

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday September 17th 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), Bill Kingston (Life Member), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), Gareth Thomas (Thornbury RC), Mike Willcox (GWR).

Apologies : Pam Gooding (Life Member), Ray Gooding (Officials Secretary), Lesley Nunn (Avon Schools AA), Stuart Nunn (Chairperson / Yate & District AC), Ben Redwood (Yate & District AC, T&F Championships Organiser), Gordon Robbins (Road Running Co-ordinator, Bitton RR), John Robbins (President), Tim Snowdon (Life Member), Derek Wolfe (Bristol & West AC).

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

Minutes of Previous Meeting: (July 23rd 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: there were Athletics Coach and Endurance Coach courses scheduled for Yate in October, but as the closing dates had not been reached, the response was not known yet.
3. Redesign of Avon AA Course Subsidy application form: continuing minute.

Secretary's Report:

1. The Secretary passed over to the Treasurer requests for coaching course subsidies from John Grimsey (Thornbury RC; for Endurance Coach course) and Mike Hockett (GWR; for Plyometrics Training Weekend and Olympic Lifting for Athletes course). The meeting agreed to subsidise these to 1/3 of their cost.
2. Criminal Records checks : the following changes have been (or will be) implemented:

... implemented in September: deletion of some documents (notably NHS Card) from list of acceptable documents for Proof of Current Address check; more stringent process if applicant cannot produce passport / photo-Driving Licence / original Birth Certificate.

... due in December: amalgamation of CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) with ISA (Independent Safeguarding Authority) to form the DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service).

... due in 2013: some further changes (details not yet announced).
3. Member clubs should note that they will not be notified that their Clubmark has expired

Treasurer's Report: The Current Account balance at August 28th was £7,571.90 (of which £38.37 was held on behalf of Team Avon, with a small travel grant to come). The Lloyds TSB Fixed Term Deposit value remained at £15,000.00. Four club affiliation fees were outstanding (Hilary Nash would pursue these).

Officials Secretary's Report: Ray Gooding was unable to attend the meeting, but had sent in a report (copies available on request). Among the points he raised:

... a course for the Level 2 Health & Safety module would be held at SG&S College, Filton, on Sunday November 18th. Bookings need to be made via England Athletics (the Committee agreed to reimburse Avon AA participants).

... there will be a Level 1 Officials course at Yate; date and time to be announced.

... Officials can now qualify as a Marksman without needing to become a Starter.

... Anyone interested in becoming a Track Judge or Field Judge at the 2013 Special Olympics National Summer Games at Bath University on August 29th/30th/31st 2013 at Bath University should contact Ray Gooding promptly.

The Secretary notified the meeting that a Level 2 Starter / Marksman course had been arranged for the evenings of Thursday November 1st and Tuesday November 6th at Cheltenham (booking via England Athletics). He also reminded the meeting that officials' Form 10's were now due.

Avon Network / Successor Organisation Matters: An Avon Network meeting was held on August 29th (meeting notes available on request) but with only five in attendance.

1. Keith Brackstone's "Preparing for Winter" course went ahead on September 8th as planned; other courses are in various stages of preparation.
2. Stuart Nunn had suggested a realignment of Avon Network and Avon AA meeting dates; however the Committee considered that the current Avon AA meeting arrangements should remain.
3. The development paper drawn up by Stuart Nunn / Keith Brackstone / John Robbins had been forwarded to England Athletics via Matt Foad. As EA does yet know what funding they will receive for the period 2013 – 2017, no-one could yet say what the effect on the Avon Network (or successor body) would be.

Track and Field Matters:

1. Avon / West of England T&F Championships: Ben's report awaited. The UKA-recommended date for the 2013 event was July 20th/21st: however the UK CAU at their AGM had advocated a date in May.
2. SW Inter-Counties T&F Championships 2012: the Secretary had received only two replies for his request for reactions to the new format of this meeting (Mike Strange: favourable; Graham Howell: disappointed at low standard of Senior Women's events). The meeting was concerned at the over-stringent standards called for in the original Championships prospectus, and considered that the event should be held either as a genuine Inter-Counties event or as a Championships similar to the Midlands event. The Secretary would pass on the meeting's views to Neil Miller.
3. UK CAU Championships: the Secretary had not received any report of this event. Few Avon or Somerset competitors took part.
4. UKA Development Leagues: it was likely that the UKA proposals would go through regardless of various people's misgivings; in that case, Team Avon would enter the U17/U20 competition, with the individual clubs (if they see fit) entering the U13/U15 competition.

5. Local Open Meetings: the meeting would like to see a calendar of local Open Meetings similar to that produced by Gordon Robbins for Road /MT racing: John Deaton undertook to produce this.

Cross-Country / MT Matters:

1. Tri-County Cross-Country Championships: Keith Brackstone may need to move the event to Sunday 9th December, at either Bath University or Wellsway School, Bath [Correction: Keynsham].
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. As with the South-Western T&F Championships, this event in 2012 was a mixture of Inter-County and Inter-Club competition, and as with the T&F equivalent, the meeting felt that the meeting should give definite priority to one or the other. John Deaton to include this in his communication to Neil Miller.

Road Running:

1. The North Somerset Road Relays went ahead on September 9th: the Secretary had not yet received any results.
2. The Oldbury 10 Mile race (incorporating the Avon AA 10M Championships) went ahead successfully on September 16th: the Secretary would be putting the results up on the website shortly [Note: now done]. The taking of entries on the day had worked well.

Avon AA Qualifications: members of Avon AA clubs may not be Avon-AA qualified (or have dual qualification and opt for the other county) and members of non-Avon AA clubs may be Avon-qualified. If an entrant fails to indicate on their entry form that they are Avon-qualified, the competition organiser is entitled to assume that the entrant is not qualified. The Secretary reminded members that athletes may only compete for (or compete in the Championships of) one County in any one calendar year.

3. GWR Mob Match: the meeting expressed its thanks to GWR for the donation of £200 from the proceeds of this meeting.

Avon Schools AA Matters:

1. Lesley Nunn had provided a report of the Avon Schools team's trip to the English Schools T&F Championships in Gateshead in July (copy available on request). Avon Schools won the Senior Boys and Senior Girls awards for Category B (Medium-sized) Counties, plus two Gold, four Silver and three Bronze medals. There were problems with extreme weather and an accommodation mix-up.
2. The Avon Schools AA may be chosen as organisers of the 2013 South-West Schools Cross-Country Championships.

Sportshall matters: Event dates announced (provisional so far): South-West (North) "Fun In Athletics" (U11's) Regional Festival on Sunday February 3rd at UWE; South-West Finals (U13, U15) at Paignton on Saturday March 2nd. No date / venue yet for National Final.

Stoke Gifford Stadium Ltd. Matters. The amount of Track usage by clubs was static, but there was increasing demand from individual athletes. Keith Brackstone would be advocating that SGAS employ an administrator to enable individuals' training fees to be collected and their track use monitored. A General Meeting of SGAS Ltd. would be convened shortly.

Club News: The Bristol & West AC Women's team had won the Qualifying Match for entry into the UK Women's League.

Any Other Business: None.

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

Meeting Closed at about 9.05pm.