



Essex County Athletic Association

Minutes of the Essex AA Executive meeting held remotely via Zoom Video Conferencing on Monday 6th April 2020 at 19:00 hours

Participants:

Andy Catton (Chair)
Gary Chandler (Treasurer)
Claire Levey (Secretary)
Gerry O'Doherty (President)
Brigid Wallen (President Elect)
Malcolm Bailey (Minute Secretary)

1. Treasurer's Matters

Financial implications of cancellation of 2020 outdoor Track & field Championships – Anticipated that this will be approximately £6k net to the County finances. This event is the biggest income generator for the county, equating to around 66% of all championship revenue.

Around £1k of fees had been received prior to the closure of the entry system. It was agreed that these will be refunded back to entrants (rather than hold the entry over until 2021), less the administration fee that will be charged by the on line company.

Multi – Events championship also cancelled but invariably these championships operate at a loss.

Agreed that we will not use the monies held in the County Contingency fund to offset the loss of income from these Championships (there is £12k in this fund)

ACTION – Gary Chandler to advise Kaye & Paul Merrywest (Championship Secretary) of the decision to refund.

2. Track & Field

There was some discussion as to whether we should try and reschedule the Track & Field Championships for later in the year, if the restrictions are lifted. It was agreed that it is difficult to make a decision at this point and that we would review in May. A number of events have already rescheduled and the calendar will be very busy but if there is a potential window of opportunity then we will email all club secretaries to gauge what level of interest there may be from their members.

The 5k Track Championships are scheduled to take place on 10th June and the 10k on 8th July. Entries have not yet been opened for these events and again, we will review in May.

Essex Schools Track & Field Championships due to take place on 13th June have been cancelled.

3. County Cross Country Championships

Relays (3rd October) are due to take place at Weald Park, Brentwood. Venue has been provisionally booked.

Venues still to be confirmed with potential host club:-

U13, U15 & Vets Championships – 28th November 2020. Provisional venue – Writtle University College

Seniors – 9th January 2021 – Provisional venue – Gloucester Park, Basildon

4. Road running

Grand Prix Series – One event has taken place – Essex 20. The next three events in the series have been cancelled (Witham May Day 10, Halstead Marathon and the Pleshey Friday night 5). With the Chelmsford marathon also cancelling there will not be a road marathon in the county during the year. Entries for the Pleshey & Essex half marathon have opened. Around 100 have entered. This is scheduled to take place on Saturday 19th September. The host club, Springfield Striders are considering, closing the entry system in case the event cannot proceed as planned.

In view of the above it was agreed that the 2020 Grand Prix Series will be cancelled.

Other events will be considered later in the year to host one of the County championships that have been cancelled. Tiptree 10, Stebbing 10, Wix 5 and Witham Boxing Day 5 were all mentioned.

2021 Essex 20. Mathew Gillard (Southend AC) has contacted Gary Chandler to advise him that he and he and a few members of Southend AC would be willing to organise the 2021 Essex 20, unless another club volunteered. Gary has thanked Mathew for his offer.

To avoid other potential clashes of events it was agreed that the best option would be Sunday 28th February 2021, subject to availability of venue.

The 2020 Road Relays took place at Abbey Fields, Colchester and were hosted by Colchester Harriers on Sunday 15th March. The event was very successful with a large number of clubs taking part. Anticipated profit £1,300.

Colchester Harriers have volunteered to host the 2021 event. They asked county to give consideration to junior events being incorporated as part of the Championships, following the success of the event they hosted this year. This included the following age groups, U11, U13 and U15. They all took part in the same race with around 80 teams competing. This was agreed although there would have to be an event for the U17's. Claire will check the UKA rule book to establish the maximum distance that each age group is permitted to compete over.

5. Extension of term of office for President and President Elect.

With the cancellation of a number of County events during 2020 due to Covid -19 it has been proposed that the terms of office for both the current President & President Elect be extended for a further year. Both incumbents have indicated their willingness to continue in these roles.

Proposed Andy Catton

Seconded – Claire Levey

Proposal to be discussed at the AGM, which is due to take place on Monday 2nd December 2020.

6. Course Measurer Update

A potential volunteer has come forward and his contact details have been passed to Clive Hopkins to discuss with him what is involved.

7. Expenses Policy

Gary Chandler has updated the existing Expenses Policy and has proposed a number of amendments. This was discussed and the policy approved.

Proposed: Gary Chandler

Seconded: Claire Levey

Revised, updated policy will be posted on the County website.

8. Any Other Business

Adam Hickey (Southend AC) finished an excellent second in the 2020 UK CAU Inter Counties Championships. But in the Men's Seniors Team event, Essex did not have six finishers, so were not eligible to compete. Andy Catton is to contact the team manager to establish why we did not field a full complement of runners.

The Essex Women Seniors team finished an excellent fourth.

The 2020 Inter Counties Fell Championships, where it was planned for a team representing Essex would take part, have been cancelled.

Meeting ended 7.58pm

Next meeting will take place on Monday 4th May 2020 (via Zoom Conferencing)

Draft Agenda

1. Minutes of the previous meeting – 6th April 2020.
2. Treasurers Matters
3. Track & Field
4. Cross Country
5. Road running
6. Any other business

