



Essex County Athletic Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Essex County Athletic Association held on Monday 3rd December 2018 in the clubhouse of Chelmsford Athletic Club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford

Present:

Lance Williams (CHAC), Margaret Williams (CHAC), Chris Akehurst (CHAC), Brigid Wallen (Witham RC), John Weir (Chelmsford AC), Mike Emms (Woodford & Essex Ladies), Mathew Gillard (Southend AC), Andy Catton (Ilford AC), Allison Gillan (Springfield Striders), Jean Tierney (Havering AC), Ray Pearce (Southend AC), Paul Merrywest, Kaye Merrywest, Peter Sketchley, Paul Mingay (Tiptree RR), Malcolm Bailey (Tiptree RR), Ralph Burrows (Chelmsford AC), Diane Wooller (CHAC), Gary Chandler (Springfield Striders), David Staines (Thurrock Harriers), Claire Levey (Ilford AC).

1. Apologies for Absence

Linda Bates (Pitsea RC), Peter Bates (Pitsea RC), Richard Casey, Keith Palmer (Southend AC), Dave Ainsworth (Ilford AC), Peter Cassidy (Loughton AC), Nick Burston (Phoenix Striders), Peter Eates (Phoenix Striders), Keith Thornton (Brentwood RC), Ron Dawson (Southend AC), June Cork (Southend AC).

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last AGM held on 4th December 2017 were approved as a true record of that meeting.

Proposed by: R. Pearce

Seconded by: K. Merrywest

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Presentation of the Accounts

I am pleased to present my 7th annual Treasurer's report.

The county has had yet another strong financial year. We again have spent more money than we generated but this is a continuation of the plan from the committee to use county funds where sensible initiatives need investment.

Overall, the county had a net deficit for 17/18 of **£949** compared to £1,400 in 16/17 and net funds now stand at just over **£70k**, just slightly down on last year. So, in spite of all the investments made, the county remains in an extremely sound financial position.

Championships

The championship numbers take some explaining this year, especially when trying to make comparisons to last year:

The outdoor T&F championships saw income broadly in line with the prior year but costs increased significantly (in fact by 23% mainly driven by first aid costs and the use of photo finish equipment at all 4 days) which meant net revenue fell from £7,833 to £6,101. The champs remain, however, the main generator of income for the county.

The indoor T&F championships had a good year. Numbers are inflated by the fact that nearly a 1/3rd of the “free” entries we were rolling forward from the prior year’s cancelled championships were not taken up and obviously due to the fact we held a full programme this year compared to half a programme last.

The Cross country championship numbers look odd, but this is due to the fact we had two relay championships in the year. The event that traditionally is the last weekend in September was delayed last year and took place a week later in the first week of October at Stubbers, with the event returning to its traditional date at Halstead in the last week of September 2018. The relay championships is now the main contributor to county funds since the decision was made to make the main XC championships free to all those that run – an initiative I am pleased to confirm we have continued with in the current year.

Road running’s numbers are down due to the fact that the main event, the Essex 20, was cancelled in March due to snow. This left just the road relays as bringing in any money during the year, and whilst this continues to go from strength to strength, the overall net income from road running was significantly hit by the Essex 20’s cancellation.

Other Income and Expenditure Items

Looking at the expenditure the county made a number of investments this year worth noting:

1. A contribution of £1,000 to Essex Schools to cover expenses at the national championships;
2. A contribution of £710 to Essex Athletic Network towards Sportshall events;
3. A contribution to Thurrock Harriers of £950 to help with the purchase of high jump covers (enabling them to host the multi-event championships);
4. £1,200 for 2 further video clips continuing the investment in the county’s online presence;
5. We have also continued with the following initiatives:
 - a. The £200 “levy” paid by host road clubs was suspended;
 - b. The main XC county championships day in January is free of charge to all that run;
 - c. The amount given to host clubs for the 3 XC events continued at £500;

The county also hosted the Southern inter county championships this year, (an event that rotates through the counties) and cost us £1,760 to host.

Balance Sheet

Turning to the balance sheet there is probably only a single point worth highlighting:

1. The county paid a £7,000 advance to WGEL for 24 uses of its photo finish equipment (the advance helping WGEL purchase new equipment). We used that equipment 5 times in the

year and so the balance represents a prepayment towards the remaining 19 uses we can call upon in future years.

Summary

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.

Total Funds

17/18	£71,347
16/17	£72,296
15/16	£74,378
14/15	£70,646
13/14	£66,594
12/13	£59,879
11/12	£52,956
10/11	£42,030
09/10	£32,011
08/09	£28,448
07/08	£27,269
06/07	£29,727
05/06	£31,198

Proposed by: A Gillan

Seconded by: J. Tierney.

6. Presentation of Secretary's report.

Cross Country –

Firstly a big thank you to Brigid Wallen for the organization and coordination of the cross-country races, which have taken place.

With regard to the main championships held in January 691 were received, with 496 taking part on the day. From this number though, it was disappointing that only 31 out of the 45 affiliated clubs took part.

It is also to note that Adam Hickey was second in the SEAA cross country held at the beginning of the year and following this he also went on to win the senior men's National cross country championships which were held at Parliament Hill. For the record he is only the 5th male from Essex to win this event throughout the years.

The cross-country relays took place once again in September, this year being hosted by Halstead. There were a record number of entries, which took part.

And then most recently i.e. this weekend just gone the U13, U15 and vets champs took place at Hilly Fields. A thank you to Colchester Harriers for hosting. The races overall had a fantastic 75% attendance which made for some great racing. It also was the introduction of chip timing, which was well received.

Once again a big thank you to all the officials that take time out of their busy lives to help with the running of these events and also for the clubs that have hosted this year.

Road Running –

Unfortunately this year due to adverse weather conditions the Essex 20 did not take place so we look forward to the 2019 race, which will take place on the 3rd March at Rochford.

Essex relays were once again held at Harwich and were a great success. It was disappointing though that a number of Essex clubs did not compete.

Essex 10k champs were held as part of the Little Bromley 10k and it was noted that it was an excellent course set at an unique setting.

The Halstead and Essex Marathon took place in May. The first Essex man was Stephen Peck from Harwich who finished second. The first overall lady was also the Essex winner and this was Jackie Stretton from Springfield. First female team was Witham and Springfield for the men.

Both the Tiptree 10 and Wix 5 were the county races for these distances. Both the ladies races were won by Rachel Sweatt from Witham. Congratulations to Rachel on a new course record at the Tiptree 10. Both men's races were also won by the same individual – Edward Mitchell from Colchester Harriers.

Essex also recently sent a team to the invitational inter counties 10k race held in Brighton.

Thank you as always to all the host clubs and the many organisers and helpers who help run these races as without them we would not be able to do it.

Track and Field –

Essex once again co-hosted the indoor track and field championships alongside the Eastern Counties in February at Lee Valley. The event went like clockwork and there were some good performances by athletes. There was a 10% increase in entries and a low dropout rate over the weekend. Only disappointment was that school entries were quite low.

As always we could not hold these championships without the help from the officials and other helpers behind the scene.

This year's multi events took place in April hosted by Thurrock Harriers with 102 entries received for the event, which included many from outside of the county.

With regard to the outdoor championships the main two days were again hosted at Chelmsford. Both days went extremely well with some Essex records also being broken.

The 10k track champs were again held separately this year and hosted by Braintree. 36 entries were received prior to the event but due to it clashing with a little something called the World Cup semi final only 12 men and 6 ladies competed on the night. First lady was Rachel Sweatt from Witham and the men's winner was Ramadan Osman from Colchester Harriers.

The relays were hosted by Basildon this year and were a good success, so a big thank you to Basildon for hosting.

Throughout the year there have also been the Intercounty championships with Essex finishing as follows:

U13 Boys – 2 nd	U13 Girls – 2 nd	
U15 Boys – 1 st	U15 Girls – 3 rd	Combined team – 1 st
U17 Men – 8 th	U17 Women – 1 st	Combined team – 4 th
U20 Men – 2 nd	U20 Women – 2 nd	Combined team – 2 nd
Senior Men – 1 st	Senior Women – 2 nd	Combined team – 1 st
Eastern seniors		
Men – 1 st	Women – 3 rd	Combined team – 1 st
UK CAU		
Men – 2 nd	Women – 1 st	Combined team – 1 st

Our thanks go to all the host clubs and volunteers who give up their time freely to help run the championship days.

A big thank you also to the team managers for all their hard work throughout the season.

Race Walking –

At the 8 inter counties match Dominic King won the 3k with his brother Daniel second. First lady home for Essex was Melanie Peddle who finished in 3rd place.

The Essex 10k walk took place in September at Lee Valley, with the ladies championships being won by Melanie Peddle of Loughton and the men's by David Kates of Ilford.

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

Conclusion –

Thank you this year to our president Diane Wooller for her work throughout the year which she did alongside all her officiating and coordination of the Essex officials. Andy Catton from Ilford will take over the honor for 2019.

It is with pleasure that I submit this report to the AGM.

The meeting thanked Claire Levey (Correspondence Secretary) and Malcolm Bailey (Minute Secretary) for their work on behalf of the County during the year.

Proposed by: B. Wallen Seconded by: J. Tierney

6. Election of Officers and Executive Committee

a) The President: Diane Wooller was thanked for her work last year and she was presented with a plaque by David Staines in recognition of her services to the County. Diane Wooller presented the incoming President, Andy Catton with the Chains of Office.

b) President Elect: The Chair advised the meeting that Gerry O'Doherty has been proposed to take over this role, which he has accepted.

Proposed by D. Staines

Seconded by J. Tierney

c) Life Vice Presidents & Life membership:

Life membership was awarded to Ralph Burrows for his services to the County which has spanned over 30 years.

A plaque was presented to Ralph by Andy Catton.

A further proposal was made at the meeting to award a life membership to Keith Palmer. The County Constitution states that:

'Election to Life Membership may take place only at the Annual General Meeting of the Association and only those nominations previously approved by the Executive Committee may be considered for election'

It was agreed that this proposal would be debated at the next Executive Committee meeting with a view to calling an Extraordinary General Meeting later in the year if the proposal is agreed.

Proposed by A. Gillan

Seconded by: J. Tierney

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

Proposed by: J Tierney

Seconded by: A Gillan

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

Proposed by: A. Gillan

Seconded by: B Wallen

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

Proposed by K Merrywest

Seconded by: B Wallen

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. There are two vacancies on the Executive Committee from this group of members.

Proposed by: A Gillan

Seconded by J Tierney

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

K Palmer

L Williams

M Bailey

P Mingay

D Wooller

B Wallen

M Emms

N Burston

J Cork

T Wolfe

K Thornton
R Casey (Schools representative)

Chris Akehurst volunteered to join the committee which was welcomed by those present.
(There is one vacancy on the Executive committee under this category)

Proposed by: K Merrywest Seconded by R Pearce

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

Proposed by: G Chandler Seconded by: J Tierney

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

Proposed by: R Dawson Seconded by: K Merrywest

7) Presentation of Trophies

On the night, the following trophies were awarded

George Deer trophy for U13 & U15 Girls (schools) to Cooper Coburn (trophy collected by J Tierney who will present to the school)

Winners of the remaining trophies will be announced at a later date.

8. Election of Officers for Executive Committee:

a) **Track & Field Championship Secretary:** K Merrywest & P Merrywest

Proposed: A Gillan Seconded: J Tierney

b) **Track & Field Secretary:** K Palmer

Proposed: J Tierney Seconded: K Merrywest

c) Track & Field Managers:

Senior Men: K Palmer

Senior Women: H Nicholas & J Ryan

U15 Girls: I Pike

U17 Women: I Pike

U20 Women: I Pike

U15 Boys and U20 Men: P Cheal

U17 Men: S Tremelling & J Clatworthy

U13 Boys: K Sumon

U13 Girls: C James

Proposed: J Tierney Seconded: K Merrywest

d) Cross Country Secretary: A Gillan (B Wallen had indicated prior to the meeting her wish to step down from the role)

David Staines thanked Brigid Wallen for her fantastic organisation over the last twelve months organising all the County Cross Country events

Proposed: J Tierney Seconded: A Gillan

e) Cross Country Team Managers

Male: P Bailey

Female: P Oatham

Proposed: C Akehurst

Seconded: J Tierney

f) Road Running Secretary and Team Manager: G. Chandler

Proposed: A Gillan

Seconded: R Pearce

g) Race Walking Secretary:

Proposed : J Tierney

R Pearce

Seconded: B Wallen

h) Race Walking Association Rep.

Proposed: A Gillan

R Pearce

Seconded: K Merrywest

i) Eastern Region AA Rep.:

Proposed: A Gillan

D Wooller

Seconded: R Pearce

j) England Athletics London Region representative: P Merrywest

Proposed: J Tierney

Seconded: J Weir

k) England Athletics Eastern Region representative: M Bailey

Proposed: A Gillan

Seconded J Tierney

l) Officials Secretary:

Proposed: A Gillan

D Wooller

Seconded: R Pierce

David Staines passed on his thanks and those of the committee for the work that Diane Wooller undertakes on behalf of the County in this role.

m) Championships Record Secretary:

Track & Field - P. Merrywest & K Merrywest

Endurance: P Mingay

Proposed: C Levey

Seconded: J Tierney

n) Trophy Secretary:

Proposed: P Merrywest

M Emms

Seconded: J Tierney

o) Schools Liaison Rep.:

R Casey

Meeting concluded at 8.26pm