated as an issue. The Secretary would raise the general subject of Data Protection at the next South-West Council, as he felt that many people used the term without real understanding of the legislation involved.

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Road Running / Endurance Matters

1. Avon Road Relays: these had gone ahead successfully, although it was disappointing that only three Avon AA clubs had put in teams. The Secretary was asked to e-mail organiser Stuart Hancock to give the Association's thanks for the promotion. The meeting was interested in Stuart's suggestion that the meeting could host Wiltshire AA and Somerset AA Relays Championships (as is done in the Tri-Counties Cross-Country Championships).
2. South-West Inter-Counties Road Running Championships Round 2 (Great West Half Marathon, Exeter, Sunday 15th October): as no Team Manager had emerged, there would be no Avon team in this event. At least one other County would not be entering teams because of delayed handovers of awards from the race which hosted Round 1 of the Championships.

Avon athletes considering entering this event as individuals should note that the race starts at 9.00am from the road outside the Exeter Arena. However the Arena car park would not be available to competitors, for whom there is a shuttle bus service from City centre car parks which will need to be booked in advance.

3. The Aztec West Fast 5km Race Series has had to be cancelled, as negotiations between Bristol & West AC and the estate's insurance company had failed.
4. South-West Road Relay Championships 2018: these are likely to be held in March, venue to be decided.

Track and Field / Sportshall Matters

1. South-West Inter-Counties T&F Championships (Sunday 20th August, Exeter): Avon finished third in both Men's and Women's competition, and third overall. The event was in general well organised, but:
 - 1.1 The on-line entry system, while better than in 2016, was far from perfect
 - 1.2 The entry standards, particularly on Field events, were often too high, resulting in fields smaller than could have been handled.
 - 1.3 Some athletes whose PowerOf10 records showed no performance remotely near the qualifying standard had entered and competed (possibly to boost their County's team scores). John Deaton had raised this matter at the recent South-West Council meeting. The Avon Committee felt that, if standards had to be applied (and they were not convinced that they were necessary), then they need to be enforced consistently.
 - 1.4 Some Field events, including some involving younger athletes, were allowed to continue, admittedly under modified rules, during the worst of the weather conditions.

The organiser would like to transfer the event to July. The meeting felt that there was already too much fixture congestion in July. In particular, the meeting felt that there should be no clash with the YDL Upper Age Group competition, in which clubs from all seven South-West counties are involved.

2. County T&F Championships 2018: we would presumably have to hold these on the UKA-allocated weekend, probably May 12th/13th. In 2017, the Wiltshire AA had asked to use the Sunday of Championships weekend, so Avon used the Saturday: the Secretary would contact the Wiltshire AA to confirm whether they would opt for the same arrangement again.

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3. Local Open T&F meetings: Bristol & West AC would discuss with John Robbins arrangements for the 2018 season. B&W were examining various on-line entry options; EA had issued invitations to tender for an on-line entry system which, if it comes about, may be another option.

Cross Country / Trail Matters

1. 2017-8 Tri-Counties Cross-Country Championships (Sunday 10th December 2017 at Bath University): No further developments.
2. 2017-8 South-West Championships (Sunday January 7th 2018): the potential venues are Exeter and Yeovil.
3. Bristol & West AC are looking for potential Cross-Country venues in the area. It was becoming clear that potential venues and ancillary services were becoming more expensive. Promoting leagues would need to provide more funding to host clubs and competitors could expect to pay higher entry fees.

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

1. Proposals for UKA Rule Changes from April 2018: publication is scheduled for 2nd October 2017.
2. South-West Volunteer Awards: Bristol & West AC won the Innovation Project of the Year award for their "Night of the 5000s" event; Hilary Nash won the Volunteer of the Year award, and Tony Jefferies won the Services to Athletics award. Starter Nigel Grist (not strictly an Avon official but very active in our area) won the Official of the Year award.
3. The England Athletics AGM will be held on Saturday October 14th at the Ricoh Arena, Coventry.

Information from member Clubs / Associations: None.

Revision of Avon AA Constitution: The meeting discussed the third phase of the revision proposals (details of the progress so far available from the Secretary on request). It is proposed that the final five sections should be dealt with at the next meeting (two of those sections could possibly be deleted completely).

Any Other Business: None.

Date of Next Committee Meeting: Monday November 20th 2017, 7.30pm., at UWE Frenchay Campus (subject to room booking).

Meeting Closed at about 9.20pm.