



Essex County Athletic Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 4th February 2019 at 19.25 hours in the clubhouse of Chelmsford Athletic Club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford.

Present:

David Staines (Chairman), Gary Chandler (Treasurer), Malcolm Bailey (Minute Secretary), Chris Akehurst, Linda Bates, Peter Bates, Nick Burston, Richard Casey, June Cork, Ron Dawson, Mick Emms, Mathew Gillard, Kaye Merrywest, Paul Merrywest, Paul Mingay, Ray Pearce, Phil Sergeant, Brigid Wallen, John Weir, Lance Williams, Diane Wooller.

1a) Apologies for Absence

Claire Levey (Secretary), Andy Catton (President), Gerry O'Doherty (President Elect), Allison Gillan, Keith Thornton, Jean Tierney.

2) Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on Monday 7th January 2019 were **approved** as a true record of that meeting although it was noted that the Track & Field Officials courses referred to under item **12) Officials** are all day events as there is a Health & Safety course that precedes these, which is a mandatory module.

Proposed by Ray Pearce and seconded by Kaye Merrywest.

3a) Matters arising

Summary of Actions

Item	Action	Update
7)	Write to Chelmsford FC and the Vanarama National league re staging of the County Track & Field Championships on 12 May 2019	Actioned

3c) Treasurer's matters

Gary Chandler advised the meeting that Be Fit For Today Track Academy have now paid their affiliation fees.

It was agreed that County would pay the team manager's expenses; in particular the assistant manager that has been recruited to assist, for travelling to the Inter Counties XC Championships.

4a) Correspondence

David Staines has received a letter from Peter Sketchley. This was read out to the meeting. Peter references his proposals that County should be awarding long service awards to officials/volunteers that have given 10/20/30 years service. It is acknowledged that this is a good idea but it is difficult to ascertain from the records held when these landmarks have been reached. Efforts are continuing to finalise a list and this will be discussed at a later meeting. It was also proposed that County should organise an annual 'get together' of long serving officials/volunteers/life members/vice presidents and this received a positive response from the members present. This will be an agenda item at a future meeting.

Both Chelmsford City Football Club and the Vanarama league have been written to about the staging of Outdoor Track & Field Championships on Sunday 12th May and the possible clash if the football club need the venue later that day for a playoff final.

4b) Club/Committee Register Changes

Nothing to report.

5) Networking.

Nothing to report

6) Regional Reports

The proposed reforms to the changes to England Athletics Constitution at the meeting on Wednesday 30th January 2019 did not receive sufficient support. 290 weighted votes were received (78 in person and 121 by Proxy) with 68.6% (199) voting for the reforms, 31.4% (91) voting against and there was one abstention. The unweighted votes were 119 (36 in person and 83 by proxy) with 64.7% (77) voting for the reforms, 35.3% (42) voting against and there was one abstention.

75% of votes in favour had to be received for the resolution to be passed.

Three Essex clubs were represented at the meeting (Woodford Green AC & Essex Ladies, Thurrock Harriers and Eton Manor)

One of the main issues that was debated at the meeting was the new requirement at the election stage to the regional Council is the completion of a Fit and Proper Person self-declaration statement. This is being introduced to provide a basic level of assurance that those individuals representing the membership are suitable to do so, particularly from a safeguarding and child protection perspective. Many of the individuals putting themselves forward to serve on the Regional forums will already (as UKA licensed coaches or officials) have an Enhanced DBS check with UKA/EA, and they will need to refer to that on the form. There was some surprise registered at this meeting that it would be sufficient for a self declaration statement to be completed as it was felt that everyone should be the subject of a DBS check.

At the EA meeting, Dave Staines had expressed an opinion that the views of Counties are not given due consideration by the senior management team at England Athletics. This was disputed by EA. Phil Sergeant, whose term of office is coming to an end on the Eastern Council agreed with Dave and that he has highlighted and praised the success of Essex AA to EA over the years. He has suggested that a representative of the Senior Board of EA to visit Essex to see for themselves first hand, how we cover all aspects of every athletic discipline.

Nominations are now being sought for election to the Regional Councils. All clubs are encouraged to speak to their membership to ask whether they would like to stand (we are a large county with 14 Track & Field and 36 running clubs). Dave Staines will speak to an Essex athlete who he feels would be an excellent representative on the Eastern Regional Council.

It is hoped that at this election process that EA will be able to reinstate the West Midlands council.

7) Track & Field

The Indoor County Track & Field Championships took place over the weekend of 2/3 February 2019 at Lea Valley. The meeting went extremely well and the Chair stated that he felt it was one of the best indoor championships he had attended. Thanks were passed on to the Chair for stepping in at the last minute to present the medals on the Saturday and to Gerry O'Doherty who presented them on the Sunday.

Kaye Merrywest mentioned that one of her grandchildren helped out at the Athletes reception desk. Without this support, they would have struggled otherwise as it is a very busy area. In the future, they will seek additional support at this spot.

Numbers were slightly down but there were fewer drop outs this year. A complaint had been received about a medallist in an U20 event that the competitor was over the age limit. This is being investigated.

Paul Merrywest proposed that the 2020 Championships be held over the weekend 8/9 February 2020. Diane Wooller mentioned that there may be problems with this weekend finding suitable officials. Kaye & Paul Merrywest's concern about the first weekend is that school's do not return back from the

Xmas holidays until 6th January 2020 and if the Championships took place over the 1st/2nd February it would mean that the closing date for entries would be 3rd January. Consequently, schools would have to finalise their entries by 19th December. After some debate it was agreed to go ahead with the second weekend. Keith Palmer & Paul Merrywest to book.

Paul & Kaye Merrywest will be sending out the details for the forthcoming Outdoor County Track & Field Championships within the next couple of weeks.

The 5K County track Championships will take place on 12th June 2019 and the 10K on 10th July 2019. It is hoped that this will encourage more runners to enter the 5K event, with a maximum number of 90 runners being accepted. Runners will be seeded by times and it is anticipated that there will be 5 races in the 5k event over the evening. Gary Chandler will be organising these events on behalf of the County.

8) Cross Country

An Essex Endurance sub-committee meeting took place on 28th January 2019 and a copy of those minutes have been sent to all club secretaries and posted on the County website.

Main issue for XC was the equalisation of distances for Women and Men at the Senior County Championships. We are going to wait to see what the Inter Counties Championships distances will be for 2020 before deciding what distances our Championships will be over, next year.

The last fixture of the Essex League Cross County season took place at Basildon on 2nd February. The day went well. The committee thanked everyone involved organising these events especially Chris Akehurst, Allison Gillan and Ron Dawson for all their hard work over the season.

9) Road Running

The first three County Road Race championships are taking place during March. These are the Essex 20 (3rd March), Essex Road Relays at Harwich (16th March) and the 5 miles at Braintree (31st March). David Staines reported that he was looking to use Chelmsford as the base for a Road Safety Course but it needs a 50 sq metre area. Chelmsford would not be able to accommodate this.

Nick Wetheridge had suggested a venue near Rochford, at the recent Endurance meeting and he will make some enquires and get back to Dave Staines to let him know whether this could be used.

10) Trophies

Mike Emms reports that following a contact with Roy Meadowcroft, he now has a much better understanding how the points are awarded to calculate who has won the various County trophies.

Havering AC have reported that they are concerned that they do not have a secure area to store the trophies that they currently hold. We continue to seek a solution to this problem.

11) Walking

The Essex 10k Track Championships will take place at Enfield on 28th September 2019. There was debate about how County can promote race walking. It was suggested that Road Running clubs members may be a source of finding new people to take part in this discipline. In the past, there were a number of events on roads but they have now migrated across to track events. Road Running clubs, in particular are asked to consider encouraging their membership to try Race Walking. Race Walking events calendar can be located at <http://racewalkingassociation.com/Fixtures.asp>. There are also Track Race walking events at both the County Outdoor and Indoor championships.

12) Officials

Diane Wooller reported that there were sufficient officials present to support the Indoor Championships. An invitation has been sent out to all officials seeking support for the Outdoor championships. Some responses have been received and Diane will be chasing. Dave Staines, thanked Diane and her team for all their hard work at the various events.

As reported at the last meeting the following Track & Field Officials courses are taking place at Chelmsford on 17th March 2019.

Level 1 Field 12.30pm to 4.30pm

Level 1 Track 12.30pm to 3pm

Level 1

Timekeeping 12.30pm to 3.30pm

These courses can be booked by going to the England Athletics website (<https://www.englandathletics.org/officiating/qualifications/officials-courses>). Cost of each course is £20. To complete the qualification each official has to attend a Health & Safety course, which takes place beforehand which starts at 10am and finishes at 12pm. This course costs £10.

13) Schools Liaison

Richard Casey reported that the Schools XC championship took place at Hockley, which went well. The Inter Counties event scheduled to take place in Hampshire on 2 February, was cancelled due to adverse weather conditions. On Wednesday 6th February, Years 7 and 8 were competing at Stubbers. The National Schools Cross Country will be in Leeds on 16th March.

14) Any other business

It was noted that a new event the Havering Half was being organised on the 6th October 2019 which is the same day as the Southend 10K (which is also the Essex championships this year). The Havering event is being organised by a local charity (Havering Mind) and it was asked whether we should be advertising this on the Essex AA website, if it clashes with the County event. This was not considered a problem.

Meeting closed at 20:49.

Summary of Actions

Item	Action	By Whom
6)	Clubs to encourage their membership to stand for the England Athletics Eastern Regional Council	All clubs

Meeting agenda for Monday 4th March 2019 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 4th February 2019
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's Liaison
14. Possible event for Life Members and Vice Presidents
15. Any other business