

# Essex County Athletic Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at 19.30 hours at Our Lady's Hall, 61 London Road Wickford Essex

#### **Present:**

David Staines (Chairman), Gary Chandler (Treasurer), Claire Levey (Secretary), Malcolm Bailey (Minute Secretary), Peter Bates, June Cork, Ron Dawson, Mick Emms, Mathew Gillard, Roy Meadowcroft, Kaye Merrywest, Paul Merrywest, Gerry O'Doherty, Brian Panting. In attendance – Alistair Gillan

### 1a) Apologies for Absence

Jon Weir (President), Diane Wooller (President Elect), Linda Bates, Allison Gillan, Paul Mingay, Keith Palmer, Phil Sergeant, Jean Tierney, Brigid Wallen.

## 2) Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016 were **approved** as a true record of that meeting

Proposed by Kaye Merrywest and seconded by Roy Meadowcroft.

#### 3a) Matters arising

Gary Chandler advised the meeting that following the AGM (held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016) he had made the decision as Treasurer and in consultation with the Chairman to refund £4 to each runner in the senior races who completed the course at the Senior County Cross Country Championships (which was held at Woodford on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2017). Refunds will be made directly to clubs, not individuals.

### 3b) Treasurer's matters

Around £1,600 was collected in race entry fees from the County XC with circa. £1,400 refunded. Only two clubs that entered did not receive a refund. Most paid by one club was Eton Manor (£23). Despite the incentive of refunds to runners there were approximately the same numbers of finishers as the previous year,

Gary also mentioned that just 48 hours before this event, Essex Medics withdrew their support due to another commitment. Another medical provider was found although they were more expensive (£660) than Essex Medics (£370).

Gary estimates that the total loss to the County at the XC Championships will be circa. £1,000 (after paying the host club £500 for staging the event).

All affiliation fees have now been paid. Both Rochford Running Club and Rogers Runners have decided not to affiliate to the County.

#### 4a) Correspondence

The meeting was advised that Karen Stephanou (England Athletics, Club and Coach Support Officer for Essex and Herts) has resigned from EA and will be leaving on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2017. She will be taking up a new position on 27<sup>th</sup> February at Watford Football Club Community Trust as the Disability Football Development Manager.

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

No changes to report.

### 5) Committee Nominations

At the AGM in December, June Cork's term of office as the County President came to an end. The Chairman commented that in the past the retiring President remained on the committee for at least another year.

The County Constitution states that the Executive Committee may co-opt additional members without voting powers. Ray Pearce mentioned that he believed the Constitution used to state that the Executive Committee could co-opt up to 6 people although it appears that this number has been lost over a period of time.

Dave Staines mentioned that Angus Holford (Woodford Green & Essex Ladies) has expressed an interest in joining the committee from June onwards (unable to join beforehand due to other commitments).

It was agreed that the representation on the Executive Committee and the number of members that can be co-opted would be reviewed at the next AGM.

It was proposed that June Cork would be invited onto the Executive Committee as a Co-opted member. Proposed by: Kaye Merrywest Seconded by: Ray Pearce Unanimously agreed by all present.

### 6) Networking

Dave Staines has received an email from Tony Benton in connection with the Sportshall Athletic events that were held at Chelmsford during the Autumn. Essex AA had provided a grant in support of these events. Tony Benton advises that they were a great success with over 160 athletes competiting across all three days. A large number of Essex clubs were represented at these events. The Regional Sportshall final is taking place at the Hertfordshire Sporting Village in Hatfield on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

# 7) Regional Reports

Elections for the England Athletic Regional Councils are taking place during February and March of 2017. The Chairman asked whether anyone at the meeting was interested in seeking nomination to the Council. No expressions of interests were forthcoming from those present.

Nominations close on the 13<sup>th</sup> February and voting will close on 20<sup>th</sup> March in all regions where the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies. In the East region there are 4 vacancies.

## 8) Cross Country

Gerry O'Doherty advised the meeting that the County XC season had gone well. The Vets, U13 and U15 Boys and Girls events were held at Writtle College, hosted by Springfield Striders and they are enthusiastic to hold more events at this venue. It was agreed that this is a good venue with excellent facilities and parking.

A debt of gratitude to Woodford Green &Essex Ladies who stepped in at the last minute to host the County XC Championships as no other club had come forward.

The fixture meeting is being held at Chelmsford AC on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017 start time 7.30pm. All clubs are encouraged to send a representative.

Gerry expressed disappointment that despite asking clubs to ensure that at least one member of their club stay for the presentation at the County XC championships, not many remained. This included the winner of the men's event. The men's event started at 11.15am and the presentation took place at 1.10pm. It is impossible to organise the presentation any quicker. Of the 96 medals that were awarded at the County XC Championship, 39 were not collected. It is County policy not to send medals out in the post after the event.

XC Relays were well supported and attended. This event normally takes place on the third Saturday in September. As discussed at the recent Essex Endurance Meeting, due to unforeseen circumstances the Pleshey & Essex half marathon is taking place on the third Sunday in September which means that there could be two County events over the same weekend. The timing of the XC relays would be decided at the fixtures meeting in May.

There was a poor turn - out at the County U20 and U17 XC Championships (U17W -16, U17M - 32, U20 W - 10, U20M - 20)

A debate about the impact of Park Runs on these events took place, which appears to be reducing the number of runners entering the Championship races.

### 9) Road Running

Essex Endurance Network meeting took place the previous Monday and a copy of the minutes to this meeting had been circulated to all members and clubs prior to this meeting.

Gary mentioned that the Howard Williams Trophy will be presented to Grange Farm and Dunmow runners at the Essex 20.

Essex Road Relays are taking place on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Entries are now being accepted on line at <a href="http://www.harwichrunners.co.uk/relays/enteronline.php">http://www.harwichrunners.co.uk/relays/enteronline.php</a> and the Essex 5 mile championships is being held at the Chelmsford City Race Course on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, hosted by Braintree AC.

### 10) Trophies

Nothing to report

### 11) Walking

Nothing to report

### 12) Officials

Nothing to report

### 13) School Liaison

Nothing to report

#### 14) Social Media

Alistair Gillan updated the meeting about the use of social media to promote running in the county. The levels of 'hits' has increased on the County facebook site. Alistair has recorded a video which highlights the roles of coaches and volunteers in athletics, which can be viewed using the following link:-

#### https://vimeo.com/192785271

The video was well received by the committee. It features Sally Gunnell, Paul Molyneux and other local athletes. England Athletics have also approached the County to ask whether they can use this promotional video on their site.

Alistair mentioned that this can be used to promote other areas of athletics and he has a number of ideas. Cross Country and Coaching were mentioned.

The sub committees were asked to consider how County should use this site feeding suggestions back to the Executive Committee.

## 15) Any Other Business

Social Media Policy – this was covered at the Essex Endurance Network meeting. Clubs should consider putting a policy in place; two clubs in Essex have taken disciplinary action against two of their members and dismissed them from the club. UK Athletics has issued a 5 page guidance on this subject which can be downloaded. The County will also adopt this document to guide its policy and future actions in this area. (Attached to the minutes – document, 'Summary of Social Media Policy') Jean Tierney was unable to attend this meeting as she was being presented with a Lifetime achievement award by Havering Sports Council, that evening. The committee congratulated Jean on receiving this award which is in recognition of her service to athletics.

#### 16) Track & Field

At the joint Essex County AA and Eastern Counties AA Indoor track and field championships on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February there was a major power failure affecting most of the N9 district of London including the Lee Valley Athletic Centre meant a total loss of power from about 11:30am. This

meant no heating, lighting, photo finish, power for computers (although they initially worked on batteries), no hot water but more importantly putting the toilets out of action. As the indication was that the power would not be restored until early afternoon, the Lee Valley Centre decided on Health and Safety grounds it was no longer possible to use the centre and that the athletic championships would have to be abandoned and the centre closed until the power supply could be restored.

The Essex and Eastern Counties AA had no alternative but to comply with this request and to clear the stadium quickly. Without power, the computers were running out of battery and there was no internet facility. It was therefore impossible to advice athletes who were competing later in the day of the situation. There is no free weekend to continue with the championships and therefore the 2017 indoor championships are now abandoned. There were a number of complaints with competitors and spectators insisting that refunds be made on that day to those affected. At lengthy discussion took place during which the following was resolved:

- No refunds will be made at this time but arrangements will be made in 2018 for athletes who registered and were unable to compete to be given free entry for that particular event in 2018. Further details will be forwarded to these athletes
- The cost of any programme purchased on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February will be reimbursed providing a copy of the outside cover is emailed to <a href="mailto:essexaa1@btinternet.com">essexaa1@btinternet.com</a>. All wishing to claim a refund should provide their bank details (sort code, account number and account name) together with details of the athlete and event in which that person was due to compete.

Payment will be made via BACS, but may take some time.

Hopefully, those affected will appreciate that this was entirely outside the control of Lee Valley Athletics Stadium and Essex/Eastern Counties AA and they are asked to be patient whilst matters are resolved. There will be cost implications for the County and for other service providers on the day. A suggestion was made about taking out Event Cancellation Insurance, but this was thought to be expensive, but would be investigated.

Meeting concluded at 9.20pm

### **Summary of actions**

Minute Ref.	Action	By Whom
5)	Representation of the Executive Committee (number	Item to be added to
	of members and level of those being co-opted) to be	the Agenda for that
	reviewed at the AGM on 4t December 2017.	meeting
8)	Fixtures meeting 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2017 at Chelmsford AC	All clubs are
	Start time 7.30pm	encouraged to send a
		representative.
14)	County sub committees to consider how we should	County
14)		County
	promote the social media sites and what topics should	Sub-committees.
	be covered in future promotional videos	

# Meeting agenda for Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 7.30pm to be held at Our Lady's Hall, 61 London Road Wickford, Essex

- 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 Reports7. Track & Field8. Cross Country

- 9. Road Running
- 10. Trophies
- 11. Walking
- 12. Officials
- 13. School Liaison
- 14. Any other business