



## ***Essex County Athletic Association***

Minutes of the Essex AA Executive meeting held remotely via Microsoft Teams Video on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 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), Allison Gillan (XC Secretary), Ray Pearce, Ron Dawson, Kaye Merrywest, Paul Merrywest, Keith Palmer, Nick Burston, Diane Wooller, Scott Darney, Linda Bates, Peter Bates, Peter Cassidy, Mike Emms.

### **Apologies for Absence**

June Cork, Matt Gillard, Paul Mingay, Jean Tierney, Chris Akehurst.

### **1. Minutes of the last meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

Approved.

Proposed: Claire Levey Seconded: Allison Gillan

### **2. Matters Arising from last meeting**

Agenda Item	Matter	Update
2	Update re potential volunteer to achieve Course Measurer Accreditation	Progressing. Volunteer is working towards accreditation.
2	Write to all clubs once on line Officials Courses are available	There have been some courses although these have been booked up very quickly. All courses are Virtual. Recommended that if anyone is interested they should log onto the England Athletics website as new courses are added from time to time. Diane Wooller receives an email from EA if anyone from Essex books and then completes a course. Diane then contacts with the person and adds them to her list of accredited officials.

### **3. Treasurers matters**

Gary Chandler advised the meeting that 40 clubs have paid their Essex County affiliation fees of £15 for the 2020/21 season.

Five clubs have paid twice (Eton Manor, Havering 90, Leigh on Sea, Mid Essex Casuals and Orion Harriers). Gary proposed that the monies will be retained as an advance payment for 2021/22 season unless the club contacts him to request a refund.

Ten clubs have still not paid (Harlow RC, Harlow AC, Southend AC, Thurrock Harriers, Rogers Runners, Victoria Park Harriers & Tower Hamlets AC, Be Fit for Today Athletics, Weald Park Warriors, Rochford Running Club, Hertford and Ware)

Paperwork is to be sent to Rodney Silk (County Auditor) this week to enable him complete the audit of the 2019/20 accounts in readiness for the AGM in December.

#### **4. Correspondence**

Nothing to report

##### **- Club & Committee Register Changes**

New club secretary for JBR Essex Triathlon Club – updated club secretary list will be sent to all clubs with these minutes.

#### **5. Networking**

Nothing to report.

#### **6. Regional Reports**

Minutes from England Athletics London Region meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020 will be sent as an attachment to these minutes.

See Appendix 1 – for an abridged copy of the Minutes from England Athletics Regional September 2020 meeting.

Paul Merrywest advised the meeting that 5k and 10k track events have recently been organised by some clubs. Gary Chandler suggested that we could consider hosting a County 5k championship event, potentially at the track at Chelmsford. He volunteered to co-ordinate and will contact Melbourne Park Athletics Centre to discuss whether they would be happy to accept a booking, availability and what we would need to put in place to meet the requirements of a COVID event. If we are able to proceed, Gary will advertise, set up and manage the entries. There was a general consensus of those present that a 10k championship event (with only a maximum of 12 runners in each race) would involve a long day for those officiating, so not considered a viable option.

England Athletics has reduced the number of their Club Support Officers, making some redundancies.

#### **7. Track & Field**

Still uncertain whether County will be able to host the 2021 Indoor Track & Field Championships in February. Guidance from EA (see minutes from EA regional committees) still to be issued about a return to Indoor competition and we are very dependent upon Lee Valley accepting our booking.

We will need to make a decision by the end of November/early December.

If it goes ahead there will be potentially a number of additional costs and restrictions that will need to be complied with; if it does proceed consideration may need to be given to increasing the entry cost.

2021 Outdoor Track & Field – we will continue to monitor developments and follow guidance.

There were complaints about the first meeting organised by Be Fit Today following the resumption to competition about their Covid procedures. These were passed onto London Region and England Athletics to deal with.

#### **8. Cross Country**

England Athletics has issued guidance on a limited return to competitive running. Dates have been booked for the County Seniors, Vets and Junior together with relays which we are planning to host at Writtle College. Due to various restrictions that we will have to comply with there will be additional

costs (hire of Portaloos for example) and it is likely that numbers of competitors may have to be capped. We will also need additional volunteers. Chip timing will be needed. It was agreed that we will need to make a decision by mid November as to whether it will be viable and practical to host these events.

Chingford League may be hosting an event on 24<sup>th</sup> October for 150 Female and 150 Male runners. Runners starting, in waves of one minute intervals.

Ron Dawson updated the meeting about the return of the Essex League. They are struggling to find a venue. The Chelmsford City race course (Great Leighs) might be an option to consider. We had met with representatives of the course in the past. Interest was expressed at the time.

Ron asked if the County Championships proceeds could this be also considered as one of the Essex League races? No objections were raised to this proposal.

## **9. Road Running**

Witham Running club still to decide whether it will hold the Boxing Day 5. This will be discussed at their committee meeting later this week (After the meeting it has been announced that the event will be cancelled). Other options being considered include moving it to either the 27<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup> December (as more people will volunteer to support the race) and holding it at another venue (on private land to mitigate concerns about running on the roads around Witham).

## **10. Preparations for the Essex AA AGM on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

Notification of the meeting, which will be held virtually, will be sent to all clubs by 9<sup>th</sup> October.

## **11. Trophies**

Mike Emms has asked for secretaries of all clubs that are holding County trophies won in 2019 that they keep these in safe keeping for a further year. Trophies will not be awarded this year.

## **12. Walking**

Melanie Peddle (Loughton AC) has volunteered to take over the role as County Race Walking Secretary. We are very appreciative of her offer and look forward to welcoming her onto the committee at the AGM in December.

## **13. Officials**

Diane Wooller will defer sending out invites to officials to support any County events until we are confident that they will take place.

With a possible clash of dates of the 2021 Indoor Championships and the XC relays in February it might be difficult to find enough officials to support both events.

## **14. Schools**

Nothing to report.

## **15. Any Other business**

Agreed that the full committee will be invited to the next month's meeting. This will be held on Teams and Claire will send out an invitation to all members.

## Summary of Actions

Agenda Item	Matter	By Whom
7	Are we able to host the 2021 County Indoor Track & Field Championships?	Committee (by end November/early December)
8	Are we able to host the XC Championships?	Committee (by mid November)

Meeting finished at 20:48

Draft Agenda for meeting to be held via Microsoft Teams on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020. Start time 7.30pm

1. Minutes of the previous meeting – 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020
2. Matters Arising
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Correspondence  
Club & Committee Register Changes
5. Networking
6. Regional Reports
7. Track & Field
8. Cross Country
9. Road running
10. Preparation for AGM on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020.
11. Trophies
12. Walking
13. Officials
14. School's Liaison
15. Any other business

Appendix 1. England Athletics Eastern Region September minutes.

## Volunteer awards

Provisional dates for our panel meeting – 21/9 to 2/10 - please advise any dates that are not suitable  
Provisional dates for our regional awards evening – 16/11 to 4/12 - please advise any dates that are not suitable

**XC guidance** updated guidance for a return to XC running has been issued.

**General update** – notes below from a meeting with EA on Friday

### **Guidance clarity**

*As there is evolving guidance being issued in local locked down areas, we are asking competition providers to contact their local authorities to ascertain restrictions for their specific area in relation to competition. As the approach is not country wide we are asking that those areas in local lockdowns offer only access for parents and guardians of young athletes or vulnerable adults, thus avoiding mass spectator events.*

### **Cross Country**

*This morning the Cross Country guidance was issued on our website and across social media channels. So far the response has been positive.*

*We are looking to host pilot competitions in October, with licence application opening on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October for a return to restricted licensed competition from the 17<sup>th</sup> October onwards. EA will be taking the licensing procedure in house and are working with Nicky Kellet to add this functionality as a page on the England Athletics website.*

### **Track and Field**

*The track and field season has been extended until the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020 due to the effects of the pandemic. Applications for licenses is now slowing down, but we have issued just over 140 licenses since August 1st, with over 20,000 athlete's so far competing in Track and Field competition.*

*The licensing procedure this year has been online, and the Regional Council has been involved in the process, which has gone very smoothly considering all the challenges that we have been faced with.*

### **Indoor T & F**

*We are currently speaking to competition providers and indoor venues to assess the appetite and possibility of a return to restricted indoor track and field competition. We have begun working on the guidance document and hope that in the next couple of weeks we will be able to update you further. We are keen to get guidance issued to ensure that where there is a possibility of indoor competition, however this may look, the community have a guidance framework to work within to ensure that there is a safe environment for all involved. Sportshall events will be included in this guidance*

### **2021**

*The focus for 2021, is what does 'good' look like in competition, and how can we use what we have experienced in 2020 to help shape and where necessary change competition for the better. We are looking at online licensing systems, results systems, new competition formats and looking to implement an education / training webinar series for aspiring competition providers. Once we have*

*some firm dates and content for the webinars and confirmed updates in the other areas we will share this with you.*

**Area support** - Amy Firth will be our area rep, the whole of the East and South East will be her patch

**Oct 10 AGM** – Myra Nimmo is able to stand again as Chair.