



## *Essex County Athletic Association*

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Essex County Athletic Association held on Monday 4th December 2017 in the clubhouse of Chelmsford Athletic Club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford

**Present:** Diane Wooller, John Weir, Paul Mingay, Malcolm Bailey, Brigid Wallen, Ron Dawson, Roy Meadowcroft, Paul Merrywest, Kaye Merrywest, Jean Tierney, Ray Pearce, David Staines, Allison Gillan, Gerry O'Doherty, Mike Emms, Peter Cassidy, June Cork, Margaret Williams, Lance Williams, Chris Akehurst, Alistair Gillan.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Linda Bates, Peter Bates, Gary Chandler, Claire Levey, Richard Casey, Keith Palmer, Andy Catton , Roy Perrott.

### **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last AGM held on 5th December 2016 were approved with one amendment.

8a) should read Track & Field **Championship** Secretary

Proposed by: R. Pearce

Seconded by: B. Wallen

### **3. Matters Arising**

None.

### **4. Presentation of the Accounts** (copy of the accounts – attached)

The Treasurer, Gary Chandler was unable to attend the meeting due to a business commitment. He sent in a written report which was read out by David Staines:-

#### **“Overall Position as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017.**

I am pleased to present my 6<sup>th</sup> Treasurer's report, albeit by proxy, as unfortunately I am currently overseas on business.

The county have had yet another strong financial year albeit, on the face of it, we have spent more money than we generated. However, in the main, this was deliberate.

You may recall the county agreed a number of initiatives last year. These included:

1. For road running the £200 “levy” paid by host clubs was suspended;
2. All runners participating in the main XC county championships day in January did so free of charge;
3. The amount given to host clubs for the 3 XC events received was increased to £500 (up from £250);
4. For T&F school entry costs were reduced and a greater share of the indoor championship entry fee was given to Eastern AA.
5. Essex AA funded the cost of coaching courses delivered via the Essex Athletic Network

6. We revamped our website, and with external support, have launched a series of video clips promoting various aspects of our sport which have been very well received.

But there were also some “unplanned” costs – a power failure on day 2 at the indoor T&F champs meant the event had to be abandoned, and impacted athletes offered free entry into the 2018 champs. The cost associated of this has been taken in these accounts.

Overall, the county had a net deficit for 16/17 of £1,400 and net funds now stand at **£72,296**, and so, in spite of all the above, the county remains in an extremely good financial position.

### **Championships**

The outdoor T&F championships saw net income increase by 10% (after an increase of 40% last year) and continue to generate significant revenue for the county. The introduction of more veteran events in 2018 will hopefully help continue the upward direction in T&F, and encourage the more traditional road running clubs to participate.

The indoor T&F numbers are deflated by £1,645 (being the maximum amount of possible “free entries” the county is liable for), hence an overall “loss” in the accounts. If not all these free entries are taken in 2018 then the balance of the provision will be released next year.

The Cross country numbers look odd, but this is due to two reasons:

1. The fact the XC relays moved back one week from its traditional end of September date, to the beginning of October and therefore fall into the current financial year meaning we have just 2 events shown in the accounts instead of the normal 3.
2. And the initiative above in making the main champs free to those runners that took part, that event ran at a loss of approx. £1,000.

Road running’s numbers are down due wholly to the fact the £200 levy stopped mid-way through the year resulting income being reduced by £800.

### **Balance Sheet**

Turning to the balance sheet only a couple of points are worth highlighting:

1. That a number of the prepayments/accruals are shown and these predominantly relate to the XC relays that were held in October.
2. The County trustees recommended that part of the county’s funds be “ring-fenced” to cover a disaster scenario similar to what had occurred at Lea Valley. Taking into account the total exposure the county could be liable for we have separated out £12,000 to cover such an eventuality, as can be seen from the accounts.

### **Summary**

The county continues to thrive financially and it is clear that all of the initiatives undertaken in 2016/17 were done so sensibly and within the county’s means. As a result the committee recently accepted my proposal to continue with a number of these initiatives in 2017/18.

Finally, my thanks again to Rodney Silk, Honorary Auditor, who audited the accounts again in a very short timeframe to enable them to be presented here at the AGM. “

Alistair Gillan what were County plans to use some of the surplus credit monies held in the Bank account. David Staines responded that it is hoped that they would be used to help the drive to produce more coaches/officials. In some of the specialist field events, there are not many coaches in the County highlighting Pole Vault as a prime example.

County have recently provided funds to Woodford Green AC & Essex Ladies to assist with the purchase of a new photofinish system. This was agreed on an advance payment rental basis. Other proposals from other clubs would be considered. Other possibilities included funding workshops and purchasing chip timing systems (which could be loaned out to clubs)

Ray Pearce proposed that this should be reviewed by the Executive Committee. Agreed by those present.

Proposed by: A Gillan

Seconded by: P. Mingay

## **5. Presentation of Secretary's report.**

Claire Levey was unable to attend the meeting due to a business commitment. Claire sent in a report which was read out by Malcolm Bailey.

### **“Cross Country**

Vets championships, which were held alongside the U13 and U15 boy's and girl's races were held at Writtle College, hosted by Springfield Striders. Overall the race went well and it was agreed that this is a good venue with both excellent facilities and parking.

A special thank you to Woodford Green & Essex Ladies who stepped in at the last minute to host the county cross-country championships. This was due to no other clubs coming forward.

At the national cross country championships held earlier in the year was a well done to Jessica Judd who runs for Chelmsford as she finished in first place in the senior race. Also running was Gemma Holloway in the U20 event and she finished an excellent second.

As in previous years we have recently held the cross-country relays and this year these were held at Stubbers and hosted by Havering AC. Once again it was a great turn out by all with 246 entries received, which was up 27 % on the previous year.

A big thank you to Gerry for all his work at the end of last season and a big thank you to Brigid for taking over the role and for the hard work she has already done.

### **Road Running**

Essex 20 mile again took place at Langham. Event went well with 417 finishers on the day. Many thanks to Colchester Harriers and all the officials and marshals that helped out on the day. James Connor won the men's race with the ladies race being won by Hazel Behagg. Again the race incorporated an inter county challenge with this year eight counties taking part.

Braintree 5 mile was held in April and incorporated the county championship. This was held at Chelmsford City race course, which was a new course, but the facilities and course were considered excellent. Team winners were Orion Harriers for the ladies and Ilford for the men. Individual winners were Elizabeth Davies of Springfield Striders and Blair McWhirter of Ilford.

Road Relays were held again at Harwich with the ladies winners being Springfield Striders and Ilford AC for the men's race.

Halstead marathon took place in May and again incorporated the Essex championship – all went well on the day.

Essex 10k race took place at Brentwood in July with the ladies race being won by Laura Brooks of Basildon and the men's race won by James Connor of Kent AC. Team events were won by Saffron Striders for the ladies and the men's won by Colchester Harriers.

Essex half marathon took place at Pleshey with the event going well, despite being a very warm day. Ladies race was won by Rachel Swealt of Witham RC and the team race for the ladies being taken by Springfield Striders who also won the men's team race. Individual winner for the men was Paul Molyneux of Springfield.

As always a big thank you to all the clubs who help host the county events and to all the officials and helpers who give up their time to ensure that the events are a great success.

### **Track & Field**

As in previous years the indoor track and field championships were held at the beginning of February. Unfortunately on the Sunday there was a major power failure affecting the area, which meant a loss of power at the stadium, causing many problems, which in turn meant we had to cease the meeting late morning. Apart from this though the event went well and we will return to Lee Valley for next year's championships.

Multi events were held at Thurrock at beginning of May. Even though the event went well there were not enough officials on the day. This is something that is becoming an issue in all our events, so we do need to encourage people to get involved.

The main two days of competition took place at Chelmsford mid May and went well. As always a thank you to everybody who assisted in running the meeting.

County relays took place at the end of June hosted by Havering AC. Overall there were 135 teams who took part, which was a rise on the previous year.

A separate 10k track championship took place mid July at Braintree. 27 entries in all, 3 ladies and 24 men.

At the senior inter counties meeting Essex men finished first and the ladies fourth. Combined team score for Essex placed us second.

Our thanks go to all the host clubs and the volunteers who give up their time freely to help run all the events within Essex. A big thank you also goes to the team managers for all their hard work throughout the season.

### **Race Walking**

The 10k RWA championships were held in Coventry in April with Dominic King finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> and Daniel King just behind him in 4<sup>th</sup>.

The county 10k walk was incorporated into a one-hour race that took place in Enfield. The winners were Melanie Peddle from Loughton and Amos Seddon from Enfield & Haringey for the men.

Thanks as always to both Ray Pearce and Peter Cassidy for their involvement with race walking.

### **Conclusion**

Thank you this year to our president John Weir for his work throughout the year. Diane Wooller will take over the honour for 2018.

Unfortunately during 2017 we saw the sad passing of Keith Waite, a long standing member of Essex. Our condolences go to Keith's family.

It is with pleasure that I submit this report to the AGM and apologies for not being there in person."

David Staines advised the meeting that the 2018 Inter Counties Track & Field Championships will be taking place in Manchester. It is expected that County will be approached to provide some financial support sending a team to this event.

The meeting thanked Malcolm Bailey for his work as the County's Minute Secretary during the year.

Proposed by: J Cork

Seconded by: R. Dawson

### **6. Election of Officers and Executive Committee**

**a) The President:** John Weir was thanked for his work last year and he was presented with a plaque by David Staines in recognition of his services to the County.

John Weir presented the incoming President, Diane Wooller with the Chains of Office.

**b) President Elect:** Chairman advised the meeting that Andy Catton (Ilford AC) has been proposed to take over this role, which he has accepted. Andy Catton has been a very successful athlete over a number of years winning both Southern Counties and Essex Championships titles (over a number of different distances). His dedication to the sport over the years and support of Essex Athletics verifies that he is a worthy holder of this office.

Proposed by J. Cork

Seconded by J. Tierney

#### **c) Life Vice Presidents & Life membership:**

No new nominations have been received.

**d) Treasurer:** G Chandler has expressed his willingness to continue as Treasurer.

Proposed by: J Cork

Seconded by: J Tierney

**e) Secretary:** Role is split with C Levey dealing with secretarial correspondence and other related matters and M Bailey as minute secretary. Both have indicated their willingness to continue in these roles.

Proposed by: R Dawson

Seconded by: B Wallen

**f) Chairman:** D Staines has expressed his willingness to continue in this role.

Proposed by J Tierney

Seconded by: K Merrywest

**g) Vice Presidents/Life Members:** The following were elected (elect 6)

The following are agreeable to remain on the committee - J Tierney, R Pearce, K Merrywest and J Weir. R Meadowcroft has decided to step down. There are now two vacancies on the Executive Committee from this group of members.

Proposed by: A Gillan

Seconded by J Cork

**h) Members of the Executive Committee** (20 +1 Essex Schools representative)

L Bates,  
P Bates  
P Cassidy  
R Dawson  
A Gillan  
M Gillard  
P Merrywest  
G O'Doherty  
K Palmer  
P Sergeant  
L Williams  
M Bailey  
P Mingay  
B Wallen  
M Emms  
(5 Vacancies)  
R Casey (Schools representative)

Proposed by: R Pearce

Seconded by: J Weir

**i) Honorary Auditors:** R Silk has expressed his willingness to continue as Honorary Auditor.

Proposed by: J Weir

Seconded by: J Tierney

**j) Honorary Trustees:** K Merrywest, R Pearce, J Weir

Proposed by: R Dawson

Seconded by: J Cork

**7) Presentation of Trophies**

On the night, the following trophies were collected on behalf of Chelmsford AC by John Weir:

Anna Neagle trophy for Senior and U20 Women

Arthur Turk trophy for Senior Men

The following trophies had already been presented:-

Joe King trophy for U17 Women to Chelmsford AC

Pat Mills trophy for U15 Girls to Chelmsford AC

George Holroyd trophy for U13 Girls to Chelmsford AC

George Deer trophy for U13 & U15 Girls (schools) to Maltings Academy

Pam Jones trophy for Ladies Grand Prix winners to Witham Running Club



**i) Eastern Region AA Rep.:**

Proposed: J. Tierney

C Levey

Seconded: J Cork

**j) Officials Secretary:**

Proposed: R Pearce

D Wooller

Seconded: R Dawson

**k) Championships Record Secretary:**

Position vacant

**l) Trophy Secretary:**

Position vacant

(The Championships Record and Trophy Secretary vacancies will be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting)

**m) Schools Liaison Rep.:**

R Casey

**9. Review of the Essex County AA Constitution (revised Constitution attached)**

The following amendments were agreed:-

**3. Membership**

a) Any club or association as defined in the Rules of the England Athletics ("EA") situated or having headquarters in Essex provided it is eligible for affiliation of the EA or any club which is based in a county adjacent to Essex who have athletes who qualify to compete in Essex Championships.

Proposed: K Merrywest

Seconded: P Cassidy

**7. Management**

The following clause is to be inserted:-

v. Immediate past President

Proposed: K Merrywest

Seconded: P Merrywest

It was agreed that the Rules Governing Championships would be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

**10. Consider the formation of an Essex Track & Field League**

There was a strong consensus of support from those present that this would be a good idea. There was some debate as to whether clubs would compete in this league as an additional competition or resign from other leagues. Fixture congestion could be an issue if they decided to compete in this as an additional league.

Setting up this league could reduce travelling costs and save time for the competitors.

Need to agree whether to hold the fixtures at weekends or mid week. What events should be included if it was a mid week fixture, due to time constraints

Agreed that County would circulate a questionnaire to all clubs, to seek their opinion. To be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Proposed: J Cork

Seconded: A Gillan

Meeting concluded at 8.55pm