



Essex County Athletic Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 6th March 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), John Weir (President), Diane Wooller (President Elect), Malcolm Bailey (Minute Secretary), Peter Cassidy, Ron Dawson, Mick Emms, Allison Gillan, Kaye Merrywest, Paul Merrywest, Gerry O'Doherty, Ray Pearce, Jean Tierney, Brigid Wallen.

1a) Apologies for Absence

Paul Mingay, Brian Panting, June Cork.

2) Minutes of the last meeting

The following amendments were noted:-

Ray Pearce was present at the meeting. Roy Meadowcroft was not present (he was listed as present)
Ray Pearce seconded approval of the minutes of the meeting of 7th November 2016.

Otherwise, 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 Brigid Wallen.

3a) Matters arising

At the last committee meeting the problems associated from the major power failure at the joint Essex County AA and Eastern Counties AA indoor track and field championships were discussed. Due to the decision of the Lee Valley Centre management the event had to be cancelled during the early part of the Sunday on Health & Safety grounds. On the day, there were a number of complaints from competitors and spectators insisting that refunds be made to those affected. After a protracted discussion at the last meeting, the committee (acknowledging that the events were totally outside of our control), agreed that:-

- No refunds will be made at this time but arrangements will be made for athletes who registered and were unable to compete will be given a free entry for their particular event in the 2018 championships.
- Cost of any programme purchased on Sunday 5th February 2017 will be reimbursed providing a copy of the outside cover is emailed to essexaal@btinternet.com

Paul Merrywest advised the meeting that he had received four emails from people complaining about this decision demanding a full refund. One of the issues for County if we did give a refund to all competitors (apart from the considerable amount of administrative work that would be required) is that we would lose money as a transaction fee is taken by ING when they collect the entry fees. Our earlier decision was again debated at length and a response will be sent to the four complainants.

It was agreed that the entry forms for all future Essex Championship events will state that should the event be cancelled, no refunds will be made. Unanimously agreed by all present.

John Weir advised the meeting that the Trustees have discussed this and have suggested that a Contingency fund (£10,000) be set aside to cover any losses from events. The monies would be transferred from the Capital Account. Gary Chandler is to discuss this with the County Auditor.

Also agreed that the £2 competitor levy to Eastern Athletics from the events that did not take place would be paid now rather than next year.

3b) Treasurer's matters

Gary reported that he is still waiting for a number of expense claims before he is able to finalise the accounts for the Indoor Track and Field competition.

Due to the demand for the services of Essex Medics , (which resulted in County being let down fairly close to the County XC Championships) Gary had asked at a previous meeting for details of any other private provider that we could include on our event panel. A company known as A& E Medical have been referred. Gary has contacted them but they have asked a number of questions about the events some of which he was not able to answer. Gary has asked Dave Staines to help him formulate a response. Dave will review the email and get back to him.

4a) Correspondence

Nothing to report.

4b) Club/Committee Register Changes.

Nothing to report.

5) Networking

Report received from Tony Benton following the recent Eastern Region Sporthall Final. The overall performance of the Essex team was the best set of results since the Network took over the Sporthall competition in 2011.

The Essex U11 girl's and boy's teams were both victorious. They competed against teams from Norfolk, Herts. Bedford, Cambridgeshire and Suffolk. There were a number of excellent individual & relay team performances.

Essex athletes also won both the U15 Individual All Rounder competitions to qualify for the National Final which is being held in Manchester in April. Theo Adesina (Thurrock) and Mia Chantree (Chelmsford) were the individual champions.

Both the U13 and U15 girls' teams were runners up while the U13 and U15 boy's teams finished fourth.

The teams were mainly drawn from Basildon, Chelmsford, Havering & Thurrock plus athletes from Braintree, Harlow, Orion, Southend and Essex schools.

A further update will be sent after the National final.

Dave Staines has recently met with Hayley Pegg (Active Essex). A number of topics were discussed. Karen Stephanou has left England Athletics (who will not be replaced) and there is nobody else taking up the work of developing Club and Coach Support around the County. Dave felt that his meeting with Hayley went well and she is keen to develop (reinstate) Coach/Athlete sessions. These would be held at a central point with the lead coach being paid a fee of £60 (funded by County). These would cover endurance, jumps, throws and sprints. Hayley was keen to promote 24 sessions per year but it was felt that 12 would be more realistic.

Following a discussion it was felt to make the number attending each session manageable that 4/5 coaches would be invited and for them to bring along 5/6 of their athletes. The maximum cost to the County would be £720 per year. Dave will discuss this further with Hayley and report back at the next meeting.

6) Regional Reports

Paul Merrywest recently attended the England Athletics London Region meeting. This was attended by Chris Jones ("CJ") CEO of England Athletics.

CJ advised the meeting that funding from UK Sport over the next 4 years is being substantially reduced which will ultimately result in some redundancies within England Athletics.

CJ also reminded clubs that Coaches/Officials must have an up to date DBS check and recommended that clubs ensure that these are in place. An out of date DBS check could nullify the insurance cover for the club.

Currently there is circa.160,000 athletics registered with EA (this number is increasing). It is hoped that interest in the sport will continue to improve after the IAAF World Championships which are taking place in London this summer.

With the cost cutting taking place in Athletics especially at coaching level, it was felt by the committee that it was important for clubs to take a more strategic role in developing coaches

7) Track & Field

Kaye and Paul Merrywest advised that the County Steeplechase races will take place on the Sunday of the Outdoor Track & Field Championships. The Pentathlon will take place on the 1st May with the relays at Havering sometime around the end of June.

The timing and venue of the 10k walk is still to be agreed.

The 10k track details to be finalised with Braintree AC.

8) Cross Country

At the recent National Cross Country Championships, Jessica Judd (Chelmsford AC) finished in first place in the Senior Ladies race. An excellent achievement and Dave Staines will write to Jessica on behalf of the County to congratulate her.

Gemma Holloway (Thurrock Harriers) finished an excellent second in the U20 event.

9) Road Running

The Essex 20 Mile Championship race took place at Langham, Colchester on Sunday 5th March. The event went well with 417 finishers on the day. Many thanks to Colchester Harriers and all the officials/marshals that helped out on the day.

The men's race was won by an Essex runner James Connor (Kent AC) in a time of 1 hour 49 minutes 9 seconds and the ladies race by Hazell Behagg (Dartford Harriers) in 2 hours 9 minutes and 48 seconds.

The event incorporated an invitational County challenge which was contested by Essex, Kent, Sussex, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

The Ladies team event was won by Kent (Hazell Behagg, Sarah Gruber and Geraldine Schaer) in a total combined time of 6 hours 52 minutes and 49 secs with Essex in second place (Emma Prideux (Billericay Striders), Lindsey Colman (Southend AC) and Sam Bilbie (Springfield Striders) only 53 seconds behind. Sussex finished third.

The men team event was won by Essex (James Connor, Blair McWhirter (Ilford AC) and Paul Molyneux (Springfield Striders)) in a total combined time of 5 hours 30 minutes and 47 seconds. Kent finished second and Sussex third.

Positive comments were received from the Counties that took part. They enjoyed the event and thanked Essex for hosting.

The Race Adjudicator raised a few issues which included insufficient medical cover in place, some marshals were not wearing hi-viz tops, no water for finishers at the end of the race and lack of marshals directing competitors at the finish. It was noted that twenty runners broke two hours which was a tremendous achievement and evidence that this race is helping improving running standards.

Committee then went to discuss the 2018 race.

At the last Endurance meeting (see minutes dated 30th January 2017) Colchester Harriers indicated that they will organise the 2018 event in Langham and rename it the Colchester 20. They were happy for County to host the County Championship race at their event (on the understanding that changes are made to XC Championships) although appreciated that we may look for a different venue.

Colchester requested that minimum standards for the provision of facilities at County XC events be agreed (on site toilets, car parking and refreshments). Also they asked for events to be rotated between different venues. Whilst County acknowledges these standards, it can be difficult to find suitable venues and clubs willing to host the events. Invariably we have to use the same venue each year.

Some clubs, with excellent venues are unable to host certain events because they are organising another race around the same time. For example, Springfield would be unable to host the XC relays as these clash (within a week of each other) with the Pleshey Half Marathon. This therefore leaves the

County with a risk that Harriers may withdraw support for the Essex 20 to be held as part of the Colchester 20 next year.

To ensure that we can effectively plan for the 2018 Essex 20 event it was considered that it was prudent that a new venue should be found and secured now rather than wait for the outcome of a debate at the Fixtures meeting (this meeting does not guarantee that venues will be agreed as sometimes offers are not received on the night to host an event. For example the venue for the 2017 XC Championships was not agreed until late 2017). Two clubs have come forward with an offer to host the Essex 20 since the January Endurance meeting. It was agreed that we will work with these clubs to secure a new route. The date of the race will be the same weekend (Sunday 4th March 2018).

10) Trophies

Nothing to report

11) Walking

The Inter Counties Walking Championships are taking place on 29th April 2017 in Coventry.

12) Officials

Diane Wooller advised the meeting that she has contacted a number of officials to support the 2017 Outdoor County Track & Field Championships. There have been some responses but Diane said that she needs to send out a reminder as she does not have sufficient volunteers at this time to cover the event.

Diane also advised that two Officials courses were cancelled earlier this year but she is hopeful that the planned Level 1 courses for Field, Timekeeper and Track will go ahead on April 1st. This is being held at Chelmsford.

13) School Liaison

Nothing to report.

14) Any other business

Allison Gillan reported that Springfield Striders have experienced a number of problems with the registration of club members at England Athletics. Despite the athlete paying the individual registration fee it is not being logged onto the EA system. Consequently, the runner is not able to use their membership number to enter a race. This means they have to pay the unaffiliated fee (an additional £2 per race). It was agreed that Allison will draft letter of complaint which she will send to Dave Staines to sign on behalf of the County.

Two ladies from Essex were successful at the recent Senior European Indoor Championships. Asha Philip (Women's 60m – Gold medal) and Laviai Nielsen (Ladies 4x400M – Silver medal). Dave Staines will write to both athletes to congratulate them on their successes

Meeting concluded at 9.10pm

Summary of actions

Minute Ref.	Action	By Whom
3a)	Contact County Auditor re transferring monies from the Capital Fund into a Contingency Fund to cover any potential losses at future County events	Gary Chandler
3b)	Review questions asked by A & E Medical about the provision of Medical Services to County events	Dave Staines to review and respond to Gary Chandler
5)	Dave Staines to meet with Hayley Pegg to discuss the proposed Coach/Athletes programme	Dave Staines
8)	Write to Jessica Judd to congratulate her on finishing first in the recent National Cross Country Championships	Dave Staines
14)	Letter of complaint to be sent to England Athletics complaining about their membership IT platform	Allison Gillan to draft a response and send to Dave Staines to sign on behalf of the County.
14	Write to the two successful Essex athletes at the recent European Indoor Track & field Championships. Asha Philip and Lavai Nielsen	Dave Staines

Meeting agenda for Monday 3rd April 2017 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