

DCAA COMMITTEE MINUTES 16th October 2024

Meeting held by Zoom on Wednesday 16th October beginning at 7.05pm.

ACTION POINTS

Following the meeting, entries for the Devon County Cross Country Championships open on Friday 18th October. The link is <https://data.opentrack.run/en-gb/x/2024/GBR/devonxc/>

Entry fee will be £9 for U20s and Seniors, £7 for athletes in younger age groups. The course at Exeter will be the same as last year. Entries close on Wednesday 27th November at 12 noon.

Note that the next Committee Meeting will be at Exeter Harriers Clubhouse on SATURDAY 23rd NOVEMBER in person and by Zoom, beginning at 10am.

MINUTES

Minutes of the Devon County AA Committee Meeting on 16th October 2024.

Attending the meeting

Mike Hindle	NAA	Irene Brown (Hon Treas)	Vince Langdon SDAC
Graham Berry	NDAC	Dave Phillips Exeter H	Hayley Ratcliff Torbay AC
Keith Reed	EVH	John Drennan SDAC	Jim Durston SWRR
Janet Phillips	Exeter H	Dave Robinson Exeter H	

Apologies for not attending Sonya Ellis

Minutes

From the Chair, Mike Hindle welcomed everyone to the meeting. He paid tribute to the late Mike Baddick whose sudden death occurred on 17th September during a coaching session. Graham Berry said Devon Athletics had been well represented at the funeral, especially by fellow timekeepers.

Minutes of the August meeting had been circulated.

Amendments – There were none

The acceptance of the minutes, as a true record was proposed by Graham Berry, seconded by Jim Durston and approved.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Still no response from Teignbridge Trotters re affiliation.

Polo shirts for officials were available at the September track and field meetings and the officials were pleased with them. There are still some in stock and will be available at the next Sports Hall meeting on 24th November.

The proposed Road Relays at RNAS Merryfield are still under consideration and will probably take place in April.

Correspondence received by email since 28th August

Hon secretary said that so many emails have been received since the last committee meeting that she has made a summary of them and this is attached as a separate document.

Matters arising from the correspondence

Re 'magazines' received, the committee they could all be useful to clubs, but attention should be given to the UKA newsletter, EA's The Pulse Magazine and the Club Support newsletter. These contain significant information for clubs eg safeguarding requirements for 2025, transition to new age groups. The proposed transition to new age groups is set out in detail and can be found on the England Athletics web site if clubs have not received it.

Epic Events covers endurance events including Triathlon and Fell Running. Will be forwarded to Hayley Ratcliff.

UKCAU

Keith Reed attended the UKCAU AGM on line. Main points arising – The CAU is short of both officials and funds but will continue to organise events. Inter Counties Cross Country will be in Nottingham on 8th March. Track and Field will probably be with the English Championships again.

World Athletics is trying to get all Cross Country competitions completed by the 3rd week in February to give athletes time to rest and recover before the track and Field season begins. Scheduling would be difficult. Senior races would be 7,500m for both male and female athletes. UK may not comply if it is brought in.

ENGLAND ATHLETICS AGM

A representative from each club can attend the AGM in Birmingham on 26th October – See EA web site for details. The meeting will be live streamed. Keith Reed will be attending (by Zoom) for EVH and will report to DCAA committee. Hopefully more Devon Clubs will be represented.

DONATION

Re donation to Devon Air Ambulance from DCAA in appreciation of Mike Baddick. £50 donation agreed.

Hon. Treasurer's Report

Irene Brown reported that to date 20 Clubs have affiliated paying £60 per club and 7 have affiliated to Sports Hall. Torbay AC and NDAC have not yet affiliated to Sports Hall for this year.

The bank balance at the end of September was £23982.21. The balance is £2253.834 above the start of year balance. However, invoices have not yet been received for National Sports Hall entry, First aid and track costs etc. for a number of events so this more like £1000 above the start of year balance.

Since this report was written £400 from England Athletics for help with the cost of Devon County has been received. This prevented the Track and Field Championships running at a loss.

Details of income and expenditure for specific events are available.

Hon Treasurer said she will be away from mid- December to the first week in February.

The acceptance of the report was proposed by John Drennan seconded by Graham Berry and agreed with thanks to the Hon. Treasurer.

Photo Finish Partnership – Since the last meeting the replacement camera and has been ordered. Subsidiary items such as replacement cables have also been ordered. It has not yet been delivered. Thanks to the SW Regional Council for a donation of £1000 towards the cost.

Efforts are still being made for Gary Brock to authorise payments from the DEPP Bank account.

Track and Field

Age Group Changes

Age Group Changes are going to take place on 1st April 2026. (See matters arising from correspondence)

The recommended dates for 2025 Track and Field fixtures, including Schools events, should now be available. Recommended dates for County Championships May 10/11. South West Athletics League and Devon Open Series dates have not yet been finalised. They should be available by the next DCAA committee meeting in November. Tavistock AC would prefer not to host the last Devon Open series meeting of the season and NDAC would prefer their meeting not to be during August because of school holidays.

South West Region Reports

Keith Reed said he is no longer on the SW Regional Council because he has served his allowed time. However he is still involved eg in licensing of Cross Country events.

South West Awards presentations for 2024 were held with the South West Conference on 28th September. The event was attended by representatives from all over the South West and there were some interesting presentations and discussions. The slides used have been saved and are available from Keith Reed.

SW League AGM was held in the morning in Exeter Harriers Clubhouse.

SW Cross Country Champs are in hand. Championships will be held at RNAS Merryfield on Saturday 4th January

Officials

Always in short supply and competition providers are finding it difficult to fulfil the level of officials required on Field Events. Fortunately some officials are working hard to improve their level and we welcome a new level 3 official who has moved to Devon and will be available for the summer season. Thanks to the people who have been coming to officiate and assist this year. The number of volunteers at the first Sports hall meeting is encouraging.

Keith Reed has sent out the availability list for winter events.

Officials polo shirts are in stock and a selection will be brought to the next Sports Hall meeting and will be available at the Devon County Cross Country Champs in Exeter on 1st December.

Road Running

Devon and Cornwall were the only Counties to have teams at the SW Road Running Championships. Thanks to Dave Phillips and Ali Thorne for organising the teams. Results will be on the DCAA web site. In spite of some good performances by Devon runners, Cornwall won both the team events

As most of the interest in the event comes from Devon and Cornwall consideration is being given to using a different venue for at least one of the events, eg the Peninsula Challenge in Cornwall.

The proposed road relay event could be at RNAS Merryfield in April.

Ross Shield is hosted by Tavistock AC with the Tavi 7 on 27th October, Thanks to Tavi AC and Richard Nettleship for this. REMINDER Team members MUST be first claim members of Devon Clubs. 6 men to count in the Ross Shield Men's teams and 3 women to count in the Ross Shield Women's Teams.

Medals should be available on the day.

Cross Country

Devon County Cross Country Championships will be held on 1st December with the Westward League at Eastern Fields, Exeter Arena. Dave Phillips and Dave Robinson will set up the course (they will need help) and are making arrangements for provision of toilets. 5 units have been ordered and will be delivered on the day. Packed lunches will be provided for officials.

The other Westward League dates are 6th October at Plympton, 17th November at Newquay, 12th January at Westward Ho!, 9th February at Plymouth, 1st March (which is Saturday) at Redruth.

Devon Schools CC 18th January. - Exeter. South West Schools will be held in Newquay, Cornwall. Date is Saturday 1st February.

Fell Running – Hayley Ratcliff said 2 juniors went to the Schools Championships in Settle and did very well, Marlow Kirby finishing 9th and Luke Stannus 10th. Details on the Fell Running web site.

Sports Hall

The first Sports Hall meeting had a reasonable number of entries and the shorter programme to fit into the time the hall was available worked well. The number of officials and volunteers who came forward was encouraging. Thanks to Keith and Jayne Reed for organising the competition.

Other Business

Dave Phillips said more County vests will need to be ordered soon but the current suppliers have gone out of business. Contact is being made with possible suppliers.

Janet Phillips said the Exeter City Council have put forward proposals for new parking arrangements at Exeter Arena. Full details are on the Exeter City Council Web Site. The main points being Free parking for 3 hours, maximum waiting time 6 hours. No details of what the arrangements are for the second 3 hours. Then anyone who has been there for 6 hours has to leave and cannot return for 3 hours. This would mean events such as SW League and other events such as SW Inter Counties and SW Schools would not fit in to the time available.

Dave Phillips will contact the Council and ask for a face to face meeting to clarify what is being proposed and the effects this would have on the use of the Arena for competitions

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.23 pm. As there is no meeting in December the next Committee meeting will be held in Exeter Harriers Clubhouse in person and by Zoom on SATURDAY 23RD NOVEMBER starting at 10 am.