

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE AMATEUR ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES of MEETING

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Present:	Arthur Daley	Chair / Gloucester AC
	Andrew Hawkins	Vice Chair
	Rachel Vines	Treasurer / CLC
	Emma Jeffery	Secretary / Gloucester AC
	Phil Jeyes	Almost Athletes
	Andrew Kaighan	Cheltenham & Co. Harriers
	John Rodgers	Cross Country Secretary / Dursley RC
	Lynn Hudson	Bourton RR
	Steve Hudson	Bourton RR
	Derek Lord	Cheltenham & Co. Harriers
	Kelly Sysum	Angels RC
	Jo Carter	Angels RC

Apologies: Alan Robertson (FoD AC), Ruth Fulford (Cirencester RC), Elliot Prince (Chelt & Co. Harriers)

### 1. MATTERS ARISING

- Minutes for the previous meeting were accepted.
- It was agreed that Arthur's old county youth club will be assigned to the U15 boys and girls club that has the least combined points at the end of next season's XC league.

### 1. TREASURER'S REPORT

- We continue to have a healthy financial status, with approximately £18,000 in the current account and approximately £12,000 savings. The accounts (below) were accepted.

Opening bank balance	13,762.72
Income	14,468.00
Expenditure	<u>-7,492.01</u>
	<u>20,738.71</u>

Per statement 11/01/2023 20,750.81

Unreconciled payment	-11.60
Balance per I&E statement	<u>20,739.21</u>
Diff	-0.50

Opening bank balance	20,738.71
Income	1,385.50
Expenditure	<u>-2,830.08</u>
	<u>19,294.13</u>

Per statement 16/02/2023 19,306.23

Unreconciled payment	<u>-11.60</u>
Balance per I&E statement	<u>19,294.63</u>
Diff	-0.50
Opening bank balance	19,294.13
Income	3,006.00
Expenditure	<u>-4,229.98</u>
	<u>18,070.15</u>
Per statement 12/04/23	18,082.25
Unreconciled payment	<u>-11.60</u>
Balance per I&E statement	<u>18,070.65</u>
Diff	-0.50
Opening bank balance	18,070.15
Income	2,468.00
Expenditure	<u>-2,457.43</u>
	<u>18,080.72</u>
Per statement 13/07/23	18,092.82
Unreconciled payment	<u>-11.60</u>
Balance per I&E statement	<u>18,081.22</u>
Diff	-0.50

## 1. REVIEW OF TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

GAAA Track & Field Championships years ending Sept 2023 Analysis:

Total Income	2468
First aid	750
Venue	792
Medals (estimate)	960
Numbers	56.64
Officials costs	140
Officials food	266.11
Toilets	209.28
Total expenses	3174.03
Profit / Loss	-706.03

- Figures were gathered in order to provide financial analysis for the T&F Championships. It makes a loss – but this is always the case – and the substantial XC League profit always makes up for these losses.
- Large expenditure of medals was noted. This in part can be explained by many races only having a few competitors – therefore less income from entry fees, with the entry fee having been kept the same price as the previous year.
- There has been consultation among the officials on whether the championships should be held on consecutive days, different days of different weekends or changing the current

format. They are almost unanimous in their opinion that it is too much to give up a whole weekend.

- Officials are also very stretched helping out at other competitions / fixtures throughout the summer. It had been suggested we maybe try to hold the Championships all on one day: is that feasible / practical? Officials have voiced their preference to giving up one long day rather than two days. Could all the heats and finals be scheduled? Perhaps so – if we remove the longest distance races (5,000m and 10,000m). These could be held on a weekday evening: maybe this would encourage / enable more club runners to enter them.
- Suggest holding the 5000m and 10,000m Championships on weekday evenings in early September. Also to consider having Javelin and Hammer Championships on these evenings.
- So when is the best time to have the one day of T&F Championships? Many agreed that April – the start of the season – is too early for a Championships. It was only a few days after the Gloucester Open. But what is the alternative? Many athletes chose instead to enter the Brewer Games (just a couple of days afterwards) as this gave them more competition and therefore more chances of personal bests and ‘Power of 10’ times. But if we leave it till later in May or for June then there will be clashes with the various league fixtures (Midland, Avon, YDL) and school / intercounty competitions. June is also busy with road races every weekend; and July has open events every Wednesday put on by Cheltenham & Co. Harriers.
- To conclude this discussion: **it is imperative that those (sadly few) clubs who support the T&F Championships meet to discuss what their athletes would prefer, and what can be done to encourage more of them to enter. The GAAA Committee need to receive club feedback in order to make decisions about this that will affect them all.** The AGM will confirm arrangements for 2024.
- The invitation to stage 2023’s Championship with Avon: would our athletes really want to travel out of county to Yate for our County Championships? What if we share the distance races of 10,000m and 5,000m? (it would boost the entry numbers and give more competition).
- Would those athletes achieving qualification time then receive automatic qualification into the SW Championships? (passed onto team manager Elliot, in his absence)
- The trustees of Gloucester Track are looking into buying an electronic start gun (following complaints of local residents) and wondered if the county might consider buying a photo-finishing / electronic timing system that would tie in with this. Aaron Bennett (Glos AC chair) will be devising a business plan: to review at a later date.

## 1. ROAD RACE SERIES

- Following our last Committee meeting, clubs were asked to discuss then feedback to us why their better athletes do not support the Road Race Series. **Sadly there has not been any feedback from clubs.** However, we’ve discussed before – we imagine it is the usual story of tight schedules / clashes with other fixtures and runners preferring to concentrate on races where there is quality competition and more opportunity to achieve PBs. Is there anything we can do to encourage more club runners to enter?
- On a positive note, there was nice feedback in our meeting from Angels club: they feel the Series is good in that it provides chances for certain aged runners to compete with their peers and try to win something.
- The series table is up-to-date as of the Bourton half marathon (the Blaisdon 10k will have been run but results yet to be processed).
- With seven races completed (excluding the Blaisdon 10k) there are a number of competitors who have reached the 5-race qualifying mark.

- An informal query over whether the qualifying criteria should be revised for higher age groups (over 70?). Committee has agreed to change the 2024 series so that M70+ and W70+ will have a minimum of 4 races to qualify.
- The next event in the series is the Bugatti 10k, on Wednesday 9th August.
- One county championship race remains: the Haresfield 5K (Gloucester AC) on Wednesday 16th August.
- Following a number of queries over county championship eligibility an email was sent to the county-affiliated clubs to clarify this. Clarification was also added to the road race web page.
- Remaining races: Bugatti 10K (Aug 9<sup>th</sup>), Haresfield 5K (Aug 16<sup>th</sup>), Angels 10K (Sep 17<sup>th</sup>), Guy Fawkes 5 (Nov 5<sup>th</sup>)

## 1. CROSS COUNTRY

Provisional fixture list 2023/4:

Round 1	Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Milton End Arlingham	Stroud AC & Dursley AC
Round 2	Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Cirencester Park	Running Somewhere Else?
Round 3	Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Bath University	Team Bath?
Round 4	Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Pitville Park Cheltenham	Cheltenham & Co. Harriers

- There will be a change to parking at Arlingham, with it being located on the field.
- Cirencester is yet to be confirmed (will know soon). Unfortunately this falls on the same weekend again as the Guy Fawkes 5, but there is no alternative.
- John will be meeting with Tri Counties to finalise the way we combine the events in December. Possibly combining some of the junior races / boys & girls to reduce the number of races and length of the day (especially as this is the furthest race to travel for most competitors on a day when daylight is reduced). This would give these races a larger field and make them more competitive – especially for our County Championships. Also, is there a way of distinguishing runners to identify who is competing in the our County Championship race?
- The Bath fixture will be a shared cost split between the counties. N.B. there is a £5 car parking fee at this venue.
- Entry fees will remain at last year's prices: £10 senior and £5 U20/ young athlete per race or all four races for £25 /£12.
- In addition to the team entry facility on Athletics 4u it is also proposed to offer the season ticket to individuals via Entry Central. Some Wiltshire teams have shown an interest in participating in the League: this should be encouraged as it is a League put on by Gloucestershire as opposed to a Gloucestershire League. This would boost revenue too!

## 1. OTHER MATTERS

- The county will look into investing in the fluorescent tape that was used at Pitville.

- Andrew K. requested improvements to the GAAA website. He was asked to email the webmaster with suggested improvements.
- The Committee have clarified that UKA rules state athletes must be resident in the county in order to be eligible for a medal (being a member of a club in the county is not enough although this does give eligibility for the Road Race Series).
- Rewarding officials: we provide them with a meal deal / hot drink but what about providing them with wet weather kit? We agreed to continue using Gloucester Sports as the supplier of GAAA hoodies on demand rather than invest in stock with the associated storage and administration. Arthur will discuss with Gloucester Sports to explore what they can do. (Gloucester Sports are looking for suppliers.)