

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday 22nd January 2024, by Zoom, starting at 7.00pm.

Those Present: Debbie Brooks (Yate & District AC), John Deaton (General Secretary), Roland Gibbard, Pam Gooding (President), Ray Gooding (Endurance Officials Secretary), Steve Grant (T&F Officials Secretary), Bob Lavis (Yate & Sodbury Striders), Hilary Nash (Treasurer/ Bristol & West AC), Arthur Renshaw (Thornbury RC), John Robbins (Life Vice-President / Trustee). Mark Thomas (Team Bath AC).

Apologies: Jim Murphy (Westbury H.), Mike Strange (Life Vice-President / Trustee), Jim Strudwick (Avon Schools AA).

Chair of Meeting: John Robbins took the Chair of the meeting on a one-off basis.

Minutes of previous Committee Meeting (November 16th 2023): accepted. [Correction needed: name of Independent Examiner is Nick Till, not as first recorded]

Matters Arising not dealt with elsewhere in the Minutes: None.

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

1. There have been no payments or receipts since the circulated Report.
2. The Annual Accounts are ready for examination by Nick Till. A minor adjustment has been made regarding the valuation of the stock of Avon vests.
3. Officials' Clipboard supplies: the previous cost was about £5.10 each; the cost would be about £6.70. Some of the data labels will need to be updated [Note: maybe extensively, after the Rule Changes due in April 2026]. The meeting approved the purchase of a further supply of 30 clipboards.
4. Hilary has arranged a stock check on the Avon vest supply held by Team Avon.
5. It was agreed that the selling price of Avon AA vests remains at £15 for new and £10 for used for 2024 and that the prices remain under review for future years.
6. Hilary had prepared papers on the design and proposed future approach to the purchase of medals. These were distributed with other financial information in advance of the meeting, and can be supplied on request. It was suggested that lanyards could be inscribed with the year of medal award to make the medals appear more specific to the event.

The meeting agreed:

- 6.1. To adopt the Langtoft 6 as the main medal to be awarded by Avon AA.
- 6.2. That the design wording should be: top arc AVON ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION and bottom arc COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS
- 6.3. To liaise with the event organisers to provide the variety of medals suitable for their event.
- 6.4. To use the existing stock where possible. The 'Victory Goddess' stocks are sufficient for the Oldbury 10M and Quadkids U10 and U11 events; the 'Athletics Two Tone' medals for the Under 13s at the T&F Champs

T&F Officials Secretary's Report: Steve Grant reported that EA intends that Level 1 Officials will no longer need to officiate at four events before qualifying (other requirements, e.g. Safeguarding course, remain). However prospective Level 2 Officials will need to officiate at ten meetings in all before qualifying. [Note: the EA website has not yet been updated in this respect]. Also: the Safeguarding module (needed to gain / renew a Coach's or Official's licence) will now be free.

Endurance Officials' Secretary's Report: (submitted by Ray Gooding): Carolyn Devereux has been appointed as a Level 1 Endurance Official.

Road Running / Endurance Matters. The three road races intended as Avon AA Championships for 2024 are:

... 10km: Hogweed Trot 10km, Monday 3rd June. The meeting felt that an event should only be recognised as an Avon AA Championship race if it was EA-registered. Arthur Renshaw would contact the Hogweed Trot organisers.

... Road Relays: Cleeve, Sunday 25th August. Promotion already registers with EA.

... 10 Miles: Oldbury 10 Miles, Sunday 22nd September. Currently registers with both EA and ARC.

Track and Field / Sportshall Matters

1. Avon T&F Championships: arrangements are in hand. The relevant dates:

... Main Date: Sunday 12th May, Yate Outdoor Sports Centre

... Sprints & Hurdles: Sunday 14th April, Yate Outdoor Sports Centre

... 1500m Championships for U13s/U15s Boys/Girls: Tuesday 25th June, WISE

... Steeplechase: Sunday 12th May, Yeovil (subject to confirmation by Somerset AA)

2. Avon Track and Field League: John Robbins pointed out that as 4 of the Avon T&F League clubs were affiliated to the County Association then they could, on behalf of the League, apply for a grant from the Association to help with the increased costs they were facing. [Post-meeting update: Cheltenham Harriers would be joining the League]

3. Avon AA / Yate & District AC Masters T&F Meeting: this has been moved to Sunday July 21st to avoid a clash with the South-West T&F Championships. It was agreed that the Masters meeting should be designated as an Avon County AA Championship event and medals issued. The Welsh Masters would like to use the meeting as their Championships, and would be able to help out with Officials.

Cross Country / Trail Matters

1. Tri-Counties Championships December 10th: These went ahead successfully, and met with general approval despite the extra administrative tasks.

The following Motion was submitted in advance:

“Proposal - Payment to Team Bath for Contribution to Tri-Counties X-C Championships

Team Bath took on the top-to-tail management of the 2023 Tri-Counties X-C Championships which this year also included the Gloucestershire County Champs and one of the series of Gloucestershire X-C League events. In addition to the normal administration, licence application and entry arrangements

and physical work of setting and up and breakdown of the course down, they were also required to liaise with four County organisations to ensure their wishes were met.

Team Bath members also did the vast majority of the significant course setup and breakdown on the day before and day of the event.

In recognition of Team Bath's costs and effort I would like to propose a payment of £450 made up of two parts:

- a) £150 as a 50% contribution to the costs of stakes Team Bath purchased for this event on the basis that Avon County can have free use of the stakes at any future events.
- b) A payment of £300 as a fee for arranging the event. As an example, the Gwent X-C League paid £500+costs to a club for putting on an event in 2020, albeit with a larger number of entries.

Proposed: Steven Grant; Seconded: John Robbins [End of Proposal]. Motion carried unanimously. It was agreed to make the stated payments to Team Bath AC.

2. South-West Cross-Country Championships (January 7th 2024, RNAS Merryfield): went ahead successfully.
3. UK CAU Inter-Counties Cross-Country Championships (Saturday 9th March, Wollaton Park, Nottingham) -- selection and notification in progress. The main problems as yet unresolved: laying hold of the Avon & Somerset vest supply; and the sourcing and transportation of a Team Tent.

Adaptive Athletics: No news.

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

The UKA Board has approved the proposed Change of Age Group rules, to come into force from April 2026.

Information from member Clubs / Associations: None.

Any Other Business: None.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 18th March 2024, 7.00pm, via Zoom. This would be the Annual General Meeting, to be followed by an abbreviated Committee Meeting. Please note that:

1. We will have completed the 2023-24 Association Year without a Chairperson. This is not an ideal situation.
2. Mike Strange comes to the end of his three-year term as a Trustee of the Association at the AGM, but does not wish to accept nomination for a further three-year term. A replacement will be needed.

Meeting Closed at about 8.20pm.