

Notes from Endurance Meeting held on 20th November 2017

Those present:

Clive Hopkins - Benfleet RC

Gerry O'Doherty - Billericay Striders

Diane Wooller - Essex officials

Charlotte May, Nicole Smith - Halstead Road Runners

Martin Clarke - Harwich/Ilford AC

Graeme Knott - Harwich Runners

David Keeley - Havering 90 Joggers

Andy Catton, Rob Sargent - Ilford AC

Judy Burston, Jim Kevany - Phoenix Striders

Ron Dawson - Southend AC

Gary Chandler, Alistair Gillan - Springfield Striders

Keith Thornton - Thrift Green Trotters

Dave Staines - Thurrock Harriers

Anthony Knight - Tiptree Road Runners

Brigid Wallen - Witham RC

Essex 20

Race declared full although a small number of places may be available in the New Year. Inter-County match going well.

7 counties competing in addition to Essex - no Suffolk but have recruited Hampshire. (Gary C)

Ron Dawson indicated he needed new signage. Keith Thornton offered help and Ron will inform Gary what he needs, check what Keith can supply and then Gary will order all that is necessary.

Essex Road Relays

Martin Clarke said that all is in order. Parking adequate for entry level. Entries will open on 1 December 2017.

Howard Williams Trophy

Gary Chandler proposed that the voting system remain unchanged and will circulate forms shortly with a voting deadline of 31st January 2018. Trophy will be awarded at Essex 20. Gary encouraged all clubs to cast their vote (last year only half the eligible clubs voted!)

Essex 5

Still no venue/date set for 2018. An answer is awaited from Braintree re '5' around the date of their race. In principle they would like to host the Essex 5 again but it depends on when they set their date. The original date of March 25th is a day after the Essex Road Relays and so would not be suitable for the Essex Champs.

Graeme Knott indicated Harwich may be able to host it at the Wix 5 on available dates if Braintree falls through (likely to be the weekend after the 10 mile champs at Tiptree).

Martin Clarke was also asked if the Ingatestone 5 would be a possible venue but there is concern on the finish area of the new venue and whether this could be an issue with a much increased field.

A Friday night event was also suggested but, for now, the consensus was that this remained a less than ideal alternative due to the fact that some athletes would not be able to compete due to work commitments (especially if an event in the North of the county was chosen)

Essex Cross Country Relays

While it was agreed Stubbers was an excellent venue and the event a big success - parking is an issue. Stubbers have stated that if it rains then parking would not be possible on the grass which would mean parking would be woefully insufficient for the size of the event. Suggestions of parking at a nearby crematorium and using buses to ferry athletes was not thought to be a workable solution.

As such, clubs were encouraged to consider new courses for event and Halstead (CM and Nicole Smith) said they would go back to their club and see if it is possible to hold the relays at Gosfield School (already a popular venue in the 53-12 XC league), as did Andy Catton to consider whether Ilford could host at Chigwell Row?.

Graeme Knott said that he could provide chip timing at Halstead venue.

Gerry O'Doherty said that chip timing was becoming a necessity at other X-C champs. Met with agreement. The cost of chip timing may mean increased entry fees once introduced.

Early sell out of Essex Races

A long discussion was held about early sell out which prevents "County Level" athletes and affiliated runners competing. Strong feeling was expressed that runners should be made aware - if closing date is missed, too bad!! (Judy B, Jim K)

Other suggestions

- 1) Later closing dates.
- 2) Reserved places (e.g. 20%)
- 3) Graeme Knott suggested there was always leeway for late entrants and potential leading runners could be accommodated at a later date.
- 4) Hold two races - one for affiliated runners and one for unaffiliated (Ilford).
- 5) Earlier opening for affiliated - say for 2 weeks. Then open up for everybody (Ilford).
- 6) Reserve places for athletes who've achieved standard.
- 7) Reserve places for athletes with high places on the Grand Prix listing.

- 8) Limit it to UKA registered athletes only. (Host club would object).
- 9) Hold a ballot for unaffiliated entrants.

What was finally decided that host clubs would be asked to give Essex AA an early warning 2 weeks before entries open to the general public- to enable club athletes to “beat the rush” of unaffiliated runners.

Under 20 medals

It was decided to investigate value of awarding under 20 medals in the 10k and 5 miles road race champs. Doubt was expressed about the value of such an exercise. (Only 12-15 entrants at county cross county champs in this age group.) Starting with the Essex 10km champs at Bromley and the Essex 5 (venue to be agreed).

Clarification of Essex Qualification

Dave Staines explained that if the race was an Ex Championship it would have a UKA/EA permit and would only be open to registered athletes. Graeme Knott argued that we should include ARC members (“be more inclusive”).

(Unattached non EA registered runners are currently excluded from Essex Champs)
It was explained that this would be difficult but Dave Staines agreed to raise the matter at the February Executive Meeting.

See below for qualification rules.

Medals

Gary Chandler proposed that a new medal be awarded to all athletes who complete 5 out of 6 Road Running Championships in any one calendar year. This would promote the Grand Prix and also offer something to those athletes that support the county champs but do not have a chance of individual or team medals.

Looking at 2017 a total of just 28 athletes would qualify for the medal, although it was recognized the incentive of a medal may see this number increase.

Unanimously approved and Gary Chandler to investigate cost/design etc with a view to introducing for 2019 (or possibly 2018).

London Marathon

It was agreed that Dave Staines would write to UKA and London Marathon to question the fairness of the very late notice for reduction in Club entries.

