

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday 23rd September, 2019, in Room 3B031, Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol, starting at 7.30pm.

Those Present: Roger Brocklesby (Bristol & West AC), John Deaton (General Secretary), Pam Gooding (President), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), John Robbins (Chairperson), Jim Strudwick (Avon Schools AA), Matt Viner (Yate & District AC).

Apologies: Martin Bates (North Somerset AC), Ian Macintosh (Life Member), Penny Mannings (North Somerset AC), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), Arthur Renshaw (Thornbury RC)

Minutes of previous Committee Meeting: (20th May 2019): accepted. The Officers had agreed that there was insufficient time-critical business to justify a July meeting.

Matters Arising: Replacement for Avon AA banner: still to be processed.

Treasurer's Report: Hilary Nash had sent in copies of the latest Statement of Accounts (copies available on request). As Hilary was unable to be present, John Robbins read a summary of Hilary's narrative report:

1. All 15 current club / association members of the Avon AA have paid their 2019-20 Affiliation Fee.
2. The 2019 EA grant of £500 towards County Championships expenses had been received
3. Clipboards for Avon officials: the order of 60 clipboards has been received, and roughly half have been distributed already.
4. The second Wind Gauge has been passed to Yate & District AC.
5. Team Avon had received a grant of £750 from the residual Avon Network funds held by EA, to be used to subsidise the team's travel expenses to the YDL Upper Age Group National Final (Team Avon finished third). There had been an Athlete Registration issue, for which Team Avon / Team Bath AC had to make emergency payments (which will hopefully be retrieved from the athlete concerned).

Officials Secretary's Report:

1. Amendments to list of qualified Technical Officials:

Level 1: Matt Viner (Photo-Finish), Mark Thomas (Timekeeper), Dean Garrett (Field Judge), Nicola Diamond (Field Judge)

Level 2: James Kyle (Field Judge), Martin Bates (Timekeeper)

Level 3: Sandra Woodman (Marksman)

The following officials have had their status de-activated because of lapsed DBS checks:
Andrew Ballentine, Mia Breeze, Rachael Fisher, Jenny Hodge, Heather Priestley.
2. The 2019 Wesport Games were held at Yate instead of Bath University this year, and went ahead successfully.
3. Applications for Accreditation at Level 1 and Level 2 are now handled by Nicola English, at officialsaccreditation@englandathletics.org. Track and Field course arrangements are now being handled by Charlotte Follis cfollis@englandathletics.org.

4. There had been difficulties regarding the efforts of a prospective young official, not quite 16 years old, to accumulate qualifications towards Levels 1 & 2 Field Judge status, not helped by contradictory advice from various EA activists.
5. A proposed meeting of County Endurance Officials Secretaries in June fell through: a meeting of County Track and Field Officials Secretaries is scheduled for Sunday 20th October.
6. The 2020 UKA National Officials Conference will be held on Sunday 19th April, at the Jury's Inn, Hinckley, Leicestershire.
7. Ray had received some (but not all) of the Annual Records of Experiences due from Avon Officials.
8. The committee agreed that Ray should order a new supply of paper for the Avon stopwatch/printer.

Road Running / Endurance Matters

1. The Cleeve Road Relays (Sunday 25th August) went ahead successfully, in weather conditions which were a pleasant contrast with the deluge of 2018. The incorporation of the EA South-West Road Relay Championships increased the field sizes somewhat.

The Committee expressed a vote of thanks to Stuart Hancock and Kate Britten for their work on the event.
2. EA South-West Road Running Championships: the Secretary had had a provisional offer to Team-Manage at the first phase of this competition (Chippenham Half Marathon, Sunday 8th September), but the Avon AA vests required for this meeting were needed by Team Avon at the YDL Upper Age Group National Finals. The second phase will be at the Gloucester 10km on Sunday 24th November.
3. Tom Lacey (Southville RC) had contacted the Association regarding Bristol City Council's Western Harbour Development consultation. Certain suggested options could have significant impact on local running, notably on the GWR's Towpath Series. John Robbins has sent a response to the consultation on behalf of the Association, outlining the potential impact on local competitive and recreational running of some aspects of the scheme.

Track and Field / Sportshall Matters:

1. The Avon T&F Championships went ahead, incorporated in various local Open meetings. This enforced format caused extra work, and the Association is grateful to Steve Grant for all his work on the on-line entry system and the handling of entries on the day.
2. The EA South-West Inter-Counties Championships went ahead on Sunday 21st July at Exeter: Avon finished sixth in both Male and Female competitions. Due to the lack of alternative volunteers, John Deaton had again to man the Avon AA team base rather than acting in his preferred role as Field Judge.

The majority South-West opinion (including that of the organiser) is that the 2020 competition should be held in July (likely date: Sunday 19th July). The format of the Inter-County element of the competition will be discussed further at the EA South-West Conference on Saturday 28th September.

3. There was a "near-miss" incident on the Shot event at the September 4th B&W / Avon / Yate Open T&F meeting. Unfortunately the incident was not reported to the Field Referee or the Meeting Manager on the night; the reporting activist did not witness the incident personally; and the official who was the near-victim of the incident is currently out of the country. John Robbins will seek further information before sending in a report to UKA. The Secretary will send out a reminder to Avon clubs (he has already

done so to Avon League clubs) about the need to report dangerous incidents at T&F meetings as well as incidents causing actual injury.

4. There was an unpleasant incident at the Midland T&F League fixture on Sunday August 4th, hosted at the Jefferies Arena jointly by Bristol & West AC and Yate & District AC. The Track Referee had made an error regarding the Relay lane draws; however a visiting team's activist subjected him to what has been described as a prolonged over-reaction, which continued even after the Referee had admitted and corrected his mistake.

The Track Referee opted not to raise a formal complaint over this issue. However the Avon Committee feels that this sort of behavior must not be allowed to become the norm in the sport. The Secretary will prepare an e-mail for discussion with the Chairperson, to be sent to the Midland League, asking the League to remind clubs that issues with (volunteer) Lead Officials should be handled with courtesy.

5. Summer 2020 Open T&F Meetings: the meeting would prefer at least one Open meeting rather earlier in the season.

Cross-Country / Trail Matters:

1. Tri-Counties Championships: the Association agreed with the Somerset AA suggestion that the Championships be held on Sunday December 1st at Bath University.
2. South-West Championships: these will be held on Sunday January 2020, at Aldon Hill, Yeovil, again. [Post-meeting note: Entries are now open, at <https://events.englandathletics.org/event/england-athletics-sw-cross-country-championships-2020/profile>]. The Avon Schools XC Championships will be held on Saturday 18th January at Kingswood School, Bath, and the South-West Schools Championships on Saturday 8th February at Kings Park, Bournemouth.

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

EA South-West / EA National Volunteer Awards: these will be presented at the EA South-West Conference and Presentations Day, on Saturday 28th September at the Exeter Golf and Country Club.

[Post-Meeting note: The following Avon activists received EA South-West Volunteer Awards: Jeremy Dale (Volunteer of the Year), Dave Turner (Coach of the Year), Martin Fisher (Official of the Year), Sophie Millard (Young Volunteer of the Year)].

Information from Member Clubs / Associations: Contact with the new Bristol & West AC Officials Secretary should be made via the e-mail address volunteer@bristolandwestac.org, [corrected after November 2019 meeting] not as stated in the September 2019 pre-meeting notes.

Request for Support for start-up costs of Great Run Local Bristol: as no supplementary information had been received regarding this request, the matter was not discussed.

Any Other Business: Ray Gooding complained that a device which was not the official Avon AA badge had been used on the timetables for the B&W /Avon / Yate Open Meeting series, and featured on the Avon AA website.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 25th November 2019, 7.30pm., at UWE Frenchay Campus (subject to room booking).

Meeting Closed at about 9.20pm.