

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of an abbreviated Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday March 26th 2012, in Room 2B066, Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus, Bristol, starting at 7.30pm.

Those Present: Stuart Nunn (Chairman / Yate & District AC), Keith Brackstone (CC Coordinator), John Deaton (Secretary), Mike Down (Bristol & West AC), Rachael Fisher (Vice-Chairman, North Somerset AC), Pam Gooding (Life Member), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Cy Knibb (Bristol & West AC), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), Lesley Nunn (Avon Schools AA), Ben Redwood (T&F Championships Organiser / Yate & District AC), Gordon Robbins (Road Running Co-ordinator, Bitton RR), John Robbins (President), Mike Strange (Life Member), Gareth Thomas (Thornbury RC) Mike Willcox (GWR).

Apologies : Ian Macintosh (Life Member / Trustee), Neil Miller (Westbury Harriers / SW Council).

Minutes of Previous Meeting: (January 30th 2012): Accepted.

Matters Arising:

1. Gordon Robbins reported that the Rodway Easy Runner 6M MT race went ahead successfully, although he would have welcomed more assistance. The event recorded a surplus of about £400.
2. Hayley Marriott had confirmed that Clevedon AC were happy to incorporate the Avon AA 10km Championships in their Midsummer 10km (June 12th) and the Avon Road Relays Championships In their North Somerset Relays (September 16th), However the Oldbury 10M race was also scheduled for September 16th, meaning that there would be two Avon Championships on the same day. Gordon Robbins would look into the matter.
3. Youth Development League: Lesley Nunn attended the roadshow at Taunton, at which the delegates were mostly opposed to the proposals: she was sceptical about organisers' claims that all previous roadshows had been in favour. She was still concerned about possible overuse of Under-17 athletes. The idea of holding two meetings on the same weekend has been dropped. There will be a survey of clubs' opinions, although there is a fear that the new structure (or something like it) will be imposed whatever the outcome.
4. SW Cross-Country Championships: Other SW counties did not warm to Avon's suggestion of a December date (3 against; 2 neutral). The next Championships were therefore planned for Sunday January 6th 2013 (the date which EA recommend for County Championships) at Bicton again.

Treasurer's Report: Since the end of the financial year on December 31st, Hilary had made various payments, including coaching course subsidies and the affiliation fee to England Athletics. The Current Account balance was £6,305.48, with the Lloyds TBS Bond still valued at £15,000.00.

Track and Field Matters:

1. Avon / West of England T&F Championships: arrangements were in hand, with the first few entries already in. The Wiltshire AA did not wish to use the West of England event as their Senior / Under-20's Championships. The Championships are covered by a UKA permit covering all County T&F Championships held on the recommended weekend. We are potentially short of officials.

2. John Robbins announced that there will be two Avon AA Open Meetings this year: on Wednesday 11th July and Tuesday 14th August; both at the Kip Keino Stadium.
3. National Junior League: there will be no “Promotion” match this season (in previous seasons, entered by the team which finished 7th in the Premier Division). [post-meeting note: there will be a “paper match” instead]

Avon Network / Successor Organisation Matters

The meeting discussed the latest version of the Avon Development plan being prepared by Keith Brackstone, Stuart Nunn and John Robbins. The meeting was anxious that the section on “Coach Development” was expanded to take in development of Road-Running Coaches / Leaders, to make clearer that we are interested in the development of clubs and athletes of all disciplines. Keith/Stuart/John will further revise and develop the plan, aiming to be ready to bring it to the May meeting in a state ready for submission to England Athletics.

Any Other Business:

1. The county’s supply of officials’ polo shirts was running low: Ray Gooding was authorised to replenish stocks .
2. The UK CAU Inter-Counties Fell-Running Championships will be held in Derbyshire on Saturday 19th May. The Secretary will contact John Terry (Westbury Harriers) to see if he is interested in trying to raise a team. It is unlikely that there are enough local athletes with fell-running experience (the organisers’ stipulation) to raise teams for the under-18 and Under-16 competitions.
3. After Tim Snowdon leaves the Avon Network, we presumably lose the option of a free room at UWE if the Civil Service Club is unavailable. Gordon Robbins suggested the Oldland Abbotonians FC Clubhouse is an alternative venue if the need arises.

Date of Next Meetings: Monday 28th May and Monday July 23rd, both at the Civil Service Sports and Social Club.

Meeting Closed at about 9.30pm.