

DCAA COMMITTEE MINUTES 17th January 2024
Meeting held via Zoom

ACTION POINTS

The Devon County AA AGM will take place on SATURDAY 24th February in Exeter Harriers Clubhouse at 10.30am. Please make sure a representative from your club attends.

Your club should have received AGM information including a list of current Officers and Committee and a column for nominations for these positions in 2024/5. Please check that the people your club wish to nominate for some of these positions are willing to stand and send your nominations to the Hon Secretary. Email janetm.phillips@btinternet.com Nominations to be received by 13th February (extended from 7th.)

Still no information on the Running Man Trophy which is awarded to the winning Men's team in the DCAA Country Championships. Tavistock AC won the Men's Team in 2021 and Exmouth H in 2022. Did either club receive it or do we need to go further back?

Keith Reed is organising an officials course on 23rd March at Exeter Arena Let him know if your club has any members who would be interested in becoming qualified officials in any discipline, including photo finish and he will give details.

DCAA STILL needs to have the accounts checked and certified correct by an Independent Reviewer before the Annual General Meeting in February. If you know of anyone with accountancy skills who might be willing to take on this role please ask their permission to give their contact details to the Hon. Treasurer Irene Brown. THIS IS IMPORTANT.

ADD YOUR CLUB'S SUPPORT by signing the petition set up by Yeovil Olympiads in response to the possibility of the ill Whistlecroft Athletics Arena being closed as a result of Somerset County Council's financial difficulties.

MINUTES

Minutes of the Devon County AA Committee Meeting held using Zoom, on Wednesday 17th January 2024 beginning at 7.15pm.

Attending the meeting
Mike Hindle (by phone)
Keith Reed
Janet Phillips
Irene Brown

Vince Langdon
Jim Durston
John Drennan

Apologies for not attending

Dave Phillips
Graham Berry
Marilyn Blair
Hayley Ratcliff
Derek Smith

Minutes

Minutes of the November meeting with amended date of the AGM (24 Feb) had been circulated.

The acceptance of the minutes, with the amendment, as a true record was proposed by Vince Langdon , seconded by Keith Reed and approved.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Running Man team trophy – No further progress.

New Devon County AA Web Site. (See November Minutes) Thanks to Geoff Williams for his work on this. He says the site is ready to go and needs up to date information eg Club contacts. It might have a different name to the present site.

Hon. Treasurer said she has paid £4.60 to igoogle to do with the current web site hosting. Keith Reed will contact Mark Cowen to let him know he will probably need to take the old site down when the new one comes into operation.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED BY EMAIL SINCE 15th November 2023.

- 23 November From Keith Reed. SW Conference notes including information on Club Standards and link to web site. All clubs should read this. Details of Sports Hall County Champs.
- From Irene Brown (Hon Treasurer) agreeing to purchase of Devon vests. Discussion of prices needed. Replies from Dave Phillips, Mile Hindle and Jim Durston.
- Running Insight update
- From England Athletics – Black Friday Catalogue – discounts on kit, courses etc.
- 26 November From Irene Brown query re £5 paid into DCAA account.
- From Dave Varney SWAL competition dates – 5 May, 2 June, 21 July, 1 September. Provisional date for SWIC 28 July.
- 27 November From a1Stitch & Print confirmation of order for hoodies
- From Mike Hindle re medals
- 28 November From Keith Reed – Officials’ information for DCAA Cross Country Champs.
- 29 November Information on Notional Running Show in Birmingham, 20 – 21 January.
- From Joe Mower Information on UKCAU Inter Counties. On line entries close Monday 5 February.
- 3 December From team managers re DCAA Cross country.
- Epic Events newsletter, mainly concerning Trail and Hill Running.
- 4 December From Keith Reed - Cross Country Champs results and entries for SW Counties CC.
- 5 December From Dave Phillips re SWCC Champs and selection policy. Similar from Derek Smith.
- From Keith Reed requesting SWCC Champs entry details to send to athletes.
- 7 December From Keith Reed re information to send to athletes on team selection. Replies from Dave Phillips, Marilyn Blair and Derek Smith agreeing to this.
- From England Athletics – The Pulse. Has much information. Clubs should read it.
- 8 December From Keith Reed Link for entering SWCC Championships. Sports Hall timetable.

9 December Running Insights update.

10 December Epic Events newsletter.
From Keith Reed Sports Hall Results.

11 December From Jacky Brett (E A) 2024 indoor and outdoor licence guidance – licences are needed to put on events and must be applied for 8 weeks before the event.
From a1stch & print Invoice for hoodies. £258.40.

13 December Irene Brown re donations for use of Eastern Fields. And confirming hoodies are paid for. Reply from Dave Phillips re donations. Another from Dave Phillips asking for list of athletes who entered the DCAA Cross Country Champs. Reply from Keith Reed including list of entries.

15 December From England Athletics copy of Between The Lines which includes Regional Volunteer Awards winners, Officiating terms and conditions for officials level 1 to 3. Webinars for training courses and resources.

19 December From SEAA reminder of closing date for entering Southern Cross Country Champs.

21 December From EA – Seasons Greetings and information on talent hubs.

22 December Running Insights update.

23 December Epic Events newsletter

30 December From Derek Smith Junior teams for SW Inter Counties Cross Country Champs.

31 December From Dave Phillips re kit for County team members
Epic Events newsletter.

1 January From Irene Brown re County Kit.

4 January From EA – Get ready for the coming season.
From Ian Hartman -Information on 2024 British Counties Senior Mountain Race at Keswick on 21st April and Junior Hill and Fell Running Championships at Rossendale.
Epic Events newsletter.
From Mike Hindle Agenda for Committee meeting 17 January.

9 January From Richard Bowden re possible closure of Yeovil Track and petition against this.
From Dave Phillips re County kit. From Graham Berry apologies for 17 Jan meeting

10 January From Keith Reed re revised agenda for AGM and track booking for Devon Open. Officials Course on 23rd March.
Link for Committee meeting on Zoom. 17 January. Also re Affiliation reminder and Feed to find someone who can be independent reviewer for accounts From Irene Brown Treasurer's report and accounts for AGM.
11 January From Dave Phillips re kit issued to athletes at SW C Champs. Reply from Irene Brown.

Correspondence received after list of correspondence was compiled

From Richard Bowden re possibility of the Bill Whistlecroft Athletics Arena being closed because of Somerset County Council's financial difficulties. Request to sign the petition against this.

Hon. Treasurer's Report

Accounts have been completed up to the end of the year. The end of year bank balance is £21 000, so over the year DCAA approximately broke even.

Accounts Notes for Devon County Athletics Association for year end 2023 (Draft)

The Devon County Athletics association had 20 Athletics Clubs in the County pay their affiliation for the year, only athletes that are members of affiliated clubs can be picked to run for Devon in the Regional and National championships.

The accounts show a small surplus on the year of £814.21 compared to a small loss for the previous year. The accounts for this year are presented with all the Track and Field and Cross Country events run by Devon in one bank account, due to the on line entry system, the Sportshall in another and the general income and expenses in a third. It has therefore been difficult to present a direct comparison with 2022 accounts but where possible to show a direct comparison this has been done.

This year the county purchased a Gazebo for athletes use at events. The county funded Devon teams going to the various South West and National competitions where our funding included some entry fees and all team manager expenses. The county ran teams in the South West Cross country, National Inter Counties Cross Country, National Fell running Championships, South West Road running 10k Championships, South West Half Marathon championships and the Regional and National Sports Hall Championships. The county purchase kit for athletes representing the county, the Devon Vests are part subsidised, the Devon hoodies are sold at cost. The county made donations in the year to the charity requested on the death of a long standing Devon Official and to the preferred charity of the auditor of last years accounts.

Full details will be available at the AGM, but the main points are as follows

20 Clubs affiliated paying £60 per club

£1500 was spent supporting athletes competing for Devon.

Sports Hall broke even including fees for entries in Regional and National Competitions.

Devon Open Series made a profit mainly due to the meetings at Plymouth.

County Championships made a small profit thanks to a grant of £400 from England Athletics.

Devon Cross Country Championships made a surplus of £329 in spite of the high price of hiring toilets which had to be delivered and removed on the same day because of lack of security on Eastern Fields.

Affiliation fees for 2024/5 were due on 1st January. Clubs have received a reminder from the Hon. Treasurer. To date Exeter Harriers and Exmouth Harriers have affiliated.

There were no questions for the Hon. Treasurer.

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

Photo Finish Partnership. No report as no meeting since September.

Age Group Changes

Keith Reed reported that UKA has decided that the age groups for young athletes will change when the new rule book is published in April 2026. The Rules Group did not approve it and ESAA has yet to comment. Age groups will still be as at 31st August in the year of competition.

Further consultation is needed on how the new arrangement would work.

Track and Field

Updated fixture dates for Track and Field Season 2024. Most are firm. Some could be revised.

Sunday 7th April COPAC Spring Warmup Open Meeting at Brickfields
Sunday 21st April Ken Trickey Great West Open Meeting at Exeter Arena
Sat 27 & Sun 28 April Somerset Combined Events Champs (Guests Allowed) Yeovil
Sunday 28th April Devon Open Series Meeting 1 – Venue to be confirmed Either Exeter or Braunton.
Tuesday 30th April Exeter Evening Open Meeting at Exeter Arena

Sunday 5th May South West League Meeting 1 at Exeter Arena
Sunday 12th May Devon County Track and Field Championships at Exeter Arena
Sunday 26th May Devon Open Series Meeting 2 – including Combined Events at Brickfields.
Tuesday 28th May Exeter Evening Open Meeting incl. BMC races at Exeter Arena

Sunday 2nd June South West League Meeting 2 at Exeter Arena
Saturday 8th June Devon Schools Championships at Exeter Arena
Sunday 9th June Area Senior and Under 20 Championships Venue TBC
Saturday 15 June SW Schools Track & Field Championships Venue TBC
Wed 19 Jun Devon 10 000m Track Championships and Open Track Events at Exeter Arena
Sat 22 & Sun 23 SW Schools Combined Events & Race Walking Championships at Yeovil . TBC
Tuesday 25th June Exeter Evening Open Meeting incl. BMC races at Exeter Arena

Fri 12 & Sat 13 July English Schools Track & Field Championships at Birmingham
Sunday 14th July Devon Open Series Meeting 3 at Braunton Venue TBC
19th to 21st July England U20 and Senior Combined Events & Track & Field Champs, venue TBC
21st July South West League Meeting 3 at Exeter Arena
26 to 28 July England Age Groups Combined Events & Track & Field Champs, venue TBC
Sunday 28th July S W Inter Counties Championships at Exeter Arena
Tuesday 30th July Exeter Evening Open Meeting incl. BMC races at Exeter Arena

Sunday 4th August Devon Open Series Meeting 4 at Tavistock (Venue TBC)
Sat 7/Sun 11 Aug Area Age Group Championships
Tuesday 27th August Exeter Evening Open Meeting incl. BMC races at Exeter Arena

Sunday 1st Sept. South West League Meeting 4 at Exeter Arena
Fri 6 & Sat 7 Sept. UK School Games
Tuesday 24th Sept. Exeter Evening Open Meeting at Exeter Arena

Other events during September ESAA Combined Events probably at Stoke
Possibly Exeter H Combined Events \meeting.

Mike Hindle has purchased enough medals to cover all the County's requirements for the season.

Committee agreed that athletes entering the Combined Events on 26 May pay an additional £2 to the Devon Open entry fee for that meeting.

Keith Reed said he has been looking at the Roster system for competition entries and intends to use it for the Plymouth Warmup meeting and Devon County Track and Field events.

Jim Durston said Mark Cowen wants to firm up the arrangements for the 10 000m Track Championships.
Committee agreed that approaching BMC over possible involvement with the Open Races would be good .

South West Region Reports

Cross Country Championships at Merrifield , - SW Counties on 7th January. The event went reasonably well but the courses were rather short. The course will be adjusted to the required distance for the SW Schools on 3rd February.

The SW Conference and Awards Evening will probably be held on 28th September at the Devon Hotel.

There will be an Officials' training course at Exeter Arena on 23rd March. Some disciplines will start at 10 am and some at 11am. Some tutors still to be appointed. Sonya Ellis is considering putting on some events so those on the course can do some practical training.

Team Managers None present.

Cross Country

In addition to report on SW Championships, Dave Phillips emailed that he and Marilyn Blair are organising U17, U20 and Senior teams for the Inter Counties at Wollaton Park, Nottingham on 9th March.

Road Running

Thanks to Tavi AC for successfully hosting the Ross Shield race with the Tavi 7 this year. With the Committee's agreement he will ask Tavistock AC to host the Ross Shield with the 2024 Tavi 7.

Dave Phillips has been in touch with Roland Gibbard of the SW Council whom he is hoping will be taking on the co-ordination of the Championship this year. The first task is to establish how many and which events are to be used for the championship.

Fell Running - Report from Hayley Ratcliff on the dates and venues of SW Fell Runners events received after the committee meeting.

Race 1 Devon AA Championships Course – Venue Princetown on Saturday 23 March. Race Organiser Richard Best. This is a seniors only, counts as series race and Devon AA team selection (minimum age 18) The Senior Inter Counties is in Keswick on April 21st.

Race 2 at Meldon on 18th May. Race Organiser ORC (J)

We hope this will be Junior Inter Counties selection and Devon Junior Championships.

Race 3 at Langstone on 25th May. Race Organiser TRP (J)

Race 4 Buckland Bounder on 8th June.

Race 5 Burrator Horseshoe on Saturday 15th June (J)

Race 6 Solstice – Merrivale Wednesday 19th June (J)

Race 7 at Cosdon on 7th July. Race Organiser ORC (J)

Race 8 Haytor Heller on Saturday 20th July. Race Organisers Teignbridge Trotters

Race 9 Postbridge Pootle on Wednesday 4th July – this year maybe with visibility? (J)

Race 10 Ivybridge 3 Tops on Wednesday 7th August Race Organiser Erme Valley Harriers (J)

Race 11 Gt links for flyer on Wednesday 21st August (J)

Race 12 East Mill Tor loop Saturday 21st September Joint ORC/SWF (J) and series finale and presentations.

Full details of races and results are on the website for Swfellrunners.uk

British Inter Counties Senior Mountain Race at Keswick on 21st April. Junior Hill and Fell Champs in Rossendale on 9th June.

Sports Hall

The County Championships on 10th December went well but numbers were down on previous years. Devon usually enters 2 U11 teams, (Devon Darts and Devon Demons) and 1 team each for U13G, U13B, U15G, U15B. Currently not enough athletes available to fill all these teams. Unless numbers in the January competition there will only be 1 under 11 team.

Other Business

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.35pm. The AGM will be held on Saturday 24th February at Exeter Harriers Clubhouse beginning at 10.30am, followed by a committee meeting.

