

Avon Athletic Association

(Minutes transcribed from the original handwritten Minute Book by John Deaton, some items are compressed, re-worded or omitted)

Minutes of the Inaugural meeting of the Avon County Amateur Athletic Association, held on Friday June 14th 1974, at Transport House, Victoria Street, Bristol.

Those Present: [36 persons signed the attendance list; not all signatures legible. Clubs / organisations represented included Bristol AC, Southern Counties AAA, Avon & Somerset Constabulary, Westbury Harriers, Dursley & District AC, SCWAAA].

Apologies: Mr. D Goldring (Avon Schools AA), Mr. D. Burborough (Westbury Harriers), Mrs. E. Forrest (SWCAAA).

Meeting Chaired by Mr. J. Hill, with Mr. A Clark as Secretary.

Constitution: The Chairman went through the Constitution drawn up by the Steering Committee, and accepted amendments from the floor. [Constitution accepted by 32 votes to 1. There is no record of what the single dissenter was so uptight about].

Area Affiliation: There was a wide-ranging discussion on this topic. There was fear expressed from the floor of the meeting that if the Avon CAA affiliated to the SCAAA and SCWAAA, it would be forced into an independent South Western Area, which was considered to be athletically barren.

Miss Hartman [Marea Hartman, a leading figure of Women's Athletics nationally] and the representatives of the various Area organisations at the time) wished the Avon CAAA to affiliate to the Southern areas because it would strengthen the South-West region. However, all gave assurances that the South Western CAAA would not become an independent area until the region itself felt strong enough to do so.

The floor of the meeting was not reassured by these statements.

Mr. Parsons proposed that the Avon CAAA affiliate to the Midlands Area Associations. Seconded by Mr. le Grand, and passed by a majority of 25 to 2.

Election of Officers: [names of proposers and seconders omitted]

Chairman:	Mr. J. Hill
Secretary:	Mr. A. Glanville
Treasurer:	Mr. M. Smith
Track and Field Secretary:	Mr. D. Carter
Cross-Country Secretary:	Mr. V. le Grand
Officials Secretary:	No candidate
Coaching Secretary:	Mr. K. Parsons
Five star Awards Secretary:	Mr. Farrell asked if the GCAAA Five Star Secretary could be accepted. This was agreed to.
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. J. Eastman
Trustees:	It was agreed that three Trustees should initially be appointed by the Executive Committee.

County Qualifications: There was some doubt expressed as to whether athletes born or residing in the area that was now Avon would lose their Somerset or Gloucestershire qualifications. It was pointed out that athletes who had represented these Counties would have to write to the county Secretary and resign. Other athletes automatically lost their old County qualifications. [Note: this was an incorrect reading of the situation even at the time].

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the guests.

Mr. Orrow proposed a vote of thanks to the Steering Committee.

Meeting Closed at 9.55 pm. [Note: the start time was not recorded. Our meetings don't go on as late as that nowadays!]

[Note: this meeting was from an era when there were separate Men's and Women's organisations at most levels of the sport, and where many sporting administrators were still trying to preserve the distinction between amateurs and professionals.]