



Essex County Athletic Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 3rd June 2019 at 19.30 hours in the clubhouse of Chelmsford Athletic Club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford.

Present:

David Staines (Chairman), Gary Chandler (Treasurer), Malcolm Bailey (Minute Secretary), Chris Akehurst, Ron Dawson, Mick Emms, Mathew Gillard, Jean Tierney, John Weir, Diane Wooller.

1a) Apologies for Absence

Claire Levey (Secretary), Andy Catton (President), Linda Bates, Peter Bates, Nick Burston, Richard Casey, June Cork, Allison Gillan, Kaye Merrywest, Paul Merrywest, Paul Mingay, Ray Pearce, Brigid Wallen, Lance Williams.

2) Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on Monday 1st April 2019 were **approved** as a true record of that meeting, subject to the following amendments:-

5) Networking

‘David Fewell has been appointed to take over the role from Hayley Pegg’; surname was incorrectly spelt in the draft minutes

7) Track & Field

‘The County dates have been the **second weekend** in May for a number of years.. .’ not the first as stated in the draft minutes

Proposed by John Weir and seconded by Jean Tierney.

3a) Matters arising

Item	Action	Update
16)	Venue for the Road Safety Course	Still under review
3c)	Consideration to be given to funding Senior XC runners when they represent Essex at Events (similar to the support provided to Track & Field Athletes)	Still under discussion with the Team Managers.
4a)	Write to SEAA to advise them that the members of the Essex Committee unanimously oppose the introduction of a levy of £2 per athlete (to compensate them for losing funding from England Athletics)	Actioned
9)	Review the possibilities of staging a County XC event at the Chelmsford Racecourse venue	Mick Emms to arrange a meeting with the racecourse

3c) Treasurer's matters

Gary Chandler advised the meeting that a grant of £300 has been received from England Athletics. Monies will be utilised to assist with the 2020 Outdoor County Track & Field Championships in May. Gary is still waiting for a number of invoices from the County 2019 Multi Events and Outdoor Championships so was unable to provide a full report on the profitability of these events. He anticipates that a good level of profit will be generated and he will report further at the next meeting in July.

Around £300 had been paid out to fund sending a team to the Inter Counties Fell Championships. Diane Wooller requested approval to meet the travelling costs of two qualified officials who were travelling from Oxford to support the Schools Track & Field Championships taking place on 8th June. This was approved.

4a) Correspondence

Nothing to report.

4b) Club/Committee Register Changes

An updated Club Secretary list will be sent to all affiliated clubs.

5) Networking.

Nothing to report.

6) Regional Reports

Paul Merrywest was unable to attend the meeting. He provided a report, which is summarised below:-

- He has asked for a standing item to be included on the Executive County Agenda covering SEAA matters. This would include details of the various SEAA championships events.
- The winners of our various championships should be encouraged to enter SEAA championships. This year's county track and field programme had included details of these events.
- We were the only one of three counties present who had discussed the proposed affiliation fee that was proposed by SEAA (Dave Staines has written on behalf of the County to SEAA). We as a County, oppose any payment. SEAA are losing money and the shortfall is being covered by SEAA Limited who has some £400k in reserves. But like all prudent organisations this needs to be addressed. They are to consider how they can reduce costs and increase income to minimise their annual deficit.

Paul also attended the first meeting of the new London EA Council.

A new chair was elected – Ellie Brown. Previous incumbent stood down as the rules state that you can only serve for a specified time.

Club Mark was discussed and this would again be debated at the next meeting.

There was discussion about interaction within clubs. Do clubs encourage social gatherings as well as training nights to improve the ethos and friendship of the membership? This was part of a wider discussion about how to retain athletes as members of clubs.

Reminder that the closing date for the 2019 England Athletics volunteer awards is 11th July. Details have been sent to clubs.

7) Track & Field

Paul Merrywest reported that the Outdoor Track & field Championships went well. The total number of entries this year was at the same level as the previous year but with a lower level of participation from the seniors due to the proposed BAL meeting at Swansea and Bedford. In the end, the latter one was cancelled due to lack of officials. With the cancellation being announced only a few days from the date of the County Championships, it was deemed too late to accept late entries into the Essex event.

The main issue for us as a County over the weekend was that there were insufficient volunteers coming forward to support the event. One of the main problems was taking 'paper' from one source to another. Mainly from the seeding to marksman, track referee and photo finish. Paul mentions that Mathew Gillard provided fantastic support juggling his normal role of assisting with seeding etc. and

providing information to the officials but this meant that results did not get posted as quickly as anticipated. This caused annoyance with the athletes and meant that there was a subsequent delay in finalising results for the Power of 10.

Next year, it is imperative that sufficient volunteer support is on hand to ensure that this ensures the events runs smoothly and professionally.

The meeting debated whether to seek support from the schools and this was generally thought to be a good idea.

David Staines mentioned that there had been some verbal complaints about the attitude of some of the officials and competitors/parents of the competitors.

It is acknowledged that officiating can be highly stressful at times although it is important to ensure that they remain professional and calm at all times even when faced with difficult situations.

The committee endorsed the decision not to accept any late entries into the County Championships. A great deal of administrative work goes into working out a timetable for events and preparing a programme. It would have been a logistical nightmare within the time frame available to try and accommodate any late entrants. Some competitors had entered the County Championships aware that they might be required to take part in the BAL event. The meeting was advised that the BAL is looking at the possibility of rescheduling the Bedford event.

The 5K track Championships are being held at Braintree on Wednesday 12th June. This has proved very popular and sold out within a short space of time with 100 entries accepted. The championships will be split into 5 races – 1 women's and 4 men's which will be seeded according to anticipated finishing times. It was agreed by the Endurance subcommittee that if a Vet runner is good enough they can win both categories (Open & Vet) and be awarded both medals.

The track relays are taking place on 28th June at Chelmsford. Diane Wooller mentioned that she does not have sufficient officials for this event and is chasing. If any qualified official is able to help they are asked to contact Diane to offer their services.

8) Cross Country

Please see appendix 1 – fixture list for 2019/20 season.

Mick Emms mentioned that the Metropolitan league has decided to standardise the distances for Female and Male events.

At the Endurance subcommittee meeting on 29th April 2019 it was agreed to equalise the Vet categories and for these to be in five year blocks for Road and Cross Country (Track & field will still remain at 35 for the time being). The cross country will take effect from September 2019 and road from January 2020, For relay races (road and XC) the age groups will remain in ten year blocks (O40, O50, O60).

9) Road Running

The Halstead marathon which incorporated the County Championships took place on 12th May. The event was very successful with the County Championships being won by:-

Female – Jackie Stretton (Springfield Striders) 3:05:41

Male – Crispian Bloomfield (Billericay) 2:35:08

Both team events were won by Springfield Striders. In the women's event only two clubs finished with a full team.

It was agreed at this meeting that the 2020 County marathon championships will be awarded to Halstead. Dave Staines to contact Halstead to advise the club.

Unfortunately Harwich Road Runners will not be able to host the road relays in 2020. A new venue is sought. Any club willing to host this should contact Gary Chandler at essexatreasurer@hotmail.com

10) Fell running

Essex sent one men's team and one lady to the Inter Counties fell championships which were held at Todmorden on 11 May.

Essex won the Gold medal at the InterCounty Fell Champs with Paul Jeggo from Springfield Striders winning the O55 age category, and Leah Williams won silver in the U23 category.

Selection for next year's event will be partly based upon two races – The John Clarke Memorial fell race on 28th June 2019 and the 2020 Orion 15. Both events are organised by Orion Harriers.

11) Trophies

Nothing to report

12) Walking

Nothing to report.

13) Officials

Nothing else to report except as mentioned earlier in the minutes, we need more officials for the Essex track relays.

14) Schools Liaison

Dave Staines mentioned that he had attended the schools Multi event championships. He was very impressed with the standard of the facilities and competition.

15) Any other business

No other business was discussed

Meeting closed at 20:38

Summary of Actions

Item	Action	By Whom
3a)	Consideration to be given to funding Senior XC runners when they represent Essex at Events (similar to the support provided to Track & Field Athletes)	Dave Staines
3a)	Review the possibilities of staging a County XC event at the Chelmsford Racecourse venue	Mick Emms
3a)	Venue for the road safety course	Dave Staines
6)	Nominations to be sent to England athletics for the 2019 volunteer Awards by 11h July	All clubs
7)	Officials needed for the County Track relay championships which are being held on 28 th June	All Officials
9)	2020 Marathon Championships were awarded to Halstead	Dave Staines
9)	Host sought for the 2020 Road Relay championships	All clubs

Meeting agenda for Monday 1st July 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 3rd June 2019
3. Matters arising
Treasurers Matters
4. Correspondence
Club & Committee Register changes
5. Networking
6. Regional Reports

7. SEAA
8. Track & Field
9. Cross Country
10. Road Running
11. Fell Running
12. Trophies
13. Walking
14. Officials
15. School's Liaison
14. Any other business

APPENDIX 1

SUMMARY OF FIXTURES (Known) period September 2019 to April 2020

(care some of the venues have not yet been confirmed)

Date	Event	Venue
2019		
September		
28	County Cross Country Relays	
October		
6	Southend 10K	
12	Essex XC League	Thurrock
13	Tiptree 10	
19	SEAA XC relays	Wormwood Scrubs
26	Essex XC League	Cambridge
November		
2	UK XC Relays	
3	Billericay 10K	
10	Stebbing 10 miles (County Championship race)	
16	Eastern Counties XC Champs	Bedford
24	Chelmsford 10K	
30	Essex U13, U15, Vet Women and Men XC Champs	Writtle
December		
7	Southern Intercounties XC	Horspath, Oxford
14	Essex XC League	Writtle
January		
4	County XC Championships	
11	Essex XC League	Colchester
18	Essex Schools XC	Writtle

25	Southern XC	Parliament Hill
February		
8/9	County Track & Field Indoor Championships	Chelmsford
15	Essex XC League	Braintree
22	National XC	Nottingham
March		
1	Essex 20	
7	Inter Counties XC	Loughborough
14	National Schools XC	Liverpool