



## *Essex County Athletic Association*

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 19.30 hours in the clubhouse of Chelmsford Athletic Club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford

### **Present:**

David Staines (Chairman), Claire Levey (Secretary), June Cork (President), John Weir (President Elect), Malcolm Bailey (Minute Secretary), Peter Bates, Peter Cassidy Brian Cox, Mick Emms, Allison Gillan, Matthew Gillard, Roy Meadowcroft, Kaye Merrywest, Paul Merrywest, Ray Pearce, Phil Sergeant, Brigid Wallen, Diane Wooller

### **1a) Apologies for Absence**

Gary Chandler (Treasurer), Linda Bates, Ron Dawson, Dot Ferguson, Paul Mingay, Gerry O'Doherty, Keith Palmer, Brian Panting, Jean Tierney, Lance Williams.

### **2) Minutes of the last meeting**

Noted that Peter Cassidy had sent his apologies for the meeting although it was not recorded on the minutes. Otherwise, the minutes of the meeting on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016 were **approved** as a true record of that meeting

Proposed by Ray Pearce and seconded by Paul Merrywest.

### **3a) Matters arising**

No matters arising. All outstanding matters arising are covered in this meeting

### **3b) Treasurer's matters**

Gary was unable to attend the meeting and he sent in a report (although this was not read out at the meeting):

#### **Indoor T&F**

The accounts have now been finalised. Net income before the cost of medals is down 15% to £1,581 (2015 - £1,876 and 2014 -£2,584). This is due to:

1. Entry fees down
2. Majority of expenses have increased, including-
  - Travel expenses to officials up by 10%
  - Hire of venue up by 8%
  - First Aid up by 16%

#### **Essex 20**

The race generated £1,380 of net income (before medals) for the county which is broadly similar to 2015

#### **Road Relays**

73 teams entered this year (up from 66 in 2015)

Still only 15 clubs represented (as 2015) – with Chelmsford AC and Thrift Green Trotters dropping out in 2016 but Eton Manor and Mid Essex Casuals entering for the first time

Income £1,200 (2015- £1,075) – expenses are expected to be at a similar level to last year.

Meeting discussed a clash of Essex Championship events on 2 May 2016. The Witham 5 and the Multi Events which are taking place at Thurrock. Due to timings of the events, the President June

Cork is able to attend the prize giving at Witham and still have time to travel to Thurrock to present the medals there.

#### **4a) Correspondence**

Claire has received the renewal affiliation invoice from England Athletics which has been passed to Gary for payment.

#### **4b) Club/Committee Register Changes.**

No changes to report

#### **5) Networking**

Nothing to report

#### **6) Regional Reports**

Paul Merrywest mentioned that he had emailed out details of consultation meetings that are being hosted by England Athletics during 2016.

This is the fourth year in which England Athletics has consulted with its members, volunteers and participants. There are various events across the country which will be followed by an on line survey. England Athletics are seeking feedback on how they can meet their strategic priorities over the next four years, as well as how they can better engage youngsters and innovate around competition. They are also looking for views on how London 2017 can be used to champion grassroots track and field and inspire more people to participate in athletics and running.

England Athletics staff, board members and councillors will be attending each meeting.

There are events in this area in London and Bury St Edmunds.

Debate took place about England Athletics and its relationship with UK Athletics including the impact on Scottish, Welsh and Irish Athletics within the structure.

Phil Sergeant felt that it was important for people to air their views so that the hierarchy understands the issues facing the sport.

There was also the view that Coaching qualifications had been 'dumbed' down over recent years to encourage more coaches to come into the sport. In some disciplines there are very few specialist coaches

#### **7) Track & Field**

This is the last committee meeting before the first three days of the Championships. Paul Merrywest reported that entries are currently around 200. For the multi events there has been one entry from outside of the County. There are very few Multi-Events fixtures in the South of England and there have been some expressions of interest from other potential competitors.

There has been entries received from Schools and it is hoped that this will increase when they return back from the Easter holidays.

Good news is that most of the entries that have been received the athlete has included their England Athletic Registration number on the form. Paul has checked these and all the numbers are correct.

Schools that enter their competitors on block do not have to provide EA registration numbers.

At the recent Endurance meeting (held on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016; minutes have been distributed), both Braintree AC and Colchester Harriers offered to host the track10k and race walking 10k events. Due to its more central location, the offer from Braintree had been accepted. In an attempt to generate more interest in these events, it has been agreed that this will be held on a Wednesday evening (either 22<sup>nd</sup> June or 20<sup>th</sup> July; Braintree to confirm). It is also hoped to include a team event.

Unfortunately, neither date is convenient for the Race Walking section. It was agreed that these Championships will take place, as last year, on the same date as the track relays (27<sup>th</sup> August 2016 (venue Southend).)

The 2017 Indoor Championships will take place over the weekend 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> February.

## 8) Cross Country

A summary of Essex's performance at the Inter Counties Championship is set out below

Category	Team Position (total number of counties taking part in brackets)	Name of first Essex finisher and placing in brackets
U13 Girls	10 (41)	Abigail Ives (41)
U13 Boys	18 (41)	Harry Parker (48)
U15 Girls	2 (43)	Kate O'Neil (5)
U15 Boys	2 (39)	Joseph Owen (4)
U17 Ladies	6 (39)	Khahisa Mhlanga (12)
U17 Men	13 (37)	Ben Davis (29)
U20 Ladies	4 (21)	Gemma Holloway (4)
U20 Men	18 (24)	Joseph Ray (82)
Senior Ladies	4 (25)	Jess Judd (5)
Senior Men	10 (27)	Adam Hickey (2)

Adam Hickey also finished 2<sup>nd</sup> at the National Championships.

## 9) Road Running

Minutes from the Endurance meeting held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016 had been distributed to committee members prior to this meeting.

Essex Road Relays – David Staines commented that the event well. Started at 11am with the clearing up operation virtually finished by 1pm. He summarised the key discussion points from the Endurance meeting. It has been agreed that Harwich will publicize this event next year via their web site on the understanding that profits are passed to County less the £250 contribution paid to Harwich for hosting the event. It is hoped that this might increase the number of teams entering the race especially from out of the County.

At the recent Endurance meeting, comment was made about Park Run results being listed on the Power of 10 website. Acknowledged that Park Runs have been good for the sport and should be encouraged but these events are not licensed (some courses are not measured) and officials cannot use these events as part of their ongoing accreditation. It was asked whether the Chair could write to England Athletics (and British Athletics) to ask them to clarify the relationship between them and the Park Run organisation. This was discussed at this meeting and it was agreed that David Staines would write as requested. Dave will read out the response (if received) at the next meeting in June.

Also at the Endurance meeting, the subject of a potential acquisition of a chip timing system was mentioned. This could cost up to £10,000. Full discussion took place. There was some apprehension about finding willing volunteers to be trained who would be prepared attend events (unpaid), store the equipment and the ongoing insurance implications.

There are a number of companies that offer this service. Some charge a fixed amount per event others are based upon the number of entrants. As technology improves it was suggested that the cost of the systems might reduce.

In view of the potential issues highlighted, it was agreed that County would not seek to purchase a chip timing system at this time but would be open to review this again in the future.

## 10) Trophies

Since the last Executive meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016, Gary has been in negotiation with another supplier to provide the County medals. Samples have been provided and positive feedback to these was given at the recent Endurance meeting.

Similarly, these received positive feedback from this meeting. As with the Endurance meeting the only comment was the 'colour' of the bronze medal. These needs to be less 'garish'. Gary is to follow this up.

The new medals will be circa. 15% more, than our existing medal. It is felt that the new style medal would be better received (which comes on a ribbon with the words Essex County Championships inscribed on it) and it was unanimously agreed to approve the change of supper. The new medal will

be introduced after the supplies of the old medal have been exhausted. This is expected to be for the start of the new XC season.

### **11) Walking**

The staging of the 2016 county event had been discussed earlier and there was nothing else to report.

### **12) Officials**

Diane Wooller reported that the forthcoming Track & Field Officials course had been cancelled due to insufficient take up of places.

There is a shortage of officials and all clubs are encouraged to persuade people to attend future courses.

Catherine Bauer at Harlow has arranged an official's course on the 29<sup>th</sup> May. Potentially, 9 people could attend this course.

Diane mentioned that at a recent County Officials forum that she attended in Birmingham it was suggested that accreditation could be achieved on a 1:1 basis. Diane will investigate further.

For the forthcoming T&F championships she is still short of officials and will be chasing over the next few days.

Other people were sought to help as runners for these events. There were some offers of help from those present.

### **13) School Liaison**

Nothing to report.

### **14) Any other business**

**Social Media** – Working party (Allison & Alistair Gillan, David Staines and Paul & Kay Merrywest) have recently met at Thurrock.

A proposal from Alistair (aQ2 Ltd) was submitted to the working party. (Copy of this is attached to the minutes).

Briefly summarising the key points:-

- A new domain has been purchased ([www.EssexCountyAthletics.co.uk](http://www.EssexCountyAthletics.co.uk)). Proposed that this will be a holding page for Endurance Running and potentially a cloned version of the new site for Essex Athletics
- The site will showcase 2-3 minute films with key messages. First from talented Essex Athletics (including international and county runners) and the second to support volunteers at Essex events.
- Further short films to be produced during the year to keep content fresh and to assist with Facebook and other Social media promotions.

#### **Costs**

Cost including expenses and aerial drone filming (the latter is free of charge) - £2,000 (includes VAT)

Replacement or cloned web site – up to £1200 (includes VAT)

Ongoing costs £250 per month (VAT included in this amount). This would include 3 short films, ongoing technical support for web site, up to 24 Facebook boosts, new Twitter Account, set up of a YouTube account and attend by the Company, two committee meetings during 12 months to review content.

Further meeting to review proposal will take place. Proposed level of costs discussed and some concern raised but acknowledged that we do need to upgrade/refresh our social media sites

**8 counties Senior Inter Counties match.** This is being hosted by Hampshire at Down Grange, Basingstoke on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2016. We have been contacted to provide Officials to support. Diane Wooller to follow up.

Meeting concluded at 9.01pm

### Summary of actions

Minute Ref.	Action	By Whom
9	Write to England Athletics and British Athletics asking them to clarify their relationship with the Park Run organisation	David Staines
10	Request that the new proposed bronze colour is made less garish	Gary Chandler
12	Encourage more people to attend T&F officials courses	All clubs
14	Follow up request for T&F officials for the forthcoming 8 Counties Senior Inter Counties Match	Diane Wooller

### Meeting agenda for Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016 7.30pm to be held at Chelmsford Athletic Club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Matters arising  
Treasurers Matters
4. Correspondence  
Club & Committee Register changes
5. Networking
6. Regional Reports
7. Track & Field
8. Cross Country
9. Road Running
10. Trophies
11. Walking
12. Officials
13. School Liaison
14. Any other business