



Essex County Athletic Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 2nd October 2017 at 19.30 hours in the clubhouse of Chelmsford Athletic Club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford.

Present:

David Staines (Chairman), Gary Chandler (Treasurer), John Weir (President), Diane Wooller (President Elect), Malcolm Bailey (Minute Secretary), Peter Cassidy, June Cork, Ron Dawson, Mike Emms, Allison Gillan, Mathew Gillard, Roy Meadowcroft, Kaye Merrywest, Paul Merrywest, Brian Panting, Jean Tierney, Brigid Wallen.

1a) Apologies for Absence

Claire Levey, Paul Mingay, Ray Pearce, Richard Casey.

2) Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on Monday 4th September 2017 were **approved** as a true record of that meeting

Proposed by Kaye Merrywest and seconded by Brigid Wallen.

3a) Matters arising

All clubs had been contacted to advise that affiliation fees are now due.

Gary Chandler had contacted the County Insurance broker but regrettably we are not able to obtain any third party insurance cover when the clock is loaned out.

Roy Meadowcroft has not received a response from the parents of Sophie Hales with regard to the return of the walking trophy that she was awarded last year.

Other matters arising are covered under the relevant agenda item of this meeting.

The committee expressed our deepest condolences to the family of Keith Waite who has recently passed away. Keith was a member of Thrift Green Trotters. He contributed a significant amount of time and energy supporting the local running community. He undertook numerous roles supporting the County including acting as a Race Referee and the Chairman of Essex AA. He will be greatly missed. David Staines will be sending a card to the family on behalf of everyone involved with Essex AA.

3b) Treasurer's matters

Gary Chandler reported that 33 of the 44 clubs had paid their County affiliation fees. Outstanding fees are due from Barking RR, Braintree AC, Colchester Harriers, East London Runners, Great Bentley RC, Loughton AC, Pitsea RC, Thrift Green Trotters, Bishops Stortford RC, Cambridge & Coleridge AC and HAWCS.

Year end accounts have been completed and these will shortly be audited.

A number of initiatives were agreed last year to support clubs and runners. It was proposed that the following be extended for a following year:-

- County Road Championships races – the £200 levy to fund county medals will not be charged to the host club;
- County Cross Championships – As with 2017, a refund of entry fees will be given to clubs in respect of athletes that participate in the main county championships in January 2018;

- Entry fees for the County Track & Field Indoor Championships in February 2018 will not be increased.

Proposed – Kaye Merrywest Seconded Jean Tierney

This will again be reviewed for the 2019 season.

A report has been received from Ian Pike following the Workshop “Transition from Track to Cross Country” held on 23rd September 2017 at Waterside Farm Leisure Centre. County had provided financial support for this workshop. Eight coaches from across Essex attended the session. Workshop was well received by all those that attended. This workshop was the first of the ‘Endurance’ series of seminars that are going to be provided by coaches from the Essex Athletics Network and Essex County AA. Details of future workshops can be found on the following website, www.essexathleticsnetwork.org

David Staines has sourced a petrol driven generator for use with the County Clock. Kaye Merrywest suggested that as we are unable to obtain insurance cover for the clock that we should ask for a £200 refunded deposit from all hirers. This was unanimously agreed by all those present.

Entry fees from the XC relays taking place on Saturday 7th October totalled £4,105 (2016 - £3,150)

Woodford & Essex Ladies have agreed to the financial conditions for County to provide £7,000 (an advance on payment of rentals) to assist with the purchase of a new Photofinish system. (24 uses by County which will probably be over a 6-7 year period). Gary Chandler asked that he be advised when the system is used so that he can maintain a log.

One club has queried the benefits of affiliating to County. It is only a nominal cost of £15. It does give a voice to all clubs about the direction of running (Track & Field, Road Running, XC etc) in the County. Supports the cost of putting on championship events and only clubs that are affiliated can be awarded team medals at events.

4a) Correspondence

David Staines has received two letters from Graham Spring in connection with the Track & Field relay championships (with some suggestions for improvement) and a health and safety issue at the Eastern Young Athletics League. As the latter was at an EYAL event, David will pass this onto the Chairman of that league.

4b) Club/Committee Register Changes.

Nothing to report.

5) Networking

Nothing to report

6) Regional Reports

Paul Merrywest reported that England Athletics have recently undertaken an online consultation with members which covered a series of questions to help them better understand the views of registered athletes, representatives of member clubs and volunteers. This will now be followed by a series of consultations meeting around the country. (Details of these meeting can be found on the England Athletics website)

7) Track & Field

Kaye Merrywest reported that the entry forms for the 2018 Indoor Track & Field Championships will be sent out in the next few days.

There was a suggestion that the Essex Multi-events championships be combined with the Eastern Counties event. There was concern about the amount of travelling for competitors and whether the officials would be able to cope with the number of entrants. This will not be pursued with the Essex

Championships probably taking place at Thurrock on 29th April 2018. This will depend on the dates fixed for the various track and field leagues.

Ron Dawson enquired as to whether there has been any progress with the formation of an Essex Track & Field League. After some debate it was considered that this idea has a number of benefits and was strongly supported by committee members whose clubs have active track & field sections. It was proposed that this be debated at the forthcoming County AGM in December.

David Staines has been in discussion with Wendy Tydeman about the 2018 Track & Field Relay championships. A date is still to be agreed.

Paul & Kaye Merrywest are looking to purchase 25 Hi Viz jackets which will be worn by officials/volunteers at County events. They have identified a supplier. Cost £10 per jacket.

Agreed that these should be purchased.

Proposed: Jean Tierney Seconded: Paul Merrywest

8) Cross Country

Brigid Wallen reported that she has received 246 entries for the forthcoming XC relays on Saturday 7th October 2017 which is being held at Stubbers. Entries have now closed. This is an increase of 52 entries on last year.

Brigid also advised the meeting that in accordance with England Athletics rules she will be checking the EA affiliation numbers for those runners that entry the XC Championships.

Ron Dawson advised the meeting that there have been some problems with the proposed dates for the forthcoming Essex XC league fixtures. Orion Harriers are unable to host the race planned for 13th January 2018 but could potentially organise it on a different date. The race on the 13th January will now be held at Writtle University College. There is also a possibility that Colchester Harriers may not be able to host the third race of the series on 16th December 2017. Updates will be posted on the website/social media.

A summary of fixtures and venues that have been agreed to date–

Date	Fixture	Venue
2017		
Saturday 7 th October	Essex XC Relays	Stubbers, Upminster
Saturday 21 October	SEAA XC Relays	Wormwood Scrubs
Saturday 28 th October	Essex XC League – race 1	Cambridge
Saturday 18 th November	London XC Championships	Parliament Hill
Saturday 25 th November	Essex XC League – race 2	Hockley
Saturday 2 nd December	Essex Vets and U13 and U15 County Championships	Writtle University College
Saturday 9 th December	SEAA Masters and Inter Counties XC Championships	Horspath Track Oxford
Saturday 16 th December	Essex XC League – race 3	To be confirmed
2018		
Saturday 6 th January	Senior and U17 and U20 XC Championships	Great Notley Country Park
Saturday 13 th January	Essex XC League – Race 4	Writtle University College
Saturday 27 th January	SEAA XC Main Championships	To be confirmed
Saturday 10 th February	Essex XC League – Race 5	Basildon (Gloucester Park)

9) Road Running

Since our last meeting the Pleshey half marathon has taken place. Event went well. Winners:- Ladies Rachel Swealt (Witham RC 1:25:49) and Men - Paul Molyneux (Springfield Striders 1:08:55). Both the Ladies and Men team medals were won by Springfield Striders,

It was a very warm day and Allison Gillan mentioned that there were a few competitors needed medical treatment. Concerns were raised that some runners do not properly prepare for races.

Cut off times for events were discussed. It is up to clubs to set cut off times to be fair to volunteers and officials that give up their time to support these races.

The cut off time for the Essex 20 is 4 hours.

Gary Chandler reported that the 2018 Essex 20 is now full. 550 have entered which does not include those taking part in the Inter Counties event.

There is still one race to go in the Essex Grand Prix series, This is the Stebbing 10 which is being held on 12th November 2017. Prior to this race the Men's team event has already been won by Springfield Striders although there is 6 clubs that can still win the Ladies competition.

The date for the 2018 Braintree 5 has not yet been agreed. Possibility that this may be the County 5 mile championship.

Saffron Striders are organising a new 5 mile event in October. If this is successful and it goes ahead next year it could also be considered as a venue.

Southend 10k took place on Saturday 1st October. Over 1250 runners took part with Adam Hickey (Southend AC) winning the men's race in 30:30 and Hannah Viner the ladies in 36.35.

10) Trophies

Nothing to report.

11) Walking

Peter Cassidy advised that the County 10k walking race was incorporated into a one hour race that took place in Enfield. The winners were Ladies – Melanie Peddle (Loughton A.C) who completed 9,620 metres and Men – Amos Seddon (Enfield & Harringay A.C.) 8,710 metres .

12) Officials

Nothing to report

13) Schools Liaison

Schools representative was not present.

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14) Any other business

Gary Chandler had received a report from Alistair Gillan about the XC Video that had been posted on the website. This had been very well received with over 9,000 organic views.

Administrative details for the AGM which is being held on Monday 4th December were discussed. Details will be sent to all affiliated clubs in the next few days.

June Cork has proposed the following resolution be discussed. Change to the County Constitution. 'That the retiring County President may remain on the Committee for a further term of 12 months at the end of the period of their office'

Some of the elements of the constitution, it was noted, may need revision

Meeting concluded at 21:04

Summary of Actions

Item	Action	By Whom
4a)	Details of the Health & Safety issue highlighted at a recent EYAL event to be passed to the Chairman of that league	David Staines
7)	Consideration to be given to the formation of an Essex Track & Field league	To be included on the Agenda for the forthcoming AGM
14)	Proposed amendment to the County Constitution – ‘That the retiring County President may remain on the Committee for a further term of 12 months at the end of the period of their office’	To be included on the Agenda For the forthcoming AGM

Meeting agenda for Monday 6th November 2017 at 7.30pm to be held at the clubhouse of Chelmsford Athletic Club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the meeting of 3rd July 2017
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