

## Avon Athletic Association

**Minutes** of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday September 20th 2021, by Zoom, starting at 7.00pm.

**Those Present:** Debbie Brooks, John Deaton (General Secretary), Pam Gooding (President), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), John Robbins (Chairperson), Arthur Renshaw (Thornbury RC), Jim Strudwick (Avon Schools AA)

**Apologies:** John Cox (GWR), Kelly Dicks (GWR), Ian Macintosh (Life Member), Penny Mannings (North Somerset AC – communications failure), Sally Richards (Clevedon AC).

**Minutes of previous Committee Meeting:** (7th July 2021): Accepted.

**Matters Arising:** None.

**Officials Secretary's Report:** This was distributed in advance (copies available on request).

1. Upgradings: To Level 1 Timekeeper: Steve Grant (Bristol & West AC)  
To Level 1 Track Judge: Steve Grant, Paula Casling, Henrietta Anstey (Bristol & West AC),  
Jason Wyatt (Weston AC), Carolyn Devereux (North Somerset AC)  
To level 1 Marksman: Helen Keogh (Yate & District AC)  
To level 1 Field Judge: Emma Clarke (Bristol & West AC),  
Kirsty Page, Joy Bray (Yate & District AC)  
To level 2 Field Judge: Sam Hillier Smith, James Viner, Stephanie Brooks (Yate & District AC)

Deactivated: Simon Holman (Yate & District AC, no DBS), Sandra Smith-Vokroj (Team Bath AC, retired)

Ray was disappointed at EA's slow response to applications and queries.

2. The second part of Ray's report included Ray's notification that he would not be accepting re-nomination as Officials Secretary (Track or Endurance) at the forthcoming AGM.

John Robbins expressed the Association's thanks to Ray for his patient work over many years. John appealed to member clubs to find a potential successor, who would act (among other things) as an essential link between EA and the clubs' Officials coordinators.

Ray was prepared to continue as the Association's Identity Verifier for DBS applications / renewals.

3. Officials are reminded that Records of Experience (including duties during the 2019–2020 season) need to be sent in by September 30th. Level 2, Level 1 and Level 1s in progress (Track and Endurance) need to send the data to Ray; Levels 3 and 4 (Track only) need also to send the data to Barry Parker and to Paula Gowing.
4. John Deaton reported that the National Officials Conference will be held (on-line) on Sunday October 31st. This is recommended for all levels and all disciplines of official. The links for applications were not available at the time of the meeting.

### Road Running / Endurance Matters

1. South-West Inter-Counties Road Running Championships: the last proposed Championships race had been scheduled for Sunday 19th September: the clash with the Bristol 10km / Half Marathon meant that there was no chance of putting out a suitably representative Avon team. In the end, only two counties were willing to put forward teams, so the Championship was abandoned for 2021.

2. Some Autumn Road Races have already taken place in the area, including the Chew Valley 10km (after only receiving Local Authority permission on the preceding Thursday), the Great Bristol 10km and Half Marathon, and the first of the 2021-22 Weston Prom Runs. Clubs promoting races locally are urged to contact Arthur Renshaw so that he can build a comprehensive list of Road/MT races nearby.
3. There are currently no available Level 1 Endurance Officials courses.

**Treasurer's Report:** (Distributed in advance; copies available on request):

1. All Avon AA clubs have paid their 2021 Affiliation Fee. All expenses claims for officials who travelled to Yeovil for the Somerset / Avon Championships have been met. Hilary needs to be notified of any impending claims for Coach / Official course subsidies by the end of the year.  
  
Team Avon funds: the only outstanding item for 2021 will be the application fee due for registering a composite team for 2022.
2. The Independent Examination of the Accounts is complete and the relevant documents signed off: our thanks go out to Maria Townsend for her work on this data.

**Track & Field / Sportshall Matters:**

1. John Deaton had distributed in advance a T&F Coordinators Report (copies available on request)
  - 1.1 South-West Inter-Counties T&F Championships (Sunday 18th July at Exeter): the meeting went ahead well despite the Covid restrictions still in force. The main disappointment was that the organisers insisted that the High Jump and Pole Vault competitions were conducted with a maximum of seven trials per athlete allowed: the meeting considered that this was not in the interests of HJ/PV competitors and (if continued) would diminish the credibility of the Championships. John Deaton was authorised to campaign against this restriction.
  - 1.2 Combined Somerset / Avon T&F Championships (August 21st/22nd, Yeovil): the meetings went ahead well, although numbers were limited by factors including holidays, Covid isolation requirements, the clash with the MCAA Under 15s / Under 17s T&F Championships and the absence of competitors from almost all of Somerset's Independent Schools.  
  
No concerns were expressed at the time of the Committee's decision not to award Avon AA medals for this year's Championships. However following the events some dismay was expressed. The Committee noted that the detailed reasons for the decision were set out in the Secretary's report.
2. UKA's Competition Working Group has issued a fixtures schedule for 2022 which is unfavourable to the YDL clubs. The relevant clubs / teams need to send in their views to the relevant contacts (if they have not already done so).
2. It was noted that YOSC had staged 15 T&F promotions during the summer, including some hosted by clubs other than Yate & District AC.
3. Late September T&F Meetings: EA are imposing some restrictions on Field Events at midweek promotions because of the likely light limitations (even with floodlights) available. John Deaton is awaiting more specific details.
4. Sportshall: The Avon Schools Sportshall Trials have been arranged for Saturday 29th January 2022 at the Bristol Grammar School Sports Hall.

## **Cross Country / Trail Matters**

1. Tri-Counties XC Championships: no date has yet been fixed. John Robbins will liaise with Alex Copping (Wiltshire) and Ian Humphreys (Somerset) to confirm on which dates the Bath University Car Parks and the race field (owned by the National Trust) were available.

Because of this uncertainty, any discussion on equality of race distances was deferred. It would be helpful if there were some trial races available to see how well Senior Women would actually turn out to support longer races.

2. UK CAU Championships 2022: the meeting agreed to support John Deaton again as the lead activist for the Avon and Somerset teams for this event (proposed: John Robbins; seconded: Ray Gooding).

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

1. The MCAA AGM will be held on Sunday September 26th: it will be held on-line only because of building work at the Alexander Stadium. The Association is seeking nominations as Secretary and Treasurer.
2. The AA South-West Council Volunteer Awards evening will be held on Saturday October 16th (details not yet available).
3. The England Athletics AGM will be held on Saturday 23rd October at the Hilton Metropole Hotel at the NEC. In view of the issues around last year's AGM, member clubs are urged to respond to the AGM material (the meeting will be an in-person affair, but proxy voting is available).

## **Information from Member Clubs / Associations**

The Secretary of Clevedon AC is now Sally Richards, [cacsecretary330@gmail.com](mailto:cacsecretary330@gmail.com).

## **Any Other Business:**

1. The Association's Seiko printer / stopwatch was damaged in an unsuccessful attempt to replace the expired battery: local Seiko dealers were unwilling to attempt a repair. The meeting authorised Ray to purchase a replacement watch (current likely cost around £320) [Post-meeting note: now received].
2. UKA CEA Joanna Coates has drawn the sport's attention to a BBC1 documentary 'Nowhere To Run – Abused By Your Coach'. It can be watched for the usual time on BBC iPlayer at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p09v8k03>
3. Those potentially interested in a business opportunity involved in providing for an age group not normally handled by mainstream athletic clubs might be interested in this Mini-Athletics option: <https://athleticsweekly.com/young-athlete-news/join-the-mini-athletics-success-story-1039949752/>
4. The Assets Register of the Avon AA shows that the Association has / had some intercom radios. John Deaton will contact one possible holder, but other information would be welcomed.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 22nd November 2021 (provisional). The decision on whether to hold the meeting in-person or by Zoom was deferred.

**Meeting Closed** at about 8.35pm.