



## *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.



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 <http://www.harwichrunners.co.uk/relays/enteronline.php> 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 advise 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 [essexaa1@btinternet.com](mailto:essexaa1@btinternet.com). 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

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

**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 Reports
7. Track & Field
8. Cross Country
9. Road Running
10. Trophies
11. Walking
12. Officials
13. School Liaison
14. Any other business