

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday 24th September 2018, in Room 2B054, Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol, starting at 7.40pm.

Those Present: Martin Bates (North Somerset AC), Roger Brocklesby (Bristol & West AC), John Deaton (Secretary), Pam Gooding (President), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), John Robbins (Chairperson), Jim Strudwick (Avon Schools AA).

Apologies: Pat Jefferies (Life Member / Yate & District AC), Ian MacIntosh (Life Member)

Minutes of previous Committee Meeting: (21st May 2018): accepted. The Officers (after e-mailing the Avon AA circulation list) decided that there was not enough business requiring prompt attention to justify the scheduled meeting on July 30th.

Matters Arising :

1. Officials Polo Shirts: these have been received; Ray Gooding has sent out some and holds some in reserve.
2. Dave Turner's Officials status: EA's records were incorrect.
3. National Vintage Games: Ray and Pam Gooding had attended. The athlete turnout was very poor, probably due to insufficient publicity of the athletics aspect of the meeting and/or high entry fees.
4. Duties of Under-16 Field Officials: [Post-meeting Note: Confirmed by EA South-West Council Chair that for allocation of duties, Under-16's are regarded as unqualified officials, even if they hold the Assistant Officials award. They may not lead an event, and should be kept behind the foul line / throwing cage on the Long Throws].

Treasurer's Report: Hilary Nash issued his Financial Report (copies available on request). Matters arising:

1. Cleeve Road Relays: Hilary had not yet had accounts for the event, but was happy to reimburse any deficit on the meeting,
2. YDL Upper Age Group National Final: the meeting endorsed the Officers' decision to offer £500 to Team Avon towards the additional costs of attending the National Final.
3. A new groundsheet was needed for the Avon AA tent. John Robbins would source one.
4. Avon AA vests: there is a need for a quantity of Extra-Small vests.
5. Avon AA Banner: in the foul conditions at Cleeve the bottom section of the supporting rod snapped: it may need replacing.
6. Avon AA Championships Medals: the meeting felt that there should be a standard medal for issue across the Championships in all disciplines: this could reduce costs and cut the number of unawarded medals unuseable for future events. Continuing minute.

Officials Secretary's Report:

1. The following local Officials have been upgraded: Pat Boulton to L1 Field Judge; Joanne Nolan to L2 Field Judge; Graham Brooks and Mike Smerdon to L3 Field Judge.
2. The following officials have been removed from the EA active list until their DBS certificate is renewed: Timekeeper: Suzanne Chivers and Kaye Hall; Field: Shane Cox, Jean North, Alison Bailey, Anthony Mattis; Endurance: Geraint Torrington and Gordon Robbins.
3. Currently available Level 1 Officials courses: TK / Starter's Assistant / H&S at Cheltenham on Sunday 7th October; TK / TJ / FJ / Starter's Assistant / H&S at Taunton on Sunday 25th November. Both Bristol & West AC and North Somerset AC have prospective trainee officials: if Ray Gooding can identify enough candidates, he could persuade EA to authorize a course in this area (possibly in the early Spring). One problem might be that the new format for Level 1 courses means that larger rooms than before would be required.

Ray was concerned about the number of candidates who had attended courses but not proceeded with the process of qualifying officially.

[Post-meeting note: the Level 1 Endurance Officials course scheduled for Sunday September 30th at Exeter has been put back until the New Year].

4. At one meeting in the County, Ray noticed that one local activist had declared themselves as a qualified Official on the sign-in sheets although they were actually unqualified. The meeting was unsure how such claims could be verified on the day of a meeting (other than by asking to see the official's licence, which they may have failed to bring with them). John Deaton would seek advice from the South-West Council.
5. Ray had had a dialogue with an official from another County regarding an upgrading application which had gone astray. Ray would advise all officials to keep copies of the applications they send in and note the relevant dates.

Road Running / Endurance Matters

1. The County 10km Championships were held in conjunction with the Hogweed 10km race on Monday May 28th, the Avon Relays were held (in foul weather) at Cleeve Cricket Club on Sunday August 26th, and the 10 Mile Championships went ahead in conjunction with the Oldbury 10 Mile race on Sunday September 9th.
2. As no volunteers have come forward to manage any of our County teams at either of the South-West Inter-Counties races (Great Western Half Marathon, Exeter, October 14th; Gloucester 10km, October 28th) there will be no Avon AA teams in either event.

Track and Field / Sportshall Matters

1. South-West Inter-Counties T&F Championships (Sunday 22nd July): Avon finished 6th in the Men's competition, 4th in the Women's competition, 6th overall. The Avon team performance was hampered by the final round of the YDL Lower Age Group being on the same weekend, but the shortage of Senior athletes did not help. To gain higher placings in the team competitions, we would need one or more Team Managers specifically assigned to recruiting competitors.
2. The meeting congratulated the Team Managers and athletes of Team Avon for qualifying for the YDL Upper Age Group National Final and finishing in fourth place.

3. Sportshall: the principal 2018-9 season events will be: South-West (North) Fun in Athletics (Under-11) Regional Finals on Saturday 27th January at Wellsway School; Avon Schools Trials on February 16th at Bristol Grammar School; South-West Championships at Paignton on March 9th; UK Finals at Manchester on the weekend of 13th/14th April at Manchester.

After 25 years of service, the Avon Sportshall management team (Dave Turner, Hilary Nash, Sue Jones) are retiring after the 2019 Avon Trials. Volunteers are being sought to succeed them. The meeting was concerned to see Avon Sportshall teams continue into the future. The Association will discuss with the current management team and Avon Schools A A how we can facilitate this.

4. Bristol & West AC and Yate & District AC were in discussions about a programme of Open meetings for the summer of 2019 (all at YOSC). The meeting agreed that for the Under-13s and Under-15s, the 800m Championships would be held on the main Championships date and the 1500m at one of the Open meetings.
5. Avon Schools AA results: in the 2018 ESAA Combined Events Championships, Rory Howorth (Team Bath AC, competing for Wiltshire Schools) won the Intermediate Boys Octathlon; Jenna Blundell took Bronze in the Senior Girls Heptathlon, with the team of Jenna Blundell, Rebecca Ousby and Renee Jelf finishing second team in the category.

Cross Country / Trail Matters:

1. The Tri-Counties Cross-Country Championships will be held at Bath University on Sunday 9th December, organised by the Wiltshire AA. Keith Brackstone is unable to help with the setup and dismantling of the course; John Robbins offered to help with the setup, with volunteers being needed for the dismantling on the Sunday.

[Post-Meeting note: the on-line entry system is now open, at <https://www.entrycentral.com/XC2018>].

2. The South-West Individual / Inter-Counties Cross-Country Championships will be held on Sunday 6th January 2019 [Revised Post-meeting Note: the meeting will be at Aldon Hill, Yeovil after all].
3. UK CAU Inter-Counties Cross-Country Championships: these will be held on Saturday 9th March, at Prestwold Park (near Loughborough) again. John Deaton is preparing a discussion document on the selection and organization process for the Avon & Somerset teams at this meeting (broadly proposing a refined version of the system used in 2018).

[Post-meeting note: the Senior Men's and Senior Women's races at this meeting will both be over 10km].

4. The 2019 English Schools Cross-Country Championships will now be held near Leeds.

Information from Outside Bodies (e.g. MCAA, EA, SW Council) The EA South-West Conference and Presentations will be held on Saturday 29th September, at the Exeter Golf and Country Club, starting at 2.00pm.

Information from member Clubs / Associations:

1. The new Secretary of Westbury Harriers is Mike Hopkins, secretary@westburyharriers.co.uk .
2. Keith Brackstone has retired as Bristol & West AC's Development Adviser. Henrietta Anstey hen@bristolandwestac.org has taken on the role of part-time Administration Manager.

3. [Post-meeting note: Martin Bates, martin.a.bates@btinternet.com has been appointed as the new Secretary of North Somerset AC. Their new Chairperson is Penny Mannings, pennymannings@hotmail.com].

Any Other Business:

1. The meeting expressed its good wishes to Keith Brackstone and Tony Jefferies regarding their recent health concerns.
2. John Robbins is seeking suggestions for candidates for election as Life Vice-Presidents and Honorary Life Members of the Association at the 2019 AGM.

[Note: the Avon AA Constitution states that Life Vice Presidents are appointed for long and distinguished service as Chairman / Chairperson , Secretary or Treasurer of the Association, and Honorary Life Members for long and distinguished service to the Association in other capacities].

Date of Next Meeting: Monday November 26th 2018, 7.30pm., at UWE Frenchay Campus (subject to room booking).

Meeting Closed at about 9.30pm.