



Essex County Athletic Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 3rd February 2020 at 19:30 hours in the clubhouse of Chelmsford Athletic Club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford.

Present:

Andy Catton (Chair) Gary Chandler (Treasurer), Claire Levey (Secretary), Gerry O'Doherty (President), Brigid Wallen (President Elect), Malcolm Bailey (Minute Secretary), Chris Akehurst, June Cork, Scott Darney, Ron Dawson, Allison Gillan, Mathew Gillard, Kaye Merrywest, Paul Merrywest, Paul Mingay, Ray Pearce, Jean Tierney, Lance Williams, Diane Wooller. Alistair Gillan.

1a) Apologies for Absence

Nick Burston, Keith Thornton

Andy Catton provided a brief update on the health of Dave Staines (former Chair). He remains in hospital. He had hoped to go and see him last week but just as he was leaving he received a call from Dave's partner Ann, to say that he was not strong enough for visitors that day. Ron Dawson advised the meeting that he had seen Dave that day. He was better but it will be some time before he will be strong enough to get about. Dave has lost over three stone in weight. Once he is fit enough to leave hospital he will be spending time in a care home to aid the recovery process. Everyone at the meeting wished Dave a speedy recovery.

Paul Merrywest has contacted both Chris Jones (CEO, England Athletics) and the Chair of EA London to advise them of Dave's ill health. Both have sent Dave their best wishes.

2) Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 4th November 2019 were **approved** as a true record of that meeting.

Proposed by Ray Pearce and Seconded by Claire Levey.

3a) Matters arising

No matters arising.

3c) Treasurer's matters

Gary Chandler reported that two clubs did not renew their affiliation to Essex for the 2019/20 year. These were Barking Road Runners and Running Colchester. One club has affiliated for the first time, Little Baddow Ridge Runners and there is a possibility that Boxted Runners might also join. Chris Akehurst said that he will speak to this club again on behalf of County.

Fees from the Seniors XC amounted to £2,246 with £1,445 refunded to date (it had been agreed to refund the entries fees to club of the runners that completed the course). All fees refunded, electronically. Some clubs failed to provide their bank details and a request to the clubs to provide this information was made at the recent Endurance Sub Committee meeting (please see minutes on the County website. Copies of these minutes have been sent to all club secretaries). Currently, £166 is still to be repaid. After all costs it is anticipated that there will be a net income of £197 from this event.

Since the last meeting, Essex Network had sought a grant of £1,000 to assist towards the cost of the Sportshall events. Last year we gave a grant of £800. After due consideration, it was agreed to pay £900. Essex Network has written to thank County for our donation.

Paul Merrywest has acquired two new computers at a total cost of £700. These are to be used to assist at T&F and XC events.

Alastair Gillian has produced a new video (this has been posted on the County Social Media site). This is an interview with Matt Yates. Cost £500 plus VAT. There has been a very positive feedback on the contents of the video.

Paul & Kaye Merrywest asked whether they could purchase a new printer. The existing printer has passed its sale by date. This was agreed.

4a) Correspondence

The East of England Sportshall UK Championships Regional Finals took place at the University of Essex Sports Area in Colchester on the 19th January 2020. 56 athletics took part from Essex. The U15 girls All rounder Champion was Joyce Nzekwe from Essex. Joyce qualifies for the National Finals. The U11 Boys was also won by Essex. Other team results:-

U11 Girls - 2nd

U13 Girls – 2nd

U13 Boys – 3rd

U15 Girls - 2nd

U15 Boys – 2nd

Well done to Joyce and the U11 Boys and all other athletes that represented the County.

Keith Palmer has advised that Oxfordshire, who were due to host the Southern Inter Counties Senior eight County Track and Field match have withdrawn. They would have paid the costs of hosting the event. A suggestion has been made to invite other Counties to take part. Middlesex are prepared to host the event at Lea Valley but have asked other counties taking part whether they would be prepared to share the cost. The event will cost around £1,800 to stage.

This proposal was approved by the Committee with the suggestion that the cost is shared every year going forward.

Proposed; Gary Chandler Seconded: Claire Levey

(Subsequent to the meeting with other counties withdrawing, the event will not take place in 2020. It is hoped that it will be resurrected in 2021)

4b) Club/Committee Register Changes

An update club Secretary List will be sent to all clubs with a copy of these minutes.

5) Networking

Nothing to report

6) Regional Reports.

Paul Merrywest reported that the next EA London Regional meeting will take place on 13th February.

7) SEAA

Nothing to report.

8) Track & Field

The joint Essex County AA and Eastern Counties AA Indoor Track and Field championships are being held on Saturday and Sunday 8th/9th February 2020 at Lee Valley Athletics Centre. Good entry which is up on last year.

The Track & Field sub - committee meeting is being held on Monday 2nd March at Chelmsford AC. Start time 7.30am. All clubs are encouraged to send a representative.

9) Cross Country.

Dates and venues for the remaining 2019/20 XC Fixtures:-

Date	Event	Venue
15 th February	Essex League	Great Notley Country Park
22 nd February	English XC Championships	Wollaton Park, Nottingham

Well done to Adam Hickey (Southend AC) on winning the Southern Counties XC Senior Championships which were held at Parliament Hill on the 25th January 2020.

10) Road Running

An Endurance Subcommittee meeting took place on 27th January 2020. Copy of the minutes from this meeting have been sent to all clubs and posted on the website.

The Essex team for the Inter Counties Invitational 20 mile event (which is part of the Essex 20) will be:-

Men

James Connor - Havering AC
Paul Molyneux - Springfield Striders
Paul Whitaker - Thurrock AC
Pete Robinson - Springfield Striders

Ladies

Emma Prideaux - Billericay Striders
Jackie Stretton - Springfield Striders
Hayley Lamkin - Southend AC
Nikki Woodyard - Springfield Striders

11) Fell running

A selection race for the Inter Counties fell championships will be the Orion 15 which is taking place on Saturday 21st March 2020.

Alistair Gillan asked whether County would be willing to support part of the travel expenses of those competing for Essex at the Inter Counties Championships which will be held at Llanbens, Wales. County has met some of the expenses for T&F in the past it has been agreed that we will review our Expenses policies to ensure that a consistent approach is adopted throughout all the disciplines. This will be discussed at the next Executive meeting which is due to be held on Monday 6th April. Gary Chandler will review policy prior to the meeting.

12) Trophies

Nothing to report.

13) Walking

The meeting was advised that Colin Young (Essex Beagles & Ilford AC) sadly passed away in December 2019. Colin was a long distance walker a founder member of the National Union of Track Statisticians and coach of Mel Batty. From 1967 to 1986 he was the walking correspondent of Athletics weekly. Our sincere condolences go to his wife and family on their sad loss.

14) Officials

Diane Wooller reported that all Winter County Championship events so far have been well supported by officials. Two more events to cover the Essex 20 and Essex Road Relays.

Sufficient volunteers have come forward to support the Essex County AA and Eastern Counties AA Indoor Track and Field Championships although without officials from the East Region this would not have been the position.

The next Officials course is being held on the 8th March 2020. This is going to cover Timekeeping, Field & Track Judging. This can be booked using the following link-

<https://www.englandathletics.org/officiating/officiating-journey/>

Will all clubs please promote these courses to their members and other interested parties.

UKA are apparently not granting licences to any Track & Field events that are taking place over the weekend 30/31 May. This is because this is scheduled as one of the weekend dates for the County Outdoor T&F Championships. Essex Championships are taking place over the weekend 9/10 May (as are some other County T&F Championships). An Eastern Young Athletics' League is due to take place on the 31 May and a licence has not yet been granted. This will mean that any performances will not be included on Power of 10. It was unsure whether official's, who attend these meetings, will be insured!

There will only be one weekend date for the 2021 T&F Outdoor Championships.

15) Schools Liaison

The Essex Schools Athletic XC championships for Yr's 8/9, 10/11, 12/13 took place on the 18th January at Writtle University College with Year 7 and Year 8 taking place at Stubbers on 6th February.

16) Co-Option onto the Executive Committee

Alistair Gillan has put himself forward for co-option onto the committee.

Proposed: Brigid Wallen

Seconded: Ron Dawson

Unanimously approved by all present.

17) Any other business

Havering AC are organising a Spring Warm Up T&F event on Sunday 5th April. Entries in advance – Full details – please refer to Havering AC website

Havering AC are also holding an Invitation Springs relay meeting for U13 to U20 teams. Tony Benton from Havering AC will be contacting all Essex clubs but if anyone would like an invite please contact Tony at Havering AC.

Alistair Gillan has posted a new two part video on the Essex Athletics facebook page – 'In Conversation with Matt Yates' and 'Matt Yates on coaching'. Matt is of the view that that Clubs could do more to promote the sport in the County. It has been suggested that a meeting could be arranged with Matt Yates with all clubs invited. Alistair will follow this up.

There is currently a vacancy for the MU17 team manager. A volunteer is sought to fill this important position. All clubs please ask your membership whether anyone is interested. Nominations please to Andy Catton at ilfordacsec@gmail.com

In addition there is also a vacancy for the County Race walking secretary. Nominations please to Andy Catton at ilfordacsec@gmail.com

Thurrock AC has obtained a Trackmark certificate for the Blackshots Stadium. The certificate covers units 1 to 4 which allows the facilities to be used for level 1 competition in daylight hours. This meets the requirement for holding day 1 of the County Championship, the multi events, on the 26th April.

As mentioned at the recent Endurance Sub Committee meeting, there is a vacancy for a Road Course Measurer in the County. Clive Hopkins (Benfleet AC) has undertaken this role for a number of years but has decided to retire. Three people had previously expressed interest but, as yet, no one has qualified.

Fees can be charged to carry out this duty and car mileage reimbursed. For more details please refer to the following website:-

<http://coursemeasurement.org.uk/index.htm>

All clubs are asked to speak to their membership to encourage them to consider volunteering for this role. Without a qualified race measurer in the County this will create problems for all Race Directors. It is a requirement that all new courses obtain the appropriate certification which needs to be renewed every ten years.

Meeting closed at 20:34

Summary of Actions

Item	Action	By Whom
3c)	Contact Boxted Runners about affiliating to County	Chris Akehurst
8)	Track & Field sub - committee – Monday 2 nd March at Chelmsford AC	All clubs are encouraged to send a representative
11)	County's Expense Policy to be reviewed at next Executive meeting on 6 th April	Agenda item for next meeting
17)	Consider possibility of arranging a meeting to be hosted by Matt Yates – inviting all clubs	Alistair Gillan
17)	Nomination sought to fill the vacancy for MU17 team manager	All Clubs
17)	Nomination sought to fill the vacancy for the County Road Walking Secretary	All Clubs
17)	Volunteers sought to become Road Course Measurer	All Clubs

Meeting agenda for Monday 6th April 2020 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 February 2020.
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. Review of County's Expense Policy
13. Trophies
14. Walking
15. Officials
16. School's Liaison
17. Any other business