

# Avon Athletic Association

**Minutes [UNRATIFIED]** of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday 20th May 2024, by Zoom, starting at 7.00pm.

**Those Present:** Debbie Brooks (Yate & District AC), John Deaton (General Secretary), Mike Down (Life Vice-President), Roland Gibbard, Pam Gooding (President), Ray Gooding (Life Vice-President), Steve Grant (Officials Secretary), Bob Lavis (Yate & Sodbury Striders), Arthur Renshaw (Thornbury RC), John Robbins (Life Vice-President), Jim Strudwick (Avon Schools AA), Mark Thomas (Team Bath AC).

**Apologies:** Martin Bates (North Somerset AC), David Britton (Bitton Road Runners), Ian Macintosh (Life Member), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC).

**Chair of Meeting:** John Robbins took the Chair of the meeting.

**Minutes of previous Committee Meeting** (March 18th 2024): accepted.

## **Matters Arising:**

1. Officials Secretary's Report: Officials seeking a Level 1 qualification with EA will no longer need to work at four recognised athletics meetings in order to qualify.
2. Road Running Championships: The Hogweed 10km race is now registered with both ARC and EA, so will be recognised as the Avon AA 10km race. .
3. UK CAU Inter-Counties Cross-Country Championships: John Deaton has contacted David Cooke (Somerset AA Secretary) but is awaiting a reply.

**Treasurer's Report:** (Distributed in advance; copies available on request): Hilary would be happy to answer any queries put to him.

## **Officials Secretary's Report:** (Distributed in advance; copies available on request)

1. The following Officials have achieved Level 1 status:  
Field Judge: Martin Dera, Andrew Ramsey, Fred Vanderplank, Moni Brady, Reuben Brady  
Track Judge: Angela Kell, Fred Vanderplank, Sally Ward, Paul Wilman  
Timekeeper: Tom Hutchison
2. County COffSecs had been informed on Tuesday May 14th of a set of extra licensing conditions for both Level 1 and Level 2 T&F meetings, to be effective immediately [Secretary's Note: these can be found at [https://tf-event-licensing.myathletics.uk/Documentation/TFEL/2024\\_Outdoor\\_T\\_and\\_F\\_Officials\\_and\\_Equipment.pdf](https://tf-event-licensing.myathletics.uk/Documentation/TFEL/2024_Outdoor_T_and_F_Officials_and_Equipment.pdf) ].

One significant extra constraint: all Field Events at Level 1 licensed promotions (i.e. the standard club-level meeting) must now be led by a Level 2 Official, with at least another Level 1 official present. It is understood that some County Championships Field Events (not Avon's) may have been cancelled because Meeting Organisers could not meet this condition. There may be problems at some forthcoming T&F League meetings. COffSecs have been invited to submit observations in writing to the Licensing Committee.

A Midland League fixture on May 18th was cancelled, reportedly because of the unavailability of a suitably-qualified Track Referee.

## Road Running / Endurance Matters

1. The South-West Inter-Counties Road Running Championships for 2024 will be decided on the results of two races, provisionally the Langley Burrell 10km (11th August) and the Chippenham Half Marathon (15th September). If Avon is to participate, a Team Manager (or separate Men's and Women's Managers) will be needed.
2. There is the possibility of a South-West Road Relay Championship in 2025.

## Cross-Country / Trail Matters

1. The re-scheduled 2024 ECCA National Championships will be held at Weston Park, Shropshire again, on Saturday September 14th, using the 2023-24 season's Cross-Country age groups. [Post-Meeting Note: entries for the re-scheduled event will open on June 1st, at <https://www.race-results.co.uk/results/2024/natxc24e.php> , closing on 18th August].
2. It is envisaged that the 2024-25 season Tri-Counties Cross-Country Championships will be held in conjunction with the Gloucestershire Cross-Country League again, at Bath University on Sunday December 8th.
3. South-West XC Championships 2024-5 season: these are scheduled for RNAS Merryfield again, with Saturday January 4th and Sunday January 5th both being under consideration as possible dates.

## Track and Field / Sportshall Matters

1. Avon AA T&F Championships Main Day (May 12th): these went ahead successfully. The meeting congratulated Debbie Brooks on her success as a first-time Meeting Organiser for the Championships.  
  
The Hurdles Championships events were held as part of the Yate & District AC Sprints and Hurdles meeting on Sunday April 14th. There were fewer young Avon hurdlers on April 14th than in years when their events were held with the main Championships, but the older athletes had more competitive racing than in a typical stand-alone Avon AA Championships.
2. U13/U15 1500m Championships races, Quadkids Championships (plus Open events) will be held on June 25th, at SGS Filton. Entries are open, at <https://www.entrycentral.com/festival/3657> .
3. The Avon AA / Yate AC Masters Open 2024, including the Avon County & Welsh Masters Track & Field Championships, will be held at YOSC on Sunday 21st July. This event is open to anyone 35 years old and over, and includes most athletic events. Entries are open, at <https://meets.rosterathletics.com/public/competitions/details/about?id=24741>
4. There will be an Avon AA Open Meeting, at SGS WISE Campus, Filton, Bristol, on Tuesday 27th August. The programme will include Quadkids (Year 4 and 5), 150/200m, 300/400m, 800m, Triple Jump and High Jump for U13s up. Entries are open, at <https://www.entrycentral.com/festival/3466> .
5. It is hoped that the Avon Schools T&F Championships can be held as a UKA-licensed event for years 8, 9 and 10 on Saturday 8th June at YOSC.
6. The UK CAU Inter-Counties Track and Field Championships will be held over the weekend of 19th / 20th / 21st July, at Birmingham, in conjunction with the EA Senior / U23 / U20 Championships. It still has to be clarified how the event will operate.

## **Adaptive Athletics**

1. There will be some Para- events (Track only) incorporated in the South-West Schools Combined Events Championships at Yeovil on June 29th/30th [Correction: June 22nd/23rd].

2. The CP Sport National Championships will be held on Sunday 8th September at Coventry. Details are at

<https://cpsport.justgo.com/Workbench/i/r/public/EventsAndBookingsPublic/details/6A6D0327AC907186B675D91462C2326465183983/>

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

A Special General Meeting of England Athletics has been requisitioned for Monday June 10th in Birmingham in an attempt to change EA's position on the planned Age Group changes. However, this would be a reversal to a proposed change to UKA Rules which was supported by Scottish Athletics Ltd., Welsh Athletics, and Athletics Northern Ireland, and realistically would require a change of viewpoint by at least one of these bodies if any reversal voted on by EA is to proceed further. Proxy voting is available for the meeting.

## **Information from member Clubs / Associations:** Yate and Sodbury Striders now have a website:

<https://www.yateandsodburystriders.co.uk> .

## **Any Other Business:**

1. Jim Strudwick made an appeal to the Avon AA for support for the Avon Schools AA in keeping down the costs to parents of athletes attending the English Schools T&F Championships (July 12th / 13th, Birmingham) to last year's level. Jim asked if the Avon AA could go 50-50 on subsidising this gap. Hilary Nash had already indicated that a subsidy [amount redacted for website version] would be reasonable, and the meeting supported this (proposed John Robbins, seconded Debbie Brooks). [Post-meeting note: the subsidy payment has already been made].
2. Association's 50th year: it was suggested that a social event would be held, possibly at YOSC, in the late summer or early autumn, with an invited celebrity. This could be used as a chance to extend the list of the Association's list of Honorary Life Members, with an appropriate presentation.

The current Life Vice-Presidents are: John Deaton, Mike Down, Pam Gooding, Ray Gooding, Graham Howell, Mervyn Kemp, Bill Kingston, Ian Macintosh, Hilary Nash, Gordon Robbins, John Robbins, Barry Smart and Jim Strudwick

The current Honorary Life Members are: Keith Brackstone, Raymond Brigden, Patricia Gallagher, Tony Hurley, Anthony Jefferies, Patricia Jefferies, Lesley Nunn; Stuart Nunn, David Palmer, Clive Smith, Pat Swinbank, David Turner, Diana Viles and Mike Willcox.

Life Vice-Presidents must be current or retired Officers of the Association, and (as far as we know) there are no living candidates who are not already LVPs. However, nominations as potential Honorary Life Members would be welcome. Nominees should have made a major contribution to athletics in Avon (even if not specifically to the Association). Please contact John Robbins with names of potential nominees.

3. Vacancies with the Avon AA: Chairperson (not filled); Trustee: Jim Strudwick (proposed John Robbins, seconded John Deaton) to serve until the 2027 AGM (subject to ratification at 2025 AGM).

4. The meeting noted with sadness the passing of Derek Morrison, a Life Vice-President of the Association and mentor to many of the current Starts Teams in this area. John Deaton will pass on the details of the funeral arrangements when known.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Monday July 15th 2024, 7.00pm, via Zoom, if there is enough business to justify a meeting.

**Meeting Closed** at about 8.30pm.