

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday July 23rd 2012, at the Civil Service Sports and Social Club, Filton Road, Bristol,, starting at 7.45pm.

Those Present: Keith Brackstone (CC Coordinator), John Deaton (Secretary), Mike Down (Bristol & West AC), Rachael Fisher (Vice-Chairperson, North Somerset AC), Bill Kingston (Life Member), Neil Miller (Westbury Harriers / SW Council), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), Ben Redwood (Yate & District AC, T&F Championships Organiser), Gordon Robbins (Road Running Co-ordinator, Bitton RR), John Robbins (President), Mike Willcox (GWR).

Apologies : Pam Gooding (Life Member), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Cy Knibb (Bristol & West AC), Ian Macintosh (Life Member / Trustee), Jim Murphy (Welfare / Westbury Harriers), Mike Strange (Life Member).

In the absence of Stuart Nunn, Rachael Fisher took the Chair.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: (May 28th 2012): Accepted.

Matters Arising:

1. Cross-Country Team Managers for U13/U15/U17 age groups: continuing minute.
2. EA Coach Education courses in the area: again a local course (this time, Coach in Running Fitness) had been cancelled! John Robbins queried whether courses were being held at the right time of year. The Secretary was asked to contact member clubs asking what demand there was from their activists for courses and at what times of the year.
3. Redesign of Avon AA Course Subsidy application form: continuing minute.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary had received a letter from Chris Jones (Interim Chief Executive Officer, England Athletics), addressed to County Chairs. Chris stated that EA appreciated the work of Counties and Athletics Networks and was keen to extend cooperation with them. Specifically, Chris announced that meetings between EA staff, regional councils and counties were proposed for late 2012, and a "short-term advisory group comprising specific county chairs" was proposed for Autumn 2012. The Secretary would forward this letter to Stuart Nunn.

Treasurer's Report: The Current Account balance at July 14th was £7,668.94 (of which £153.37 was held on behalf of Team Avon). The Lloyds TSB Fixed Term Deposit value remained at £15,000.00. Four club affiliation fees were outstanding. The provisional surplus from the Track and Field Championships was £576.87.

Officials Secretary's Report:

1. Ray Gooding stated that Level 2 Officials Course Tutors were required to go through a tutor training course enabling them to deliver the Health and Safety aspect of new Level 2 courses. Until such tutor courses became available (possibly around March 2013) he would be unable to deliver Level 2 Officials courses.
2. Ray was disappointed at the poor response to availability requests for the Avon AA Open Meetings.

Avon Network / Successor Organisation Matters: The most recent Network meeting was on Wednesday June 27th (no minutes to hand yet) – there was no CCSO present but at least two representatives of local Unitary Authorities attended. Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 29th August.

Regarding the proposals for potentially Network-funded projects between September 2012 and March 2013: Keith Brackstone is continuing with plans for a seminar on preparations for winter (he felt that there was no conflict with a series of events for endurance coaches on October 6th / January 19th / March 23rd at Taunton), and Gordon Robbins was continuing with his plans for a Road Race Promoters' workshop. It was suggested that a Level 1 Officials course could meet the necessary criteria for Network funding (a Level 2 course before March would need H&S-qualified tutors brought in from outside the area).

Track and Field Matters:

1. Avon / West of England T&F Championships: Ben would issue his report shortly. Ben proposed that the 2013 event should be held on the UKA-recommended weekend of July 20th/21st.
2. SW Inter-Counties T&F Championships 2012: the Avon AA received the announcement of the new format of the event (a mix of individual and team event, introduced without consultation with the County) the day after the last Committee meeting. Following phone / e-mail discussions, the decision was taken not to enter an Avon team but to encourage individual entry.

The meeting went off well, although some events could have benefitted from more competitors, and some officials were hard-pressed (not an unknown problem at this meeting). The clash with the MCAA U15/U17/U20 Championships (possibly a one-off for Olympic year), and the entry standards imposed (but later eased) probably did not help.

Some delegates would have preferred a straight Inter-Counties competition, but with the withdrawal of the previous organiser, the SW Council may have had no realistic alternative to the arrangements actually made. The Secretary would canvass the views of the member Track and Field clubs before preparing a response to the SW Council.

3. Avon AA Open T&F Meetings: the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 14th August: John Robbins would canvass for extra officials. He was still considering an extra meeting in September to replace the cancelled July meeting.
4. UK CAU Championships: the Secretary had forwarded a recent e-mail regarding the Championships to Ken Holmes. To improve communications regarding Avon & Somerset team matters, the Secretary would suggest to the Somerset AA that then two organisations exchange minutes.
5. UKA Development Leagues: booklet outlining the new format to be published shortly.

Cross-Country / MT Matters:

1. Tri-County Cross-Country Championships: Keith Brackstone was proposing Sunday 16th December as the date for this meeting: venue still to be decided. He had heard no alternative suggestions from either Somerset or Wiltshire about the event.
2. South-West Cross-Country Championships: this event will be held on Sunday 6th January 2013 at Bicton College, Exmouth. EA had issued a tender document for the delivery of the Championships.
3. The Westbury Wipeout on July 9th sold out: the organisers cannot increase competitor numbers.

Road Running:

1. The Clevedon Midsummer 10km (incorporating the Avon 10km Championships) went ahead successfully: the Secretary would pass a copy of the results to Gordon Robbins. The remaining Avon AA Championships for 2012 are the Road Relays (Clevedon, Sunday 9th September) and the 10 Mile Championships (Oldbury on Severn, Sunday 16th September).
2. The GWR Mob Match went ahead successfully on July 20th, with some 240 competitors.

Avon Schools AA Matters: Avon Schools won the Senior Boys and Senior Girls awards for Category B (Medium-sized) Counties at the English Schools T&F Championships.

Sportshall matters: Nothing to report

Stoke Gifford Stadium Ltd. Matters. Keith Brackstone was becoming concerned about damage to the track and equipment (e.g. missing metal links for the Hammer/Discus cage), possibly caused during schools sessions.

Any Other Business: National Coaches Conference: the Midlands / South West session of this conference would be on Sunday September 30th at Birmingham; the Northern session would be at Leeds on Saturday September 29th, and the Southern session at Lee Valley on the same day [post-meeting note: the National Women's Coaching Conference is on Sunday 26th August in Birmingham].

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 17th September then Monday 19th November, both at the Civil Service Sports and Social Club at 7.30pm..

Meeting Closed at about 9.15pm.