



Essex County Athletic Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Essex County Athletic Association held on Monday 5th December 2016 in the clubhouse of Chelmsford Athletic Club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford

Present: Diane Wooller, John Weir, Paul Mingay, Malcolm Bailey, Brigid Wallen, Ron Dawson, Roy Meadowcroft, Paul Merrywest, Kaye Merrywest, Janet Ruffell, Jean Tierney, Ray Pearce, Wilma Pearce, Dave Staines, Allison Gillan, Gerry O'Doherty, Mick Emms, Chris McDonnell, Richard See, Marvyn Owen, Matthew Gillard, Andrew Gwilliam, Brian Cox, Claire Levey, Peter Cassidy, June Cork, Keith Palmer, Margaret Williams, Lance Williams.

1a) Apologies for Absence

Linda Bates, Peter Bates, Dot Ferguson, Gary Chandler.

2) Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last AGM held on 7th December 2015 were approved without amendment.

Proposed by: J Tierney

Seconded by: B. Wallen

3) Matters Arising

None

4) Presentation of the Accounts (copy of the accounts – attached)

The Treasurer, Gary Chandler was unable to attend the meeting due to a business commitment. He sent in a written report which was read out by Dave Staines:-

“I am pleased to present my 5th Treasurer’s report, albeit by proxy, as unfortunately I am currently overseas on business.

The county have had yet another strong financial year. The accounts now show net funds standing at **£74,378**. This is an increase of just under £4,000 from last year despite the county committee approving a number of spending initiatives during the year which included:

- An investment in larger, more impressive, county medals;
- Purchase of an electronic race clock;
- Purchase of new trophies for the road race grand prix champions and the Inter county 20 mile road race; and
- The commencement of an initiative to increase the use of electronic media including the website and facebook pages.

Since becoming treasurer 5 years ago the county has firmly left the old days behind where financial security was a real concern. It has increased funds by over £32,000 in those 5 years and a continued strong financial performance seems to be assured despite increasing costs in a number of areas such as first aid cover and cross country venue hire costs.

It is for that reason that many of you will have already seen that I proposed a number of initiatives at the November committee meeting designed to reduce the level of funds slowly over the coming years. I will mention these further at the end of the report.

Championships

I first want to turn to the financial performance of the championships where overall net income was up 7% year on year.

The star of the show was the outdoor T&F championships which saw net income increased by almost 40% and accounts for nearly half the overall net income for the county. Indoor T&F saw a drop in entrants, and an increase in costs, resulting in the lower net income you can see in the accounts.

Cross country has had another very good year. The season opener, the relays, continues to grow in popularity and now delivers half of the overall XC income.

Road running's numbers are slightly down due wholly to the fact that the Essex 20 makes up most of that income. Last year we saw for the first time the race sell out 4 months before the race, resulting in everyone benefiting from the low entry fee of just £6 (instead of the higher fee £10 that kicks in January) which meant lower income for the county.

Turning to the balance sheet the only points to highlight are that the medals stock appears to have jumped up significantly, which it has, but this is merely due to the fact we switched medal supplier this year and we had to take stock of the new medals before year end instead of after. I fully expect the medal figure to drop again to normal levels next year.

Vests too have increased in stock, but Keith Palmer has secured a fantastic deal in getting unused stock "re-sized" at no cost to the county, which should see this figure drop again next year.

Summary

The county continues to thrive financially and it is clear that the trend is not changing.

As we seem unable to spend as much as we generate the committee agreed last month to adopt some proposals for this coming year which will reduce the income coming into the county:

1. For road running the £200 "levy" paid by host clubs is to be suspended;
2. For XC all runners participating in the main county championships day in January will do so at no cost;
3. Additionally, clubs hosting any of the 3 XC events will receive an increased subsidy of £500 (up from £250);
4. For T&F school entry costs will be reduced and a greater share of the entry fee will be given to Eastern AA.

I fully support these initiatives which in total will reduce county income by between £3,500-4,500 per annum. I fully expect that once all these initiatives kick in, that at next year's AGM. I will be reporting an overall drop in income for the county for 16/17. This should certainly not be seen as failure in any shape or form, but actually a success!

I also want to reiterate that the committee and I remain open to other ways in using the county funds to support our sport and those involved in it so please keep coming to us with new ideas.

Finally, my thanks again to Rodney Silk, Honorary Auditor, who audited the accounts again in a very short timeframe to enable them to be presented here at the AGM"

Dave Staines advised that a question had been raised in connection with the refund for runners participating in the main county XC championships in January. Dave clarified that if a runner was entered as part of a team (where the entry fee is lower per runners) it would be the team fee that is refunded and not individual fee.

Also, Dave also mentioned that he would be keen to support any proposal from a club to subsidise the cost of Coaching and Officials courses.

No other questions were raised about the accounts.

Proposed by: K Merrywest

Seconded by: P Merrywest

5) Presentation of Secretary's report.

Claire Levey presented the Secretary's report.

Cross Country

As in previous years the Cross Country relays were held at the beginning of the season, hosted by Southend AC. It was a great success with income increasing to over £3,000 (an increase of £2,000 from two years ago). Mixed team races worked well and this will remain part of the race format for future years,

The Vets Championships (which included the U13/U15 races) took place at Abbey Fields Colchester. A number of clubs did take part although some clubs failed to enter anyone at all.

Overall, approx. £6,000 has been raised from this year's XC Championships.

A big thank you to Gerry O'Doherty our XC secretary for all his work this year on behalf of the County. Many thanks also to all the host clubs for organising the events.

Road Running

The Essex 20 once again sold out early. The event included an Inter County race. 6 Counties took part. Positive feedback received. Trophies were purchased for both the men and women; trophy names Peter Richardson and Sue Baker, respectively. Essex winners were Megan Evans (Chelmsford AC) and Paul Whitaker (Southend AC), Inter Counties winners were Essex (Men's) and Kent (Ladies). Essex ladies finished second.

Road relays took place at Harwich. 73 teams took part (compared to 66 in 2015). From these teams though only 15 clubs were represented.

County marathon took place at Halstead. Men's race was won by Allan Smalls (Colchester Harriers) and Ladies by Christine Howard (Billericay Striders). Only one ladies team finished, Springfield Striders. The men's team winners were also Springfield Striders.

Essex 5 mile race was held at Witham, Ladies winner was Elizabeth Davies (Springfield Striders) and Men's, Tom Gardener (Ilford AC).

The 10k was held at Felstead. Another sell out race, Ladies winner was Sarah Stradling (Colchester Harriers) and Men's Mark Newton (Springfield Striders).

Half marathon took place at Pleshey. Race was won by James Connor from Kent. The first Essex man home was Blair McWhirter from Ilford who finished 2nd overall. Fiona Halls (Saffron Striders) was the first lady home.

10 mile championships were hosted by Tiptree. Essex winners were Crispian Bloomfield (Billericay Striders) and Samantha Bilbie (Springfield Striders)

Overall Grand Prix winners were Springfield Striders in both the men's and the women's; well done to all those that took part.

Thank you to all the host clubs and the many organisers and volunteers who help run these events.

Track and Field

Essex co-hosted the Indoor Track & Field championships alongside Eastern Counties at Lee Valley. Overall the event went well with an 80-90% turn out of athletes over the weekend from those that had entered

As always, we could not hold these championships without the support from the officials and other volunteers.

Outdoor championships. Main two days were held at Chelmsford. There was a big increase in numbers from the previous year. Approx 90 competitors took part in Multi-events championships. Positive feedback received with a number of competitors taking part from outside of the County, 10k track championships were hosted by Braintree AC on a Wednesday evening. It was felt that the event went well and that this would be the format for these championships going forward. Relays, 10k walk and steeplechases were held at the end of the season. A big thank you to Southend AC. Thanks go to all the host clubs and volunteers who give up their time freely to help run the championship days.

In the Inter- Counties championships, Essex finished:

U13 Boys – 6 th	U13 Girls – 2 nd	
U15 Boys – 2 nd	U15 Girls – 1 st	Combined team – 2 nd
U20 Men – 4 th	U20 Women – 2 nd	Combined team – 4 th
Eastern seniors		
Men – 2 nd	Women – 2 nd	Combined team – 2 nd
Southern seniors		
Men – 1 st	Women – 3 rd	Combined team – 2 nd
UK CAU		
Men – 1 st	Women – 2 nd	Combined team – 1 st

A big thank you to the team managers for all their hard work throughout the season.

Keith Palmer commented that the Essex Senior men's team have been very successful in the Inter Counties championships finishing first for the last four years. A tremendous achievement.

Race Walking

Essex 20k walk took place as part of the British National 20k championships held at Hillingdon. First Essex man was Dave Kates. 50k walk took place in October but no one from Essex entered, Thanks as always to both Ray Pearce and Peter Cassidy for their support during the year.

Thank you to our president June Cork for her work on behalf of the County throughout the year. John Weir will take over for 2017.

Unfortunately, at the end of 2015 we saw the sad passing of Ayo Falola of Woodford Green following his battle with cancer and during 2016, the sad passing of Reg Ruffell, a long standing member of Essex. Our condolences to both Janet and her family.

Keith Palmer commented that the Essex Senior men's team have been very successful in the Inter Counties championships finishing first for the last four years. A tremendous achievement.

Proposed by: R Pearce

Seconded by: J Tierney

6) Election of Officers and Executive Committee

- a) **President:** June Cork was thanked for her work on behalf of the county last year. Chairman invited John Weir to take over the role as President for the year 2016. Retiring President June Cork was presented with a plaque. She made a short speech of thanks mentioning how much she had enjoyed her time in the role and presented the President elect with his president's regalia.

- b) **President Elect:** Chairman advised the meeting that this will be Diane Wooller.
- c) **Life Vice Presidents & Life membership:** Kaye Merrywest presented a plaque to Janet and Reg Ruffell awarding them life membership making a speech highlighting the work that they have undertaken on behalf of the County.

Janet Ruffell accepted the award making a speech of thanks on behalf of herself and her husband, who sadly passed away after a very short period of illness not long after County Executive committee agreed to honour them with the Life membership.

- d) **Treasurer:** G Chandler is happy to continue as Treasurer.

Proposed by: K Palmer

Seconded by: K Merrywest

- e) **Secretary:** Role is split with C Levey dealing with secretarial correspondence and other related matters and M Bailey as minute secretary. Both indicated their willingness to continue in these roles.

Proposed by: D Wooller

Seconded by: J Tierney

- f) **Chairman:** D Staines is happy to continue in this role.

Proposed by K Palmer

Seconded by: A Gillan

- g) **Vice Presidents/Life Members:** The following were elected (elect 6)

J Tierney, R Pearce, K Merrywest, R Meadowcroft, J Weir.

D Ferguson is stepping down and it was agreed that the vacancy would be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting in February.

Proposed by: R Dawson

Seconded by K. Palmer

It was proposed that Dave Staines writes to Dot Ferguson to thank her for all her work on behalf of the County over the years.

- h) **Members of the Executive Committee (20 +1 Essex Schools representative)**

L Bates

P Bates

P Cassidy

R Dawson

A Gillan

M Gillard

C Levey

P Merrywest

G O'Doherty

K Palmer

B Panting

P Sergeant

L Williams

D Wooller

M Bailey

P Mingay
B Wallen
M Emms
B Mansell/ M Slattery (Schools rep.)

Proposed by: R Pearce

Seconded by: B Wallen

- i) **Honorary Auditors:** R Silk has expressed his willingness to continue as Honorary Auditor.

Proposed by: A Gillan

Seconded by: J Tierney

It was proposed that Dave Staines writes to Rodney Silk to thank him for his work on behalf of the County.

- j) **Honorary Trustees:** K Merrywest, R Pearce, J Weir

Proposed by: A Gillan

Seconded by: J Tierney

7) Presentation of Trophies

Anna Neagle trophy for Senior and U20 Women to Chelmsford AC (collected by M Owen)

Joe King trophy for U17 Women to Chelmsford AC (already presented)

Pat Mills trophy for U15 Girls to Chelmsford AC (already presented)

George Holroyd trophy for U13 Girls to Chelmsford AC (already presented)

Sidney Taylor cup for Relays Challenge to Southend AC (already presented)

George Deer trophy for U15 Girls (schools) to Maltings Academy (already presented)

Arthur Turk trophy for Senior Men to Chelmsford AC (collected by M Owen)

Pam Jones trophy for Ladies Grand Prix winners to Springfield Striders (already presented)

Harry Payne trophy for Men's Grand Prix winners to Springfield Striders (already presented)

Herbert Pash cup for U13, U15 boys, U17 and Junior Men to Chelmsford AC (already presented)

Dave Staines thanked R Meadowcroft on behalf of the committee for his role as trophy

8) Election of Officers for Executive Committee:

- a) Track & Field secretary's: K Merrywest & P Merrywest

- b) Track & Field Secretary: K Palmer

c) Track & Field Managers:

Senior men: K Palmer

Senior Women: Post vacant

U15 Girls: I Pike

U17 Women: I Pike

U20 Women: I Pike

U15 Boys and U20 Men: Post vacant? (we are in the process of establishing whether this is the position.

U17 Men: Post vacant

U13 Boys: K Sumun

U13 Girls: C James

d) Cross Country Secretary: G O'Doherty until the end of the season and B Wallen will take over next Winter.

e) Cross Country Team Managers

Male – Senior and U20: P Bailey (until the end of the season and then the position will be vacant)

Female: P Oatham

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| f) Road Running Secretary and Team Manager: | D Staines |
| g) Race Walking Secretary: | R Pearce |
| h) Race Walking Association Rep. | R Pearce |
| i) Eastern Region AA Rep.: | C Levey |
| j) Officials Secretary: | D Wooller |
| k) Championships Record Secretary: | R Meadowcroft |
| l) Trophy Secretary: | R Meadowcroft |
| m) Schools Liaison Rep.: | B Mansell/M Slatery (to be confirmed) |
| n) Website Manager: | A Gillan |
| o) London Region Rep.: | P Merrywest |

All the above appointments were:

Proposed by J Tierney

Seconded by: A Gillan

It was also proposed that Dave Staines writes to the following to thank them for their service to the County:

- Gerry O'Doherty
- John Stow
- Paul Bailey
- Rod Silk
- Dot Ferguson

9. Any Other Business

New County website was mentioned and this will be discussed at the next committee meeting in February 2017.

Meeting concluded at 8.31pm

