

## Avon Athletic Association

**Minutes** of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday September 26th 2022, by Zoom, starting at 7.00pm.

**Those Present:** Debbie Brooks, John Cox (GWR), John Deaton (General Secretary), Kelly Dicks (GWR), Pam Gooding (President), Ray Gooding (Life Vice-President), John Robbins (Chairperson), Mark Thomas (Team Bath AC).

**Apologies:** Andrea Garcia-Lock (SGS College), Ian Macintosh (Life Member), James Murphy (Welfare / Westbury Harriers), Penny Mannings (North Somerset AC), Hilary Nash (Treasurer / Bristol & West AC), Jim Strudwick (Avon Schools AA).

The meeting noted with sadness the passing of Dave Perkins, the President of Westbury Harriers.

**Minutes of previous Committee Meeting** (25th April 2022): Accepted.

**Matters Arising:** all covered under other items on the agenda.

**Treasurer's Report:** (Distributed in advance; copies available on request): Points not covered in the Report:

1. All 2022-23 Avon AA Affiliation fees had now been received [Correction: one was still outstanding].
2. The meeting agreed to cover the loss of £175 incurred on this year's Cleeve Road Relays, and to make a commitment for 2023 to provide the championship medals and a grant of £175 to contribute towards the cost of First Aid cover and equipment.
3. Hilary Nash will shortly be passing the 2021 Accounts material to the Independent Examiner.

### **Officials Secretary's Report:**

1. Officials qualified / upgraded since last report:  
  
To Level 1: Henrietta Anstey (FJ), Matt Exley (FJ), Jennifer Graham (TJ and FJ), Christianne McKenzie (FJ), Richard Maddock (FJ), John Smerdon (FJ).  
  
To Level 2: Emma Clarke (FJ), Steve Grant (TK and TJ).  
  
To level 3: Carolyn Devereux (TJ), Jason Wyatt (TJ).  
  
Not continuing as Officials: David Hart, Joanne Nolan.
2. Roland Gibbard, a leading Endurance Official, has moved to Weston Super Mare and would be happy to work on Avon AA events (he Refereed the Cleeve Road Relays).
3. England Athletics has appointed Marc Ritchie as their Technical Officials Development Manager.
4. Officials Polo shirts: Ray has located a new supplier: the sample shirt they supplied for him at £14-00 appears satisfactory.
5. Records of Experience; England Athletics would prefer these to be submitted via the 'My Athletics' portal on the EA website. However CoffSecs do not have access to these files. Ray can still handle the original RoFE files, and for those 'My Athletics' users who have contacted him, he has issued instructions on how to download their data.

### **Road Running / Endurance Matters:**

1. The Avon Road Relays went ahead at Cleeve on Sunday 28th August, and the Avon 10 Mile Championships at Oldbury on Severn on Sunday 18th September. This latter date clashed with the Chippenham Half Marathon, which incorporated the 2022 South-West Inter-Counties Road Running Championships, so Avon did not enter teams in that competition.
2. The (formerly Easy Runner) Rodway 10km, previously a MT race on a Sunday in March, was re-configured as a Friday evening road event on September 2nd, and seems to have gone ahead successfully, particularly as there were fewer dog-walkers around the course at that time. The Towpath Series races also went ahead successfully.
2. The MCAA Autumn Road Relays took place on Saturday 24th September at Sutton Park. However next Spring's Midland 12M/6W Road Relays may be in doubt: Keith Brackstone (Chair, MCAA Road Running Committee) is standing down at the forthcoming MCAA AGM (Sunday October 30th), and to quote the MCAA website "Without a new Chair it is hard to imagine the Midlands Road Events continuing".

### **Track & Field / Sportshall Matters:**

1. Avon AA Track and Field Championships: these were held on the afternoon of Saturday May 14th and the morning and afternoon of Sunday May 15th at Yate. The Steeplechase events (in which only one Avon athlete took part) were held at Yeovil on the morning of Saturday May 14th incorporated in the Somerset AA Championships: this is probably a reasonable arrangement for the future given the general shortage of Steeplechasers in the South-West.  
  
The Championships made a small surplus. The Committee would look into the feasibility of a two-day Championships for 2023.
2. The meeting congratulated Team Avon on their second place in the YDL Upper Age Group National Final at Manchester on Sunday September 4th.
3. There will be a UK-wide National Fixtures Conference in the Autumn. There could be pressure to cut back on League competition.

### **Cross Country / Fell / Trail Matters**

1. Tri-Counties Cross-Country Championships: discussions are ongoing. The Avon AA was anxious to move the Championships away from the last pre-Christmas weekend of December: however the Gloucestershire League had moved their Round 2 fixture to Saturday 10th December.  
  
Senior Race Distance Opportunities: John Robbins had advocated a "Long" race and a "Short" race, with both races open to both men and women. However the Somerset AA preferred that those men wanting a shorter race should run with the U17 and U20 Men (it is understood that the Wiltshire AA prefer this option).  
  
John Deaton suggested that Senior athletes unable currently to complete a Road 10km in (say) 60 minutes (or equivalent performance) should respectfully be asked to compete in the shorter option.
2. Arrangements for the South-West Cross-Country Championships (Sunday 8th January 2023, RNAS Merryfield, near Taunton) are progressing, although entries are not yet open.

3. UK CAU Inter-Counties Cross-Country Championships: John Deaton was prepared to act as the Avon & Somerset Lead Organiser for 2023, providing that the principle of team selection by e-mail dialogue used since 2017 was retained. The meeting agreed to nominate John for the position on this basis.

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

1. England Athletics Affiliation 2023-24: [Post-meeting note: the individual affiliation fee will rise to £17; the Club / Organisation fee will remain at £150].
2. The most recent EA South-West Council (by Zoom) welcomed the involvement of Anne Wafula-Strike, the EA Board's Diversity Champion. Various thoughts on the subject of diversity and inclusion in the sport were discussed, and the South-West Council intends to develop these ideas further.

John Deaton asked that 'Adaptive Athletics' (i.e. anything away from mainstream athletics, whether included in the Paralympics or not) be added as a regular Agenda item. [Note: a flow of information about competitions, courses, etc. would be welcomed]

3. The AGM of the UK Counties Athletic Union was being held at the same time as the current Avon AA meeting (Simon Prior of Wells City Harriers will be taking part via Zoom). The business of the meeting will include a discussion on whether the organisation should be wound up. The UK CAU Inter-Counties Track and Field Championships were again not held; the idea of a UK CAU Road Relays competition received very little interest. The future financial position of the Cross-Country event is uncertain.
4. The responsibility for Road Running matters in England is gradually being transferred from RunBritain to England Athletics. The practical effect of this change remains to be seen.
5. The AGM of England Athletics will be held on Saturday October 15th. If a change to the Articles of Association of EA is approved, a nominee for election to the EA South-West Council will need only two nominee bodies rather than the current three.

**Information from Member Clubs / Associations:**

1. The new Secretary of Team Bath AC is Tom Hutchison, [secretary@teambathac.org](mailto:secretary@teambathac.org).
2. We may before long need a new storage space for the Avon AA tent.

**Any Other Business:** John Robbins confirmed that he would be stepping down as Avon AA Chair at the 2023 AGM, and that clubs need to consider a possible successor.

**Date of Next Committee Meeting:** Monday December 5th, via Zoom.

**Meeting Closed** at about 8.20pm.