



Essex County Athletic Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 7th November 2016 at 19.30 hours in the clubhouse of Chelmsford Athletic Club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford

Present:

David Staines (Chairman), Gary Chandler (Treasurer), John Weir (President Elect), Malcolm Bailey (Minute Secretary), Peter Cassidy, Ron Dawson, Mick Emms, Mathew Gillard, Kaye Merrywest, Paul Merrywest, Brian Panting, Ray Pearce, Jean Tierney, Brigid Wallen, Diane Wooller

1a) Apologies for Absence

Claire Levey, Dot Ferguson, Allison Gillan, Paul Mingay, Roy Meadowcroft, Gerry O'Doherty, Phil Sergent, Lance Williams

2) Minutes of the last meeting

The following amendments were noted:-

Item 9 – 3rd place (Ladies) at the Pleshey half marathon was Sharon Wright of Harlow Running club (not Harlow AC as reported).

Ladies team trophy winners were Harlow Running Club (not Harlow AC as reported)

Otherwise the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3rd October 2016 were **approved** as a true record of that meeting.

Proposed by Jean Tierney and seconded by Ray Pearce.

3a) Matters arising

It was reported that Janet Ruffell is likely to attend the County AGM meeting on Monday 5th December 2016 to collect the plaque that is to be presented to her in recognition of County's decision to award her a Life Membership. This plaque will also to commemorate her late husband's Reg service to Athletics in Essex.

3b) Treasurer's Report

Gary reported that County affiliation fees remained outstanding from:

- Barking AC
- Great Bentley RC
- Harlow AC
- Rogers Runners

A further chaser would be sent and the clubs reminded that their athletes will not be able to compete in County events until the monies had been paid.

Grange Farm & Dunmow Runners have approached Gary to borrow the County Race Clock for the Stebbing 10. This is not a County Race (clock is provided free of charge for those races) and it was unanimously agreed to charge £50 with a returnable deposit of £100.

Gary also sought the committee's approval to spend between £200-300 to boost County facebook posts. By 'boosting' posts it will spread them to other facebook users. This was unanimously agreed by the committee.

4a) Correspondence

There has been some correspondence around the selection of runners for the forthcoming SEAA Inter Counties Cross County Championships.

Everyone is reminded that Team Managers selections must be respected. Selection race was the Cross County race at Hyland Park on 29th October. The first five in each race will be selected with three discretionary places.

Dave Staines reported that Roger Mills may be prepared to take over the team captaincy for the U20 and Senior male Cross County team. Dave Staines is to contact Roger to confirm.

4b) Club/Committee Register Changes.

Diane Wooller reported that CATS Secretary has changed. Details of the new secretary will be advised to Claire Levey.

No other changes to report.

5) Networking

The next Essex Network Sportshall will take place at Chelmsford Sport & Athletic Club on 13 November.

It was reported that the last event held on 16th October was very successful.

6) Regional Reports

The next Eastern Counties regional meeting is taking place on Wednesday 9th November 2016.

7) Track & Field

Entries for the Indoor Track & Field County (which incorporates the Eastern Counties) Championships are now open. These are being held on Saturday and Sunday 4th/5th February at Lee Valley Athletics Centre. A number of entries have already been received.

The 2017 Outdoor Track and Field events will take place over the weekend of 13/14 May. Venue - Chelmsford AC.

It was suggested that Essex Medics (who are one of the best value providers of medical services) be booked as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

The Multi Events Championships will be held on Monday 1st May at Thurrock. This event may include the Steeplechase (where the distances for women will be 1500m and men 2000m). Alternatively the Steeplechase may be included in the main championships programme. This has still to be decided.

Havering AC have been approached to host the track relays. Plan is to hold them on a Friday. Date, still to be agreed. Event is likely to take place during either June or July.

The 10k track championships were hosted at Braintree in 2016. This was a very successful evening and it has been suggested that this event could once again be held at this venue.

John Stow has resigned as senior and under 20 women's team manager.

8) Cross Country

Currently the U13 and U15 County girls and boys XC league races are combined. It was suggested that due to the number of athletes taking part that there are separate races for girls and boys. This is to be debated at the fixtures meeting next year.

Gerry O'Doherty is currently the County Cross Country Secretary. He has decided that he would like to stand down from this role although he is prepared to continue for another year to allow time for another volunteer to be found. Gerry co-ordinates the entries for the Main County Championships, Vets & Junior Championships and Relays. Volunteers are sought for this role.

Ron Dawson asked that it is recorded in the minutes our debt of gratitude to Gerry for all his hard work on behalf of the County over the years.

9) Road Running

Gary Chandler advised the meeting that the final 2016 Grand Prix Tables have now been posted on the Endurance running in Essex Web site. It has been proposed that in future a trophy will be awarded to the series winner of the Senior Ladies and Men.

This year, the winners were:-

Ladies

Open – Fiona Halls (Saffron Striders)

V35 - Fiona Halls (Saffron Striders)

V45 - Steph Horner (Colchester Harriers)

V55 - Sue Spong (Havering 90 Joggers)

V65 - Sheila MacAulay (Springfield Striders)

Team – Springfield Striders

Men

Open - James Smith (Springfield Striders)

V40 - Mark Harrod (Colchester Harriers)

V50 - Colin Ridley (Colchester Harriers)

V60 – Mike Grealy (Halstead RR)

V70 - Chris McDonnell (Dengie 100)

Team – Springfield Striders

2017 Essex 20 – 453 entries received (since the meeting the race has sold out and entries closed). The 2016 incorporated an Inter Counties event where 6 Counties took part. These plus other Counties have been invited to take part in the 2017 race. It is hoped that there will be between 6-8 Counties in the 2017 event. Depending upon the take up by these Counties there is the possibility that entries will be opened again for Individual Runners.

The HQ of the event in Langham cannot cope with any more runners. Due to its popularity it has been suggested that a new venue be found for 2018.

The next Endurance subcommittee meeting will be held on the 30th January 2017 at Chelmsford Athletic Club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford. Start time 7.30pm.

10) Trophies

Roy Meadowcroft was unable to attend the meeting. Please refer to separate attachment which sets out the winners of the Essex trophies. The trophies for the younger athletes plus the relays have already been presented. The senior men and women will be awarded at the AGM.

11) Walking

Nothing to report

12) Officials

Diane Wooller reported that she has secured the services of sufficient Technical Officials for the forthcoming Indoor T&F Championships. Still short of ancillary officials and if anyone is happy to help can they contact Diane directly.

Following Officials courses are now available:-

1st February 2017 Health & Safety venue Basildon

8th February 2017 Level 1 (Timekeeper) and Level 1 (Track) venue Basildon

1st March 2017 Health & Safety venue Colchester

8th March 2017 Level 1 Track and Field venue Colchester

1st April 2017 Health & Safety, Level 1 courses for Timekeeper, Track and Field venue – Chelmsford.

For further information refer to England Athletics website

13) School Liaison

Essex Schools Cross Country – 21st January 2017 – Hilly Fields Colchester

Track & Field Championships – 10th June 2017

14) Any other business

In advance of the AGM (which is being held on Monday 5th December 2016, agenda attached), Gary Chandler reported that the County Association holds a significant amount of credit monies in its bank accounts.

To reduce these monies, he has proposed the following:-

Road – Currently the running club that hosts an Essex County Road Championship race pays a levy of £200 to the County Association to cover the cost of the Essex medals, trophies/engraving etc (with the exception of Halstead that pays £150 due to the lower participant numbers). This payment would be suspended for 2017. **This initiative will reduce the annual revenue to County by £950** (4 races @ £200 plus 1 @ £150)

Cross Country – To help encourage participation at the main County Championships day in January a rebate (of the full entry amount) will be **ONLY** paid to those competitors that take part in the event. Payment will be made to the clubs. **This initiative will reduce the annual revenue to County by approx. £1400**

Track & Field (Indoor Championships) – For the Indoor T&F Championships in February, Essex will initiate 2 separate initiatives. Firstly the entry fees paid by schools will be reduced to help encourage more participation from junior athletes. Secondly the Eastern AA share of each entry will be increased by £1. The overall financial impact of these two initiatives is yet to be quantified.

The meeting went on to discuss further discounted concessions -

County would pay the cost of the Track & Field Health & Safety courses for each person attending the course (**Cost unknown**)

The amount paid to Host clubs for County XC Championships (2017) would be increased to £500 plus expenses (from £250 plus expenses) – this will increase the cost of XC events by £750 annually.

Proposed – Kaye Merrywest

Seconded – Brian Panting

All present unanimously agreed to the proposals.

County Trustees have requested that this only be agreed for one year only. A full review at that time will be undertaken as to whether these concessions can be extended

Jean Tierney advised the meeting that Havering AC had won the London Athletic Club of the Year 2016 award. This is part of the annual England Athletics Volunteer Awards. Dave Staines would write to Havering to congratulate them on their success.

Web site working party met on 25th October 2016 (minutes attached).

Meeting was advised that Dave Keeley (who hosts the Essex Endurance Running site) will incorporate the main website into the Endurance site.

Work continues with the filming of the various video clips.

It is anticipated that the new site will be ready by the end of January/ early February.

As the first Monday of January falls on a Bank Holiday (2nd January 2017) that the next committee meeting will be deferred until 6th February 2017.

Meeting concluded at 9.05pm.

Summary of actions

Minute Ref.	Action	By Whom
4a)	Contact Roger Mills to ask whether he is prepared to take over the Team Captaincy for the U20 and Senior XC teams	Dave Staines
7)	Venue for 2017 Steeplechase County Championships – will they be held in conjunction with the Multi events or main championships	Kaye & Paul Merrywest
7)	Venue and date for the Track relays to be decided	Kaye & Paul Merrywest
8)	Volunteer sought to take over as County Cross Country Secretary	All clubs to approach their membership
9)	Next Endurance subcommittee to be arranged. Date 30 th January 2017 at Chelmsford AC	Gary Chandler
12)	Volunteers sought to help out at the Indoor Track and Field Championships (weekend 4 th /5 th February 2017)	Please contact Diane Wooller
14)	Write to Havering AC to congratulate them on winning the London Athletic Club of the Year 2016 award	Dave Staines

Meeting agenda for Monday 6th February 2017 at 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