

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Wednesday May 24th 2023, by Zoom, starting at 7.00pm.

Those Present: Debbie Brooks (Yate & District AC), John Deaton (General Secretary), Andrea Garcia-Lock (SGS College), Pam Gooding (President), Ray Gooding (Endurance Officials Secretary), Steve Grant (Bristol & West AC/ T&F Officials Secretary), Bob Lavis, James Murphy (Welfare / Westbury Harriers), Hilary Nash (Treasurer/ Bristol & West AC), Arthur Renshaw (Thornbury RC), John Robbins (Life Vice-President / Trustee), Mark Thomas (Team Bath AC).

Apologies: John Cox (GWR), Kelly Dicks (GWR), Edward Ellis-Cooper (SGS College), Roland Gibbard, Ian Macintosh (Life Member), Mike Strange (Bristol & West AC / Life Member).

Chair of Meeting: Pam Gooding was appointed to Chair this meeting.

Minutes of previous Committee Meeting (April 5th 2023): accepted.

Matters Arising: dealt with elsewhere in the Minutes.

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

1. Bitton Road Runners and GWR have put in applications for grant support towards coaching or officiating course costs.
2. There were some £120 worth of unawarded medals following the Avon T&F Championships, although some of these would be used up if the U13/U15 B/G 1500m events and Quadkids Championships go ahead.
3. The Avon AA has yet to appoint a replacement Independent Examiner of Accounts.

T&F Officials Secretary's Report: (submitted by Steve Grant, copies available on request)

Additional items: Matthew and Charlotte Viner should shortly be recognised as Level 2 Photofinish officials. The County has other experienced but as yet unqualified Photofinish officials.

Endurance Officials' Secretary's Report: (submitted by Ray Gooding) Two more Endurance Officials will be qualified once they have completed the Risk Assessment course on June 7th [post-meeting note: there is no current entry for this date on the EA website, and no alternative dates given].

Road Running / Endurance Matters

1. The Avon AA 10km Championships were held on Monday 22nd May in conjunction with the Hogweed Trot 10km. The Avon results are on the Avon AA website.
2. The first event of South-West Inter-Counties Road Running Championships will be held on Sunday 17th September in conjunction with the Chippenham Half Marathon. This is unfortunately a clash with the Oldbury 10 Mile race, which will be the Avon 10 Mile Championships. There may be a second South-West Championships race over a shorter distance: John Deaton will ensure that the South-West organiser has Arthur Renshaw's contact details.

Track and Field / Sportshall Matters

1. The majority of the Avon AA T&F Championships 2023 took place on Saturday 13th May at the Yate Outdoor Sports Centre. There were no major issues; the contribution of the volunteers recruited by Bob Lavis was most welcome. Debbie Brooks has assembled a collection of feedback responses from Avon activists (available from the General Secretary on request).

The level of entries from Senior Men and Women, and from Under 13 and Under 15 Boys, was disappointing. The meeting wondered whether clubs were giving the Championships enough publicity.

Some activists felt that the organisational arrangements leading up to the 2023 Championships had been a little too informal, with activists picking up tasks almost by default. John Robbins suggested that an in-person meeting be held, in late Autumn 2023 or the early months of 2024, to sort out allocation of tasks.

Other Counties have suffered disappointing levels of entries in recent seasons. Debbie Brooks offered to contact the neighbouring Counties to see if there was any scope for joint Championships.

2. A joint SGS College /Avon AA Open Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 11th July at the Kip Keino Stadium. It is planned to include the Under-13 and Under-15 Boys' and Girls' 1500m Championships, and the Avon AA Quadkids Championships, in this meeting.
3. Henrietta Anstey is planning to promote a Masters T&F Meeting on Saturday 12th August at YOSC. The Avon AA was prepared to underwrite any deficit on this meeting [Post-meeting Note: Yate & District AC are prepared to support this meeting].
4. Sportshall: The Avon Under-13 Boys team finished third in the National Sportshall Championships finals (Saturday 1st April, Fenton, Stoke on Trent). The meeting went well, but could have done with better support from Officials. [Post-meeting note: the 2023-24 season South-West Championships will be held on Saturday 9th March at Paignton, and the National Finals on Saturday 6th April].

Cross Country / Trail Matters

Cross-Championships 2023-24 season: Paul King of Team Bath AC is proposing a joint promotion between the Tri-Counties organisation and the Gloucestershire Cross-Country League at Bath University. The meeting was in support of this, although there would be a number of details to resolve. The Somerset AA are also interested in pursuing this arrangement. The meeting felt that arrangements needed to be fairly firmly in place by late Summer or early Autumn.

John Deaton gave notice that he did not wish to be Lead Organiser for the Tri-Counties Championships in any configuration, but would be prepared to work in other capacities at the meeting.

Adaptive Athletics

There were two Wheelchair / Frame Runner athletes in the Avon AA Championships meeting, and a number of athletes in the most recent Avon Fixture. John Deaton urged members to keep him informed of opportunities for coaching and competition for adaptive athletes in the area.

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

1. Potential change of Age Group rules: this was mentioned in one of a poorly-attended series on webinars on competition proposals. John Deaton will be pressing for UKA/EA to make a more open announcement of the proposals to establish the reaction of the athletics community.
2. South-West T&F Championships (Sunday 30th July, Exeter): the meeting clashes with the YDL UAG Regional Final, so the meeting is likely to be short of Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire athletes and officials. The timetable is close to the 8 hours limit under UKA Rules, so there is no scope for additional events.

Information from member Clubs / Associations

1. Changes of Officers at Bristol & West AC: the new Chair is Ben Maliphant; the Vice-Chair is Paul Owen, and the Secretary Ben Westhenry.
2. The Avon Schools AA have been unable to promote an Avon Schools T&F Championships this season.
3. Members were pleased to hear that Dylan Stoneman (Team Bath AC) had recently broken the British Record for a half-marathon by a 17-year-old.

Any Other Business: None.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 3rd July, 7.00pm, via Zoom.

Meeting Closed at about 8.35pm.