



Essex County Athletic Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 6th June 2016 at 19.30 hours in the clubhouse of Chelmsford Athletic Club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford

Present:

David Staines (Chairman), Gary Chandler (Treasurer), Claire Levey (Secretary), June Cork (President), John Weir (President Elect), Ron Dawson, Matthew Gillard, Roy Meadowcroft, Kaye Merrywest, Paul Merrywest, Brian Panting, Ray Pearce, Phil Sergeant, Jean Tierney and Diane Wooller

1a) Apologies for Absence

Malcolm Bailey (Minute Secretary), Peter Bates, Linda Bates, Peter Cassidy, Brian Cox, Dot Ferguson, Mick Emms, Allison Gillan, Paul Mingay, Gerry O'Doherty, Keith Palmer, Brigid Wallen, Lance Williams.

2) Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on Monday 4th April 2016 were **approved** as a true record of that meeting

Proposed by Ray Pearce and seconded by Kaye Merrywest.

3a) Matters arising

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

3b) Treasurer's matters

Gary advised the committee that the Chairman had applied to England athletics for a £500 grant. This was approved and received last week. This money will be spent towards the photo finish equipment hire.

It was also confirmed that a race clock had been purchased which was approved by the committee a couple of months ago. The final cost of this was £1300 plus VAT. Clock is being delivered to Dave Staines. Dave advised that he is hoping to store it somewhere in North Essex. We will need to look at how to operate it properly at the next road race. The only thing that wasn't purchased for the clock was a bracket for attaching it to a car. If we do eventually purchase EDM's for use at the county championships, we will be able to store them at Chelmsford in the secure area under the stand on the back straight. This may also be an option for the storing of the race clock.

New version of the Essex medals has all been confirmed and the order made. Delivery is expected in 12-14 weeks. Will commence using them at the first Essex Country meeting.

Track & Field outdoor champs – final costs etc. have not been received at the moment for the outdoor champs, so will raise at the next meeting, but on first glance it is looking better than last year.

4a) Correspondence

Claire had received notification from Tony Cheatham that Barry Wallman had recently passed away. It was also advised that we were aware of some other past athletes/officials that had passed away. Nat

Fisher from Harlow. Ron Keevil a field official passed away last Friday. Eric Knight a starter from Southend and Fred Seale who was one of the founder members of Thurrock Harriers.

Claire advised that she had received notification from UKCAU with regard to the upcoming AGM. Claire to confirm if Peter Cassidy still sits on this committee and if he is happy to continue to do so as he also attends the Essex committees.

It was also advised that Vincent Lawrence had stepped down from the team manager position for the MU17's. The first that we were aware of this was when the email was received from John Stow and Keith Palmer, he had not mentioned it previously. A permanent team manager needs to be found. John Stow has said that he would step in to cover the men's team this year, so that they do not miss out.

4b) Club/Committee Register Changes.

Jean Tierney advised the committee that as of today, no-one has come forward to be Club Secretary for Havering AC, therefore for the interim the club secretary will be Tony Benton. If the situation changes, Tony Benton will advise.

5) Networking

Dave Staines advised that Karl Cadman has taken over as the co-ordinator for the networking. Jean advised that Doug Tierney has stepped down from the networking committee. Dave advised that he had attended the AGM but the attendance overall at the meeting was pretty poor. They are hoping to improve the attendance by doing cluster meetings. They believe there will be benefits to doing this. They are also planning a series of coaching and athlete's forums, the details of which will be issued in due course. The main thrust is the coaching and the sport halls. We will be once again asked to provide money as we have done in previous years. Dave Staines to contact Cathy James with regard to the report from the Sports Hall.

6) Regional Reports

Paul Merrywest advised that there had been a meeting held in April. Tony Shiret has been pushing for more people to have portfolios. The portfolios will focus on specific areas. England athletics are employing consultants to look at the school strategy. Sports England themselves have issued their strategy for 2017. One of the questions that is being raised, is who will head up England athletics next year? There seems to be cracks appearing in the relationship between England athletics and Sports England.

At the East regional meeting a presentation was made by Jane Stewart who has a job as an Inspirational Motivator for the 2017 World Championships. It was advised that there is not massive funding for the 2017 world championships and they are asking about what can be done to resolve it.

Paul Merrywest brought up the matter about Karen Stephanou not attending the Essex Committee as she was due to attend tonight's meeting. Claire reminded the committee that she had emailed all the dates for the year to Karen at the beginning of 2016. Claire to advise Tony Shiret that she had not attended.

7) Track & Field

Kaye and Paul advised that for the multi events we did open the competition up to others outside of the county. There were several athletes who did compete who were non Essex. Overall we had about 90 competitors. £855 income from the multi events. There were a few issues with the U15's due to the volume of competitors. If we open it up more in future years we will need to have photo finish as we need three timekeepers per athlete on multi events. Due to the number of athletes in the U15's there was delay in the high jump, but we believe that we could have moved the order of the events around, so this could be an option for future years. Overall the pentathlon went quite well. There was also a thank you for the athletes outside of the county who received medals. Recommendation would be to have the pentathlon for 2017 and Thurrock have advised that they would be happy to host once again.

With regard to the main two days of the championships, there was a big increase in numbers. High number on day one though that did not turn up, this was fewer on day two. Despite having to chase Woodford Green, Newham & Essex Beagles and Southend it was 100% with regard to UKA license numbers.

Jean Tierney advised the committee that she had received an email from Tony Benton with regard to two issues that had arisen during the main two days of the Essex Championships. Dave Staines read the email out to the committee. Point one within the email was with regard to the inconsistent application of UKA rules – this was noted by the committee. Point two was with regard to the use of EDM. It was advised that we will ensure that this didn't happen again and also that the official had in fact apologised. This was with regard to more of the changing of the boards, instead of the EDM issue. It was the number of competitors and the number of jumps. Sue Brown believed it was the changing of the boards that caused the issue.

Phil Sargent advised the committee that from next year, athletes will be able to go to their coaches during competition to look at videos etc. We will need to add this matter to the letter that goes out to athletes and also the programme advised them that they will need to ensure that they notify the lead official on the event if this is what they are going to do. This is an issue that we will need to consider for the indoor champs i.e. do we have a specific area for the coaches so that athletes are not wandering all over the arena – this will be discussed at the next track and field committee.

10k Track Championships – these will take place at Braintree on Wednesday 20th July at 7.30pm. Permit has been agreed. With regard to first aid we will need a qualified person. Braintree AC to look at this matter at their next monthly meeting. Dave Staines advised that the license that we receive for the two main Essex days is blanket cover so applies to the extra days/meetings that we have also. Gary Chandler advised that entries for the 10k had opened two weeks ago. Have received 20 entries so far. 20 men and no women. Times are being sent as part of the online entry. Dave Staines to supply the numbers. Both Diane and Claire reminded him that we needed either one or two figure numbers due to the lap charts that need to be done. Need to be able to supply water during the race – this is to be looked at by Braintree and would be done on the back straight. PA system is also required.

10k Walk – this will be part of the relay day at the end of August. 11am start at Southend. This will be an open event as well as the Essex Championships. Paul Merrywest reminded the committee that we will need to check UK license numbers for both the walk and the 10k track championships.

8) Cross Country

Ron Dawson advised that we are having problems in getting venues for both Essex Championship races and also Essex League races. Havering have advised that they will host the Senior Men/Senior Women/U17's/U20's at Stubbers on 7th January 2017. Cost will be £1200. Ron doesn't believe this is a major problem. The pros with going back with Havering outweigh the cons. If we are going to start paying we could reconsider other venues for future years.

The committee was asked if they were happy for Ron to confirm to Havering with regard to the use of Stubbers. Voted unanimously despite a couple of concerns re the cost from Kaye Merrywest and June Cork.

A summary of fixtures and venues is below -

| Date | Fixture | Venue |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Saturday 24th September | Essex X Country Relays | Hockley |
| Sunday 2nd October | Southend 10K | Southend |
| Sunday 2nd October | Pleshey Marathon – Essex Champs | Pleshey |
| Saturday 8th October | Essex X Country League – race 1 | One Tree Hill |

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| Sunday 9th October | Tiptree 10 | Tiptree |
| Saturday 22nd October | SEAA X-Country Champs | Wormwood Scrubs |
| Saturday 29th October | Essex X Country League – race 2 | TBC |
| Sunday 6th November | Billericay 10K | Billericay |
| Saturday 19th November | Essex X Country League – Race 3 | TBC |
| Sunday 20th November – usual date but TBC | Chelmsford 10K | Chelmsford |
| Saturday 26th November | Essex Vets, U13, U15 X Country Champs | Writtle |
| Saturday 10th December | SEAA Vets & Inter County X Country | TBC |
| Saturday 7th January | Essex Senior X Country Champs | TBC but possibly Stubbers |
| Saturday 14th January ** | Essex Schools X Country | TBC |
| Saturday 21st January ** | Essex X Country League – Race 4 | TBC |
| Saturday 28th January | SEAA X Country Champs | TBC |
| Saturday 11th February | Essex X Country League – Race 5 | Colchester?? – TBC |
| Saturday 25th February | National X Country Champs | |
| Sunday 5th March | Essex 20 mile | Langham |

9) Road Running

Essex county marathon has recently taken place at Halstead. Men's race was won by Alan Smalls from Colchester and the ladies by Christine Howard from Billericay. Lots of drop outs during the race. There was only one ladies team which was Springfield Striders. Men's team race was also won by Springfield. A big thank you to Brigid Wallen for all her work. It was a long day, with the start at 9am and the presentations taking place at 3pm. It was advised though that the Herts marathon only had 10 competitors.

Essex 5 mile at Witham – men's race was won by Tom Gardener from Ilford and the ladies by Elizabeth Davies from Springfield.

Next road race is the Felstead 10K on the 10th July. Paul Whittaker has the trophy which needs to be returned. Ron will get the trophy engraved.

10) Trophies

Roy Meadowcroft advised that he had located two trophies for the 800m and 1500m men. They were had by Dale Clutterbuck from Basildon. He has said that we can collect them from his parents on Canvey Island. Dave Staines to arrange collection.

Roy said that we usually present the trophies at the AGM. He has suggested that we do the presentations at the relay meeting in August so the actual athletes that are winning the trophies are actually aware instead of them being presented at an AGM which they know nothing about. With regard to the GU15 trophy it has this year been won by Maltings Academy – can we present this at the schools? It was agreed by the committee that this was the right approach. Roy to notify the recipients.

Kay Merrywest advised that she had recently found a trophy at home – it was “The Sharp Cup” for the 20 mile walk. Kaye passed the trophy over to Ray Pearce. Ray and Roy to discuss what is to be done with the trophy.

11) Walking

Essex 20k walk took place on the 23rd April as part of the British National 20k champs. Tom Bodsworth was the overall winner in 90 minutes and the first Essex person was Dave Kates in 2 hours 20 minutes. The 50k champs will take place in October.

12) Officials

Diane Wooller reminded the committee that we need more officials for the relays that are taking place at the end of August. We will need about 5 or 6 officials for the 10k track championships on the 20th July at Braintree.

There were several new officials at the main two days of the Essex Champs, but we need to ensure that we keep them for next year and beyond. There were courses in Harlow at the end of May, and some of those that attending are coming to the Essex Schools on Saturday.

13) School Liaison

Nothing to report from the School Liaison.

A reminder though that the Essex Schools are taking place this coming Saturday. There are no Year 7's in this year's championships, just two age groups. Field commences at 9am and the Track at 10am. The meeting will finish at approximately 5pm which is just within the 8 hour time limit. Year 7 championships will take place on the 6th July at Chelmsford.

14) Any other business

Park Runs – David Staines advised the committee that he had written a letter with regard to the Park Runs to UKA and received a response back. He was advised that Park Runs do pay money in to UKA therefore get a site separate to the Power of 10 on the website. It was asked whether or not Park Runs have to have first aid? Are their rules for the runs same as ours for cross country? What about public liability? Insurance? Are they referred to the Safety Advisory Group for the local councils? David Staines to write again to the UKA re the points raised above. Are we getting athletes from the park runs to clubs? If the park runs do not have first aid etc. can that be applied to our County Events?

Fell Runs – the committee were advised that the inter county fell running champs were taking place in July. Unfortunately they have not been well organised. Gary Chandler and Paul Bailey have both contacted the organisers to obtain more information but it was not forthcoming. The championships are only for the U16's and U18's. We are not supporting it from a County standpoint this year.

Social Media/Website – the main issue with regard to the new proposed website is are we happy with the proposal that has been put forward. Gary Chandler advised that he had contacted Dave Keeley who runs the endurance website but has not received any response.

There are very mixed views amongst the committee members as to the proposal that has been put forward. Strong views against from both Phil Sergeant and John Weir. Questions were asked as to whether or not Alistair Gillan would be doing the day to day running of the site – the answer is no. Phil Sergeant said that we need to get this right first time because the perception from the athletes is that it has to be instant. Results have to appear instantly, cannot be a few days later. It was decided that we would ask Alistair along to the July committee meeting to discuss further. Gary Chandler to make contact with him. Need to look at the websites of both Havering and Colchester – both of these are very good. Need to ensure that this item is first on the agenda for the July meeting as there are many questions both to be asked and also to be answered.

Meeting concluded at 9.10pm

Summary of actions

| Minute Ref. | Action | By Whom |
|-------------|---|--------------|
| 4a | Write/email Peter Cassidy to see if he is ok to continue sitting on the UKCAU committee | Claire Levey |
| 4a | Write to John Stow to say thank you for stepping in to | Claire Levey |

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| | manage the MU17's team | |
| 4b | Havering secretary to be updated on the club secretary list and list re-distributed | Claire Levey |
| 5 | Contact Cathy James with regard to the sports hall | David Staines |
| 14 | Write to UKA re Park Runs and the points raised | David Staines |
| 14 | Alistair to be invited to the July committee meeting for further discussion on the proposed website | Gary Chandler |

Meeting agenda for Monday 4th July 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