



Essex County Athletic Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 8th January 2018 at 19.30 hours in the clubhouse of Chelmsford Athletic Club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford.

Present:

David Staines (Chairman), Gary Chandler (Treasurer), Diane Wooller (President), Malcolm Bailey (Minute Secretary), Peter Bates, June Cork, Ron Dawson, Mike Emms, Paul Mingay, Brigid Wallen, John Weir, Ralph Burrows (Guest)

1a) Apologies for Absence

Claire Levey (Secretary), Andy Catton (President Elect), Linda Bates, Mathew Gillard, Kaye Merrywest, Paul Merrywest, Ray Pearce, Jean Tierney, Richard Casey.

2) Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on Monday 6th November 2017 were **approved** as a true record of that meeting

Proposed by Brigid Wallen and seconded by June Cork.

3a) Matters arising

All matters arising are covered in this meeting's agenda items

3b) Treasurer's matters

Gary Chandler reported that all affiliation fees have been received. A cheque for £7,000 has been sent to Woodford Green AC with Essex Ladies in respect of the deferred payment of the new track PhotoFinish system and a receipt has been received from that club. Since the last committee meeting there have been two Cross Country Championship events (U13 Girls & Boys, U15 Girls & Boys and Vet Ladies and Men at Writtle and the Senior, U17 and U20 Ladies and Men at The Discovery Centre). Both went well and the financial outcome of these events will be presented at a future meeting. As agreed at the October committee meeting a refund of entry fees will be given to clubs in respect of athletes that participate in the main county championships in January 2018. Cheques will be sent out to clubs.

8) Cross Country

At this point this agenda item was moved forward. Brigid Wallen reported that 691 entries had been received for the main county XC Championships and 496 took part on the day. It is likely that costs for the 2019 event will increase with the possibility that we will use chip timing and purchase 'all weather' numbers. Some of the competitor's number disintegrated during the run this year. Under consideration is moving the event to a Sunday and this will be debated at the next Endurance meeting. Of the 45 affiliated clubs only 31 took part in the Main Championships event.

All medals were awarded on the day.

It was reported that a Maud Hodson (East London Runners) had posted that she would not take part in the main championship events until the distances for the Men and the Ladies race were equalised. This would be discussed at the next Endurance meeting but it was noted that the distances are governed by UK Athletics.

Ron Dawson advised the meeting that the Essex League fixture that was due to be held at Claybury on 16th December was cancelled after permission to use the course had been withdrawn by Redbridge

Council (snow had fallen three days before the event). It has been decided to base the overall results of the league upon the successful completion of 3 of the 4 races (rather than 4 of 5) in the league.

7) Track & Field

Ralph Burrows attended the meeting to discuss a potential clash of events at Chelmsford stadium on day 2 of the Outdoor Track & Field Championships (Sunday 13th May 2018

County has already booked the stadium for both days of the championships (12/13th May) but it has come to light that there is a possibility that Chelmsford Football Club may need the stadium on the 13th if they qualify for the National League South playoff final. It was acknowledged by the members present that the football club would probably be given preference due to the powerful political lobby that support them in the background.

In view of this, we discussed three possible solutions:-

1. Move both days to another venue
2. Move the Sunday to another venue
3. Compact the programme into 1.5 days; earlier start, later finish on Saturday. Early start on the Sunday.

This prompted a protracted debate on each of the three options. Various other options were discussed and discounted including holding the events for the younger athletes on a different day and holding some events on the same day as the Multi-events championships.

Our Track & Field Championship Secretary's (Kaye & Paul Merrywest) were unable to attend the meeting as they were away on holiday. There was a strong view by the members present that they should have input into the final decision and it was agreed that David Staines would contact them summarising our discussions and to seek their opinion as to the best way forward.

The majority of those present at this meeting felt that either option 2 or 3 would be preferred.

Following discussions with Kaye & Paul Merrywest, Ralph Burrows agreed to approach Chelmsford to discuss this further with them so that a final decision can be made by the committee at our next meeting on 4th February.

(Following the meeting, a further suggestion was made that the men's and women's championships would be separated and held on separate days.

We have subsequently established that the Vanarama National League has announced that the promotional final will take place on Sunday 13th May at 3pm and it will be hosted by the highest placed club of the two competing finalists. The top club will automatically be promoted with the next 6 taking part in the play offs. The clubs in 2nd and 3rd will play in the semi finals with teams in 4th to 7th being paired with the winners of those matches proceeding to the semi finals.)

A copy of David Staines summarising the possibilities setting out the positives and negatives of each option is attached to these minutes.

Ralph Burrows then left the meeting.

4a) Correspondence

Nothing to report.

4b) Club/Committee Register Changes.

No changes to report

5) Networking

There was a general discussion about preparing a leaflet explaining the benefits to the numerous running clubs/groups in Essex that are not affiliated of joining our network.

6) Regional Reports

Nothing to report

9) Road Running

Gary Chandler reported that the last race of the 2017 County Grand Prix season took place at Stebbing. This was the ten mile event. First Male was James Connor (Kent AC) in a new course record time of 52:15 and the Ladies by Liz Davies (Springfield Striders) in 59:08.

So far only three clubs have submitted their votes for the Howard Williams Trophy. Closing date is 31st January. A reminder is to be sent to all clubs by Malcolm Bailey.

It has been decided to hold the 2018 County 5 mile championships at Wix on 21st October 2018. Braintree had been approached but it was considered that their two suggested dates (same weekend as the Road relays or the week after the Halstead Marathon) made it difficult for this race to be included into the series.

A new County medal has been designed which will be awarded to runners who complete 5 of the 6 Grand Prix events. It is likely that this will be awarded for the first time this year. Two options were considered. Either a Generic or an Annual medal (with the venues of each race quoted) with the later the favoured option.

At the last Endurance meeting, there was some concern raised about championship races being sold out quickly and some runners who might be vying as contenders as series winners, missing out. Host clubs want to start accepting entries some months before an event and it was agreed that clubs would advertise to Essex clubs, initially two weeks before they officially open entries to all runners.

10) Trophies

Following Roy Meadowcroft's decision to stand down from the committee after many years of loyal service, there are vacancies on the committee for both the Championship Records Secretary and Trophies Secretary.

It was agreed at the AGM in December that Kaye & Paul Merrywest would maintain Track & Field records, Brigid Wallen, Cross Country.

At this meeting, Paul Mingay volunteered to take over Road Running. David Staines thanked Paul for volunteering.

There is still a vacancy for Trophies Secretary. There are also 4 vacancies on the committee and all clubs are encouraged to speak to their members and ask them to consider joining and supporting the work of the committee over the year.

11) Walking

Nothing to report

12) Officials

Diane Wooller advised the meeting that she is still short of a few people to volunteer as 'runners' for the Indoor Championships in February.

There are Level 1 Track, Field and Timekeeping courses being held at Chelmsford on 18th March.

13) Schools Liaison

Nothing to report.

14) Matters raised at the AGM

- David Staines has been in contact with Keith Palmer. Currently, we receive limited information about County's performance at the various Inter-County matches. Following this Keith has sent an email to all Track & Field Team managers requesting that reports are sent to Claire Levey so that this can be included within future minutes of these meetings.

In an email response to David Staines, Keith Palmer commented that the 2017 Inter Counties Results were excellent with:-

U13 Boys 6th Girls 3rd Combined 5th

U15 Boys 6th Girls 2nd Combined 3rd

U20 Men 1st Women 1st Combined 1st

Seniors

Eastern Men no entry Women 1st

Southern Men 1st Women 3rd Combined 2nd

CAU UK Men's 2nd Women 1st Combined 1st.

- County credit funds – There are over £70k in the County Bank account. If any club has any constructive suggestions on how some of these can be spent to support athletics in the County, please contact Gary Chandler or David Staines
- Proposed Essex Track & Field league – There appears to be strong support within the committee to set up this league especially as some clubs currently travel long distances to take part in other leagues. David Staines has undertaken to send a questionnaire to all Track & Field clubs in the County to gauge appetite for such a league. If a positive response is received, a new committee will be formed.

15) Any other business

The date of the next Endurance subcommittee has been set for Monday 19th February 2018 at Chelmsford AC at 7.30pm. Malcolm Bailey will contact all clubs to advise them of the date and encourage them to send a representative.

Meeting concluded at 9.20pm.

Summary of Actions

Item	Action	By Whom
8)	Day of the Senior Ladies and Senior Men XC Championships to be moved to a Sunday	To be debated at the next Endurance meeting on 19 th February 2018
8)	Equalisation of the distances at the County Senior championships for Ladies and Men	To be debated at the next Endurance meeting on 19 th February 2018
7)	Contact Kaye & Paul Merrywest to seek their views about the best way forward for Day 2 of the Outdoor County Track & Field Championships in view of the possibility that Chelmsford FC may need the stadium on that day	David Staines
9)	Reminder to be sent to clubs for nominations for the Howard Williams trophy. Closing date 31 st January 2018	Malcolm Bailey
10)	Seek nominations from clubs to fill the 4 vacancies on the committee	Clubs to speak to their members
10)	Vacancy for Trophies Secretary	Volunteer sought to take on this post
14)	Surplus credit funds held by County. Constructive suggestions sought from clubs as to how these monies can be spent to support athletics in the County	All clubs
14)	Questionnaire to be sent to all Track & Field clubs seeking their views about the formation of an Essex Track & Field League	David Staines

Meeting agenda for Monday 5th February 2018 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 6th November 2017
3. Matters arising
Treasurers Matters
4. Correspondence
Club & Committee Register changes
5. Co-option of members onto the Committee
6. Networking
7. Regional Reports
8. Track & Field
9. Cross Country
10. Road Running
11. 2018 General Data Protection regulations
12. Trophies
13. Walking
14. Officials
- 13 School Liaison
- 14 Any other business