



Essex County Athletic Association

Minutes of the Essex Endurance Network, Meeting held on Monday 27th March 2017 at 19.30 hours at the Chelmsford Sports & Athletics Centre, Salerno Way, Chelmsford.

Present:

David Staines (Chairman) (Thurrock AC), Gary Chandler (Springfield Striders), Paul Mingay & Malcolm Bailey (Tiptree Road Runners), Brigid Wallen (Witham RC), Judy Burston & Jim Kevany (Phoenix Striders), Dave Keeley (Havering 90), Clive Hopkins (Benfleet RC), Ron Dawson (Southend AC), Mike Emms (Woodford Green), Martin Clarke (Harwich RR & Ilford AC).

1a) Apologies for Absence

Claire Levey (Ilford AC) Nicole Smith (Halstead RR)

2) Howard Williams

Dave Staines started the meeting by advising those present of the sad news that Howard Williams had passed away. He read out the following statement:-

“I have known Howard since 1963; frighteningly that is over 50 years.

Although he ran for Essex in the Inter County ‘20’ and was an ever present, with his brothers, in the Ilford endurance squad his main contribution came in the administration of the sport. For over 30 years he organised the cross-country championships, the road race championships and team managed both the road and cross-country County team. Over and above this he was also county secretary. When he gave up about 10 years ago, it took a committee to replace him – in fact this is one here tonight.

Outside the County his proudest achievement was to establish and promote the growth of the Metropolitan Cross-Country League – a thriving competition still.

He found time to sit on the CAU and the County Executive Committees. Above all, he continued to run until well into his late sixties.

Throughout this time he was supported by his wife Ann. When Ann was asked how she put up with the time he gave to the sport she said that it was his life – and she wouldn’t change it for the world.”

3) Essex Road Relays

Martin Clarke reported that the event went well. With 97 teams taking part this year (up from 67 in 2016), the start was very congested. To cope with this the start line had to be moved forward.

Results were announced very quickly with the presentation at 12.30pm (only an hour and a half from the start of the event) with the hall cleared by 1pm. Every County medal was handed out.

Gary Chandler reported that income was up with costs broadly the same as last year. A decision was made to increase the payment to the host club (Harwich RR) from £250 to £500. This needs to be ratified at the next County committee meeting. Overall profit to the County was approximately £700.

Date of next year’s event was discussed. Martin mentioned that if we kept it as the same weekend there may be a problem with the tides. Following a discussion it was agreed that a provisional date of 10th March would be set. To be agreed at the fixtures meeting on 17th May 2017.

On the day, the Race Referee disqualified two teams from one club because one of their runners competed for both teams. In addition, some clubs runners did not run in the order that they were declared before the event (clubs could amend their running order with the race organiser on the morning of the race).

Next year’s entry form will state that:

- That no runner should run twice and;
- Runners must compete in the order that they have been declared by their club.

4) Essex 20

The event went well. However, five areas of concern were highlighted on the race adjudicators report. These were:-

1. There were insufficient marshals to assist runners at the finish line
2. There were insufficient marshals to assist runners at the post finish line
3. Not all marshals were wearing distinctive tabards/bibs/tops
(Race adjudicator reported that “At a key junction where runners change course between the first and second laps, neither of the 2 marshals were wearing anything to identify them as marshals. They informed me that there weren’t any left when they went to collect. Although the start area was traffic free, the road closure was carried out by unqualified personnel and without a road closure order. There were 2 junctions (both left hand turns) where I would have expected to see a marshal. None were specified on the event plan, but personally I would have put marshals in those 2 locations”)
4. No water for runners at the end of the race (although they were given free tea and coffee)
5. The race adjudicator also commented that “It appears that nobody had carried out a medical risk assessment. The level of cover (4 personnel, 1 ambulance) was far below that recommended by UKA”.

The above points need to be carefully considered to ensure that standards are met for the 2018 race.

Gary mentioned that he had received positive feedback from 4 of the 7 counties that took part in the Inter Counties challenge. They all said that they will return next year.

Other counties had been invited to send teams but had declined as this clashed with other events (Middlesex and Hampshire with Buckinghamshire’s own 20 mile championship’s taking part on the same day).

With a higher level of entries accepted this year and with runners able to swap numbers (these runners had to pay the higher entry fee; a lower fee was charged for those who entered early) the profit on the day was higher than last year. Estimated to be approximately £3,000.

There was a 35% no show of entrants on the day which was probably not helped by the poor weather conditions. The date of next year’s event was agreed – 4th March 2018. This will be at a new venue.

5) 2018 Grand Prix races –provisional host races

The following events were chosen;-

5 miles – To be agreed at the Winter fixtures meeting

10K – Bromley (8th April 2018)

10 miles - Tiptree (14th October 2018)

Half marathon – Pleshey (16th September 2018)

20 miles – Rochford (4th March 2018)

Marathon – Halstead (6th May 2018)

(Host clubs to confirm acceptance)

6) Cross Country

Date of XC relays will be agreed at the Winter Fixtures meeting.

Witham have offered to host the 2018 Senior County Championship at the Great Notley Country Park on 6th January. Suggested that the 2019 event could be held at Writtle as the college is empty at that time of year.

Difficult finding other venues to host XC’s. Last season, an event was going to be held at Stubbers (cost £1200) but they withdrew their offer. Bedford’s Park was approached but they said that they were not interested.

The Essex League Men’s ream trophy has been mislaid and Colchester Harriers may be asked to replace it if it cannot be found by the time of the Winter’s fixture meeting.

7) Any other business

None

Meeting closed at 20:37.

