

Avon Athletic Association

Minutes of a Management Committee Meeting of the Avon Athletic Association, held on Monday 11th September 2023, by Zoom, starting at 7.00pm.

Those Present: David Britton (Bitton Road Runners), Debbie Brooks (Yate & District AC), Alex Copping (Team Bath AC), Pete Davenport (Bristol & West AC), John Deaton (General Secretary), Roland Gibbard, Pam Gooding (President), Ray Gooding (Endurance Officials Secretary), Steve Grant (Bristol & West AC/ T&F Officials Secretary), Bob Lavis (Yate & Sodbury Striders), Hilary Nash (Treasurer/ Bristol & West AC), Arthur Renshaw (Thornbury RC), John Robbins (Life Vice-President / Trustee),

Apologies: John Cox (GWR), Kelly Dicks (GWR), Andrea Garcia-Lock (SGS College), Ian Macintosh (Life Member), Mike Strange (Bristol & West AC / Life Member). Mark Thomas (Team Bath AC).

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

Minutes of previous Committee Meeting (May 24th 2023): accepted.

Matters Arising not dealt with elsewhere in the Minutes.

1. Grant Support: one payment made; the other will be made following the completion of the course.
2. Nick Mills has agreed to act as our Independent Examiner of Accounts.

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

1. Unawarded medals from T&F Championships: most have now been issued; a few will go into store for next season.
2. The Cleeve Road Relays went ahead successfully on Sunday August 27th. Financially, the meeting made a small surplus, so Stuart Hancock did not need to draw on the grant on offer from the Avon AA.
2. The meeting agreed to purchase a licenced version of the Zoom package (cost: approx. £120 per year), which would mean, among other points, that we could hold continuous sessions rather than having breaks every 40 minutes or so as with recent meetings.

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

1. Helen Keogh (Starter's Assistant) has been advanced to Level 2; Christianne McKenzie and Jennifer Graham are now Level 2 Field Judges.
2. There are reportedly delays in those DBS Checks being carried out by Avon & Somerset Police: new or renewing applicants are advised to allow extra time.

Endurance Officials' Secretary's Report: (submitted by Ray Gooding)

1. Steve Grant has now become a Level 1 Endurance Official.
2. Two local activists are due for Risk Awareness courses to complete /maintain qualification, but there are currently no such courses due (or Level 1 Endurance Courses). Ray Gooding would contact Marc Ritchie of EA to see what can be done.

Road Running / Endurance Matters.

1. The first event of the South-West Inter-Counties Road Running Championships went ahead as part of the Langley Burrell 10km. on Sunday 13th August, and the second event 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 AA 10 Mile Championships. It is hoped that we can find Men's and/or Women's Team Managers, so that Avon can enter teams in this competition in 2024 and beyond.
2. Arthur Renshaw is now recognised as an EA Race Adjudicator.

Track and Field / Sportshall Matters

1. Sportshall: the 2023-24 season South-West Championships will be held on Saturday 9th March at Paignton, and the National Finals on Saturday 6th April at Stoke on Trent. There is no date yet for the Avon Schools Trials meeting.
2. A joint SGS College /Avon AA Open Meeting went ahead successfully on Tuesday 11th July at the Kip Keino Stadium. The Avon AA Quadkids Championships and the Under-13 and Under-15 Boys' and Girls' 1500m Championships were all well supported (although the U13 Girls 1500m attracted just one competitor).
3. The Avon AA / Yate & District AC Masters T&F Meeting went ahead successfully on Saturday 12th August at YOSC. Great credit must go to Henrietta Anstey for originating the concept and bringing it to fruition. The meeting also hosted Welsh Masters athletes whose domestic Championships could not be held. It is hoped that the event can return in 2024.
4. Avon AA T&F Championships 2024: Debbie Brooks reported that none of the three neighbouring Counties wished to be involved in a joint event, at least for 2024.

Debbie Brooks has asked YOSC to pencil in May 11th and 12th, May 18th and 19th as potential dates for events in 2024. The general feeling of the meeting was that we should aim for a single main day of Avon competition, with some events (as with the U13/U15 1500m races and the Steeplechases in 2023) being held on other dates and in conjunction with other meetings. Debbie would ask Graham Howell whether some Hurdles events could be incorporated in Yate's Sprints and Hurdles meeting.

[Post-Meeting Note: Hilary Nash has put in provisional bookings for YOSC for May 11th and May 12th].

EA has awarded grants in recent seasons in support of County Championships. They are now encouraging Counties to provide systems which enable results to be displayed on-line as soon as practical after the confirmation of the race / Field Event result. This may mean using a different Entries / Results Processing software package.

Cross Country / Trail Matters

Cross-Championships 2023-24 season: Alex Copping is acting on behalf of Team Bath AC as Lead Organiser of the joint Tri-Counties / Gloucestershire League meeting on Sunday December 10th at Bath University. The meeting would also incorporate the Gloucestershire AA XC Championships. The entry system would be available shortly, and would need to cater for entrants qualifying for any of the four Counties and for none.

1. Alex had a basic team of regulars from the Gloucestershire League for Timekeeping and Results Processing, but would need to call on the Avon AA for support with marshalling, and with course set-up (on the Saturday) and course dismantling.

2. The Avon AA recognises that it was their turn to promote the Tri-Counties event and so that they may be expected to bear certain costs.
3. Competitors (or their “Transport Managers”) and other activists need to be notified of the Bath University Parking Charge situation, and that payments can only be made via the JustPark app.
4. A draft edition of the Timetable showed the Under-13s races taking place before the Under-11s events. The Avon AA meeting had no issues with this, but felt that this needed to be emphasised to avoid misunderstandings or missed races.
5. The Avon AA would not offer separate “Long” and “Short” option medals for Senior Men and Senior Women this time.

Adaptive Athletics: No current news.

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

1. Potential change of UKA Age Group rules: EA will be holding webinars on September 12th, 18th and 20th to consult on their proposals. Member clubs with young athletes (including on Cross-Country / Road) are urged to participate in at least one of these. Shortly after these, John Deaton will convene a meeting, open to any interested parties, with the single topic of Age Group proposals, in time to submit the Association’s views on the topic.
2. EA Funding for 2024-25 Financial year: there are various proposals on Affiliation Fees, with one being that Club / Association / Meeting Promoter fees should rise to £200 and individual fees to around £19.
3. The AGM of the Midland Counties AA will be held on Sunday 24th September, at the Coventry Godiva Harriers clubhouse at 12.00pm. (Zoom option available). The posts of Secretary and Treasurer (among others) are currently vacant.
4. The AGM of the UK Counties Athletic Union will be held on Monday September 25th via Microsoft Teams. While the UK CAU Cross-Country event should be okay for 2024 and 2025, there must be doubts about the future of the UK CAU T&F Championships.

Information from member Clubs / Associations

1. The new Secretary of Bristol & West AC is Junayd Perryman, and the new Treasurer is Andy Salmon.
2. Kelly Dicks and John Cox will be stepping down as Chair and Secretary respectively of Great Western Runners, due to pressure of their respective paid employment. However, they intend to continue their involvement in the sport.

Any Other Business: None.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 16th November (provisional), 7.00pm, via Zoom.

Meeting Closed at about 8.40pm.