



Essex County Athletic Association

Minutes of the Essex AA Executive meeting held remotely via Zoom Video Conferencing on Monday 4th May 2020 at 19:30 hours

Participants:

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

1. Matters Arising from last meeting of 6th April 2020

Agenda Item	Matter	Update
1.	Gary Chandler to advise Kaye & Paul Merrywest of the decision to refund entry fees received for the 2020 Track & Field Championships	Actioned. The on line company that were processing the entries have been contacted about refunding fees. They have not responded and we continue to chase.
6.	Course Measurer Update – Potential volunteer details passed to Clive Hopkins	Contact details have been exchanged and the matter is being progressed
8.	Andy Catton to contact XC Team Secretary to establish why Essex did not have a full complement of runners competing for County in the Inter Counties Men's Senior event	Explanation received and this will be an Agenda item at the next Endurance Meeting

2. Track & Field

Paul Merrywest took part in an EA London Regional Council meeting on Thursday 30th April. Copy of the minutes is attached. (See appendix 1)

There has been some discussion at EA level about contingency planning for the resumption of competitive athletes. There was some debate at this meeting as to whether there will be any T&F competition this year. Consider it to be unlikely due to social distances issues. Also, a large number of the officials are in the age group that need to self isolate will mean that there may not be enough officials available to support any event.

South of England Athletic Association has recently issued the following:-

“The suspension of athletics competition within the UK has now been extended until at least 30 June. The decision has been made collectively in light of the ongoing UK Government restrictions and the need to give athletes, coaches, clubs, event organisers and official’s clarity, advance notice and time to plan”.

SEAA Competition Limited is working with England Athletics to reschedule individual championships if possible. As a result, we will be postponing the U20/Senior Championships that are scheduled to be held at the end of June. The U13/15 and U17 Championships are under review and further information will be posted in due course.

The All Age Group Combined Events Championships scheduled for July and the U15/17 Inter Counties Championships scheduled for September have been cancelled.

SEAA Competition is still working on providing a full Indoor, Cross Country and Road Running season if circumstances permit.”

Richard Charleston is still planning the ‘miles of mile’s’ festival at Chelmsford on 9 August. The track 5k championships scheduled for June has been cancelled. There has been suggestion that we may wish to hold the 5k championships at the ‘miles of miles’ event or alternatively incorporate a County 1 mile championship. The committee agreed that if it becomes possible to hold an event on July 8th (currently ear-marked for the 10,000m champs) that we would instead look to hold the 5,000m champs instead of the 10,000m. Entries have not yet been opened and so this remains a possibility if/when further guidance is issued.

The decision on a mile championships was deferred until the next meeting when clarity on the overall competition situation may be clearer.

On Friday 1st May, EA Easter Council held a virtual meeting. Minutes attached. (See appendix 2) A focus group is being set up to support the processing of competition permits if the ‘green light’ is given to the resumption of events. One nominated person from each County. Diane Woller was approached by Andy Catton to represent Essex. She has kindly agreed.

3. County Cross Country Championships

The fixtures meeting would normally take place at the end of May. Agreed that we would not do anything until and when, the situation becomes clearer and whether events will be able to take place

Provisional dates have been agreed for:-

Relays on the 3rd October 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

Tiptree Road Runners has agreed to host the County 10 mile championships on Sunday 11th October if this event takes place. Entry is currently open.

Entries are still being taken for the Pleshey & Essex Half Marathon on Saturday 19th September.

It was unanimously agreed to offer the 5 mile championships to Witham RC to incorporate the event as part of the Boxing Day 5. Witham has accepted the offer.

It was noted in the media that there is some debate that the 2020 London Marathon may be for elite runners only, if it takes place.

2021 Essex 20. Southend AC has not been able to book the venue at Rochford but it is hoped that this will take place on 28th February 2021.

5. Treasurer's matters

Not a single transaction was posted through the County's bank account during April.

It was agreed to pay the County's EA affiliation fee of £150 to England Athletics.

.

6. Any Other Business

- Officials

There is concern that there will be insufficient officials to support County events in the future. Clubs are encouraged to ask their members to consider putting themselves forward to become an accredited official. There are on line courses available – see link below.

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

It was agreed that Andy Catton/Gerry O'Doherty would draft a note to be sent to all clubs to ask that they actively promote this amongst their membership.

- Trophies

Despite not being in the best of health, Mike Emms has contacted all holders of the County trophies to ask that they retain them for the time being and that they arrange for the engravings to be updated.

- Club Badges

An email has been sent out to all clubs about a project that is being undertaken by The Athletics Museum who are collating as many club badges which will be used to piece together a montage. All clubs in Essex are encouraged to support this and a copy of the email is attached to these minutes.
(See

- Sad News

Southend AC has recently reported the sad news of the death of two of their members, Andy Green and Alan Mathews-Smith. Our deepest condolences go to their families and friends. Obituaries have been posted on Southend AC web site.

Meeting ended 7.55pm

Next meeting will take place on Monday 1st June 2020 at 7.30pm (via Zoom Conferencing)

Draft Agenda

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

Appendix 1.

Draft Minutes Competition Planning Meeting

London Regional Council

Thursday 30th April 2020

Online 6.30pm – 7.45pm

Present: Elected Councillors: Ellie Brown (EB) - Chair, Adrian Day – Deputy Chair (AD), David Clarke (DC) Ben Noad (BN), Nadia Williams (NW), Tony Ganio (TG), Mark Purser (MP); Co-opted Members: Jamie Giles (JaG),

In attendance: Paul Merrywest (PM) Essex, representing Chair, Essex County AA, Natalie Kavanagh-Clarke (NKC) EA CSM South London, John Gandee(JG), representing SEAA Competition, Amy Bryant EA (AB) Lorna Booth (LB) Peter Crawshaw (PC) Geoff Morphitis (GM) Steve Bosley (SB)

Apologies: Adam Thomas, Ivor Wigget

1. **Competition Planning**

GM gave some history to the competition planning document and some details on revised competition pathways; NAL, Regional Cup Champs & EA Champs.

In regards to developing new projects; Super Blasts & Super Teams, it was the consensus that clubs could adopt these forms of competition should they so wish however there were concerns regarding bringing in new forms of competitions into the limited season.

LB - reiterated the importance of competition to the athletes and the value of Power 10.

PM - concerned that athletes may sustain injuries coming back to competition too soon.

MP - Utilise league competitions and with the addition of open meetings.

GM – discussed feeder leagues and club-based competitions

BN – in agreement with no new competition ideas – keeping separate fixtures

GM – discussed the competition planning document is subject to Government lifting the present lockdown by 1 July.

- (1) UKA issuing specific instructions to allow compliance with Government requirements
- (2) Obtaining a sufficient number of appropriately qualified officials from the participating clubs
- (3) Facility availability
- (4) Securing a suitable First Aid provision
- (5) Receipt of the appropriate licences from UKA

2. Licensing

Discussed a volunteer who would be the lead for coordinating licenses in London.

MP volunteered to take this role and we discussed him having support in this role.

PC – mentioned key goals in regarding licensing applications; a framework, objectives, criteria.

Discussed a sub-committee to discuss licensing going forward.

3. Officials

All in agreement that concerned about the number of officials which would be available.

NW – recruiting athletes who are not going to compete this season

Level one officials' course to go online.

4. Partnerships

Important the message to our members and clubs is clear and consistent.

Keeping competitions localised so working closely with our clubs/counties and areas.

Concerned the Planning document was not giving a clear enough message and there was discussion around sharing this document.

It was discussed that the document should be attached with a preface outlining the key messages.

Since the meeting EA issued on the 4th May – Update Competition & Training Update.

This has been shared on the website, social media and is go out to the clubs as an ebulletin.

<https://www.englandathletics.org/athletics-and-running/news/update-on-competition-and-training-2020/>

5. Areas/Counties

Discussed the County and Area Champs and tentative dates set for competition.

Concerns that Lee Valley was a CD-19 test centre.

Meeting finished at 7.45pm

Date of next Competition Planning Meeting – Thursday May 28th at 18.00pm

Appendix 2.

1 , England Athletics are drawing up potential competition plans with varying start dates – late July / late August. Government legislation and associated social distancing will greatly influence the delivery of any programme. EA however are doing their best to be prepared.

In anticipation of some competition and the ‘rush’ to ask for permits they are asking the regional councils for assistance. Not quite sure what that assistance may be other than additional rational to the request.

During the video con we agreed to be as supportive as possible should the need arise.

There was general consensus that we should form a small focus group to deal with any requests that might occur. The suggestion to cover each county was agreed. The members of the focus group being:-

Herts –Paul P

Beds – Paul B

Cambs – Matt D

Suffolk – Matt W

Essex –

Norfolk – Clive

In terms of doing our own planning we agreed to develop a list of names / numbers for potential competition organisers that we should make contact with pending announcements etc etc. In principle based on what we know at the time – timing to make contact with the providers would be around weeks 3 or 4 of May.

2, Just a heads up that the EA volunteer awards scheme will run again this year.

3, Best practice / ideas etc – please share anything that you think might be valuable to any one in any aspect of our sport

4, Whilst discussing best practice – Matt W advised that on line officials courses are potentially in development. Could this become the standard way of operating when something like ‘normal ‘ returns ? Paul P also commented on the excellent content of the webinars – again could this be ‘new’ standard practices. This unfortunate situation is making us think differently, in doing so we could be developing processes that improve our sport in the long run. Please feedback any ideas / suggestions / observations that you think might be relevant.

5, Tim and I have a follow up video com with EA and the Nat Council on the 11th - how does May 15th at 5.15 sound for the next video com ?

6, Tim and I will ask during the video com if there are also potential plans for the road roading comps etc.

Appendix 3.

Many thanks for sending Ilford and Essex badges. We would only use the image of the badge in the museum's physical displays and would seek permission from the club if we wished to use it for anything else, including any online publication of displays. It's helpful for us to have the club's own explanation of all this, as it may not agree with other sources. Could you include an explanation of the design of the badge, e.g. the stag on Birchfield's badge is the Mitchell & Butler stag reversed. If you happen to be contacting other clubs in Essex in the near future and would be prepared to gently urge them to send us their club badges, we'd be very grateful.

I've taken the opportunity to attach our first newsletter to give you an idea of the museum project. Please do circulate this to anyone who might be interested and let me know if you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive further, occasional newsletters. One of our projects is to help update Trevor James' Bibliography of British Athletic Club Histories.

Finally, we're keen to hear and read the opinions of as many people as possible on what The Athletics Museum should include, so do let us know what you and fellow

athletes think should be celebrated about athletics - which stories should we be telling, which questions should we be answering?

Many thanks for getting in touch,

Jane Ainsworth, AAA Research Associate

Philip Andrew, AAA Head of Heritage