

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday January 23rd 2023, by Zoom, starting at 7.00pm.

Those Present: John Cox (GWR), John Deaton (General Secretary), Kelly Dicks (GWR), Roland Gibbard, Pam Gooding (President), Ray Gooding (Life Vice-President), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), Arthur Renshaw (Thornbury RC), Mark Thomas (Team Bath AC).

Apologies: Debbie Brooks, Andrea Garcia-Lock (SGS College), John Robbins (Chairperson), Jim Strudwick (Avon Schools AA).

Chair of Meeting: in the absence of John Robbins, Mark Thomas was appointed to Chair the meeting.

Minutes of previous Committee Meeting (5th December 2022): Correction: Attendance list should have included Arthur Renshaw (Thornbury RC). Otherwise: accepted.

Matters Arising:

1. The Independent Examination of the 2021 Accounts is almost complete.
2. County Tent: this is now in storage at Whitehall, by courtesy of Bristol & West AC. Any Avon AA club who would like to borrow it should contact Hilary Nash.
3. Yate & District AC / YOSC would not be proceeding with their application for financial support for an Electronic Starts System. They would recoup their expenditure on the system by charging for its use.

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

1. There have been no Avon AA transactions since the beginning of 2023, although some transactions for Team Avon still have to be handled
2. The sum under the Expense category for Tent Pegs included the purchase of a groundsheet.
3. A small top-up of Avon AA vests would be required
4. No Avon club / organisation has notified Hilary of any outstanding course grant applications.
5. Hilary was authorised to make any signature arrangements necessary to enable BACS payments from the Association's accounts.

Officials Secretary's Report: No re-gradings have been announced since the last meeting.

Road Running / Endurance Matters:

1. The Midland Counties 12 / 6 stage Road Relays are being held on Saturday 1st April at Sutton Park. Officials appointments have been made but entries are not yet open.
2. The Thornbury Riverside Rollick race on January 15th went off well. The Association was happy to have the Oldbury 10 Mile race in September recognised as the County Championships event.

Track & Field / Sportshall Matters:

1. The South-West Indoor T&F Championships for Under 13s / 15s / 17s went ahead at the NIAC Cardiff on December 4th and January 8th. However Welsh Athletics would not consent to the South-West Under 20s and Senior Track and Field Championships being incorporated in their National Championships in these age groups.
2. Avon AA Track and Field Championships: The meeting was supportive of the idea of a two-day Championship. Given that YOSC are likely to charge extra for an event which involved any Senior athletes (the definition of "Senior" would need to be clarified), the meeting suggested that one day be dedicated to most of the Under-13s / Under-15s / Quadkids events (but allowing for 800s and 1500s to be held on alternate days).

We need to stress that Draft timetables will be published, but that entrants will need to check that the finalised timetable will not involve significant re-scheduling of their event dependent on eventual levels of entries.

Cross Country / Fell / Trail Matters

1. Tri-Counties Cross-Country Championships (Bath University, Sunday November 27th): with the reduced entry, there was unlikely to be any significant financial surplus.

Suggested combined Tri-counties Championships and Gloucester XC League race at the University: The meeting was supportive of the idea, but the separation of Tri-County and League entry fees and results would need to be catered for.

Whether or not the joint meeting goes ahead or not, the Association needs to consider one or more contingency venues in any of the three Counties in case Bath University was not available. Dyrham Park might be a possibility.

2. South-West Cross-Country Championships (Sunday 8th January 2023, RNAS Merryfield, near Taunton): these went ahead well.
3. UK CAU Inter-Counties Cross-Country Championships: John Deaton is assembling the Avon & Somerset teams. No volunteers had come forward as Senior Men's or Senior Women's Team Managers, so John has taken on these tasks as well, which is not a satisfactory situation.

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

1. Nominations for those seeking election to the England Athletics South-West Council have opened. There will be five (possibly six) posts up for election. Three of the current post-holders (including the Council's only woman) have completed two four-year terms on the Council and are not eligible to stand again.

The meeting agreed to support the re-nomination of John Deaton for re-election to the Council. From this year, nominees would only need two nominations from affiliated clubs or associations.

(continued)

Information from Member Clubs / Associations:

Avon Schools AA: Steve Bailey (a long-time teacher but not on the Avon Schools AA Committee) had written an Open E-mail expressing concerns about the prospects for the Avon Schools AA. It can be found on the Schools website at https://www.avonschoolsathletics.org.uk/Documents/Avon_Schools_Future.pdf

Any Other Business: None.

Arrangements for the Annual General Meeting: The Secretary had received no expressions of preference for a Monday or Wednesday AGM. The meeting decided that the AGM should be on Wednesday April 5th, by Zoom. The AGM will be followed by an abbreviated Committee Meeting, concentrating on matters requiring prompt attention.

Meeting Closed at about 8.20pm., with thanks to John Cox for acting as Zoom Host and to Mark Thomas for acting as Chair.