

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday November 19th 2012, at the Civil Service Sports and Social Club, Filton Road, Bristol,, starting at 7.30pm.

Those Present: Keith Brackstone (CC Coordinator), John Deaton (Secretary), Mike Down (Bristol & West AC), Rachael Fisher (Vice-Chairperson, North Somerset AC), Pam Gooding (Life Member), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Bill Kingston (Life Member), Cy Knibb (Bristol & West AC), Neil Miller (Westbury H. / SW Council), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), Lesley Nunn (Avon Schools AA), Stuart Nunn (Chairperson / Yate & District AC), Ben Redwood (Yate & District AC, T&F Championships Organiser), John Robbins (President), Gareth Thomas (Thornbury RC).

Apologies : Ian Macintosh (Trustee), Gordon Robbins (Road Running Co-ordinator), Jim Strudwick (Life Member), Mike Willcox (GWR).

Minutes of Previous Meeting: (September 17th 2012): Accepted, with one correction (Wellsway School is in Keynsham, not Bath).

Matters Arising:

1. EA Coach Education courses: the Endurance Coach course at Yate in October was cancelled, but the Club Coach course apparently went ahead; the Assistant Coach and Leader in Running Fitness courses in November both sold out early. There are no local courses listed yet on the EA website for 2013.
2. Redesign of Avon AA Course Subsidy application form: continuing minute.
3. Local Open meetings: the Secretary would send out a skeleton edition of the requested local Track and Field calendar.
4. Avon 10M Road Race Championships: the overall race winner Michael Johnson (Bristol & West AC) had indicated on his entry form that he was Avon-qualified, and so had been sent his winner's medal .

Secretary's Report: EA is holding meetings about the new Membership Fee structure: the Midland meeting is at Solihull on December 1st: the venue of the Southern meeting (December 14th) is now Central London.

Treasurer's Report: The Current Account balance at October 27th was £7,880.64 (of which £8.37 was held on behalf of Team Avon). The Lloyds TSB Fixed Term Deposit value remained at £15,000.00; the first tranche of annual interest (£423.45) had been received. Three club affiliation fees were outstanding . Hilary Nash had not managed to contact Mike Andrews about the examination of the 2011 Accounts. Hilary still has some Coach Course subsidy applications to process.

Officials Secretary's Report:

1. 20 Avon officials plus 4 others attended the Health and Safety course at SGAS College on November 18th: some 16 Avon L2 officials still need to attend a course. There is a course at Salisbury on Saturday March 2nd [date possibly misreported at meeting. Post-meeting note: there is another H&S course at Cheltenham on Saturday 19th January].
2. Avon nominally has 43 officials (excluding Level 1's); however 4 are believed non-active, and for 5 more, their CRB checks have expired. Some officials with South Glos. / North Somerset addresses may be classified as Gloucestershire or Somerset officials on the UKA system.

3. Ray Gooding has only received 14 Form 10's from Avon Officials so far: clubs are asked to remind their officials to return the forms.
4. There were 12 Avon people who attended a Level 2 course in March (and a further 10 from previous years) who had not submitted the Record of Experience paperwork needed to qualify. Member clubs are asked to remind any of their member officials who are in this situation.
5. Ray Gooding was authorised to submit a one-off order for an Officials Polo Shirt for Carol Strange.

Avon Network / Successor Organisation Matters: The next Avon Network meeting will be held on Wednesday November 28th at UWE. A Throws Workshop organised by Sandra Smith went ahead successfully at Bath University on October 28th; Neil Miller is looking for a suitable date/venue in March for a Video Analysis course. Stuart Nunn considered that a voluntary Network Administrator could not realistically handle the job long-term, and expressed his gratitude to Jackie Hilleard (Wesport) for her support.

Track and Field Matters:

1. Avon / West of England T&F Championships: the dates allocated on the UKA Fixture Calendar was the late May Bank Holiday weekend: the meeting was apprehensive about the possible shortage of entrants, but decided to go ahead with the Championships on Saturday 25th May.
2. UK CAU Secretary Ray Morgan has been in discussions with EA regarding support for County Championships. Possible developments include: an on-line entry system; provision of EDM equipment; centrally-sourced meeting numbers, results cards etc.; nationally-negotiated First-Aid provider; mail-shot of registered athletes.
3. There was some uncertainty about which T&F meetings required permits: John Deaton to clarify.

Cross-Country / MT Matters:

1. Tri-County Cross-Country Championships: Keith Brackstone has the meeting arrangements well in hand, but still needs more officials. His main concern was the number of entries received so far (only 8 for Avon); the meeting urged all member clubs to promote the event strongly to their members. John Robbins offered to convene (after December 9th) a sub-committee to discuss the promotion of the Championships in the context of declining cross-country fields nationally.
2. UK CAU Inter-Counties Cross-Country Championships: In reaction to various comments received from Tamsin Chick (Westbury Harriers) Keith Brackstone responded:

... incomplete teams in previous years: Managers of Senior teams need to nominate 15 athletes in advance, of whom 9 may run. If athletes withdraw, no extra names may be introduced. Athletes need to be open about whether they intend to run (injuries etc. permitting) if selected.

... selection criteria: some matters must be subjective (e.g. do we select a strong athlete who might be back from injury in time, rather than a weaker but injury-free athlete?). However Keith was drawing up a document outlining the selection principles.

... Club involvement with selection: Keith would welcome the presence of more club representatives at selection meetings to improve the quality of available data. It must be remembered that the team represents Avon and Somerset, so athletes keen to run may not achieve nomination for the team.

Keith Brackstone would discuss these matters further with Tamsin when he next met her.

3. South-West Cross-Country Championships: The posts of Young Athletes Team Managers for Cross-Country had been vacant since the 2012 AGM, and no volunteers had come forward despite reminders to clubs. Mike Down felt that the event was unfocused (was it primarily an Inter-County event, an Inter-Club or an individual one?); others were uncertain how we could guarantee reimbursement of entry fees from athletes entered by Team Managers to boost teams and who might or might not turn out on the day [post-meeting note: Neil Miller pointed out that Counties would be invoiced only for those athletes who turned out on the day] . The meeting voted by 4 votes to 3 (6 abstentions) not to enter teams in the event but strongly to encourage local athletes to take part.

Road Running:

1. Stuart Nunn had attended the Sodbury Slog on November 11th and had been very impressed with the race organisation. He had talked to an athlete with an "Emerson's Green Running Club" vest: this organisation is considering affiliation to England Athletics and to the Avon Athletic Association.
2. Those present would be interested to know what proportion of the runners recently recruited through Run England schemes are joining the affiliated clubs.

Avon Schools AA Matters: The Avon Schools AA will be hosting the 2013 South-West Schools Cross-Country Championships at Blaise Castle on Saturday 2nd February; Jim Strudwick had been in contact with Ray Gooding regarding officials. The Avon Schools AA had been the top-scoring South-West team at the 2012 English Schools T&F Championships.

Sportshall matters: Event dates announced : South-West (North) "Fun In Athletics" (U11's) Regional Festival on Sunday February 3rd at UWE; Avon Schools Finals / County Trials provisionally Saturday February 9th; South-West Finals (U13, U15) at Paignton on Saturday March 2nd; National Finals on Saturday April 7th at the NEC.

England Athletics SW / MCAA / EA / UKA matters: The Midland Counties AA AGM is on Sunday 25th November in Birmingham.

Stoke Gifford Stadium Ltd. Matters. Keith Brackstone had notified his Board of Management that he was stepping down as Company Secretary at the end of their Financial Year (November 30th). He considered that the workload was excessive for an unpaid volunteer. This subject will no longer appear as a regular item on the Avon AA Agenda.

Club News: The Secretary of Bitton RR is now **Allison Collier** allison.collier@bittonroadrunners.co.uk ; the Secretary of Bristol & West AC is now **Paul Cooke** bandwac@yahoo.co.uk . [Post-meeting note: the Secretary of Clevedon AC is now **Helen Ball** (please use the e-mail address CACsecretary330@aol.com for athletics matters)]

Any Other Business:

1. Avon's only South-West Regional Winners among the EA Volunteer Awards were Pippa Reilly and Declan Walters (North Somerset AC), joint winners in the Young Volunteer category [post-meeting correction]
2. The Secretary would contact the Gloucestershire AA, Wiltshire AA and Somerset AA to suggest exchanges of Minutes.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 21st January, at the Civil Service Sports and Social Club at 7.30pm. The AGM and subsequent abbreviated Committee Meeting will be held on Monday March 18th [post-meeting note: venue confirmed as Room 2B065, Block B, UWE Frenchay Campus].

Meeting Closed at about 9.40pm.