



Essex County Athletic Association

Minutes of the Essex AA Executive meeting held in the clubhouse of Chelmsford Athletic club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford on Monday 7th February 2022 at 19:30 hours.

Participants:

Andy Catton (Chair), Gary Chandler (Treasurer), Gerry O'Doherty (President) Malcolm Bailey (Secretary), Brigid Wallen (President Elect), Claire Levey, Diane Wooller, Ray Pearce, Allison Gillan, Alistair Gillan, Scott Darney, John Weir, Richard Charleston, June Cork, Ron Dawson, Peter Bates, Linda Bates, Kaye Merrywest, Paul Merrywest, Chris Akehurst, Peter Cassidy, Hayley Pegg, Sylvia Sergeant, Phil Sergeant, Lance Williams, Michael Wilson.

1. Apologies for Absence

Paul Mingay, Susan Edwards, Jean Tierney, Keith Palmer.

2. Co-option onto the Essex AA Executive Committee

There is currently one vacancy on the committee. We have received a nomination from East London Runners for one of their members, Michael Wilson to fill this vacancy.

Proposed ; East London Runners

Seconded: Malcolm Bailey

Unanimously agreed by all those present.

3. Presentation of Life Membership plaques

Presentation of Life Membership awards was made by Gerry O'Doherty to Gary Chandler and Allison Gillan in recognition of their service to Essex County AA.

4. Minutes of the last meeting of 1st November 2021

The minutes of the meeting on Monday 1st November 2021 were **approved** as a true record of that meeting.

Proposed: Allison Gillan

Seconded: Brigid Wallen

5. Matters Arising from last meeting.

| Agenda Item | Matter | Action required | Update |
|-------------|---|---|---|
| 2 | Consideration be given to using the 'Open Track' system for entry and management of the 2022 Outdoor County Track & Field Championships | To be discussed at the next committee meeting | Actioned: Proposed at the recent Track & Field working party meeting (minutes dated 12 th January 2022 previously sent to all affiliated |

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| | | | clubs). Agreed at this meeting that we would move to an 'on line' entry system for the 2022 Outdoor Track & Field Championships. |
| 2 | Are we able to dispense with paper programme for 2022 Outdoor championships and revert to a digital/online programme only | Andy Catton to liaise with Scott Darney to consider possibilities | Actioned: Proposed at the recent Track & Field working party meeting (minutes dated 12 th January 2022 previously sent to all affiliated clubs). Agreed at this meeting that we would move to a digital/online programme for the 2022 Outdoor Track & Field Championships. |
| 4 | Dates for 2022 track relays/ Multievents championships | Dates to be agreed | Dates agreed – Multi events – Saturday 23 rd April 2022 (Lee Valley) and Relays 15 th July 2022 (Chelmsford) |
| 9 | Do we host a 5k road County Championships | To be considered by Endurance sub committee | Discussed at Endurance meeting of 31 st January 2022. Possibility of a 'trial' event being staged in 2022. It will not be an Essex Championship event. Possible date 5 th August. |
| 12 | Volunteer sought for County Race Walking Secretary | Nominations to be considered at the AGM on the 6 th December 2021. | Still vacant – nominations sought for this role. |

6. Treasurer's Report

- XC season

One invoice still to be received from Basildon to use Gloucester Park for the Senior Cross Country Championships. Initial cost was around £1500 but Nick Wetheridge has negotiated a discount. Cost unknown at present. Cost next year will be £1,500.

For the three events the current surplus is £3,146 but this does not take into account the cost of hiring Gloucester Park or the County medals presented on the day.

Other costs to be paid out are for our entry into the Inter Counties Championships.

- **Indoor Track & Field Championships – taking place weekend of 12/13 February.**
Income received £6,200 (2020 - £8,300). Venue hire circa. £4k – Once all costs have been met there is a possibility that we may incur an overall loss for staging these championships.

7. a) Correspondence

Received correspondence from East London Runners/Witham Running club/Orion Harriers about the equalisation of distances at the Senior XC Championships. This was discussed under item 11.

b) Club & Committee Changes

Nothing to report

8. Networking

We have received a request from Karl Cadman at Essex Athletic Network to support them with grant funding of £900 to enter an Essex team at the Regional Sportshall finals (taking place 5th March in Norwich). This year, Essex Network has staged three Sportshall events and a training session for athletes. The grant monies would be used to fund:-

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Team entry fees – 2 x £175 per team – U11s & U13/U15s - | £350 |
| Team t/shirts - | 500 |
| Medals – each team is requested to contribute | 50 |
| TOTAL COST | £900 |

We have supported this grant for a number of years and the proposal is to support their request.

Proposed: Gary Chandler Seconded: Kaye Merrywest

Agreed unanimously by all those present.

We will request a full report from Karl Cadman on how well the Essex team performed at the finals.
We wish them every success.

9. Regional Reports

London – Paul Merrywest attended a meeting which took place a couple of weeks ago. See appendix 1 for a copy of the minutes from this meeting.

East – As far as we are aware, a meeting has not taken place for some time.

10. Track & Field

It had already been reported that numbers are down but this is a common theme at most athletic events.

Number of reasons suggested – competition calendar is very busy. Athletes have been concentrating on other disciplines – (Covid restrictions earlier in 2021 meant that a number of events were cancelled so athletes have not enjoyed a full season competition at each discipline), athletes catching Covid so not able to train, to be fully fit compete.

At the recent Southern Indoor Track & Field Championships, entries were down.

It was mentioned at the recent Endurance committee meeting that the Event Company that are organising our 20 mile championships that they have seen entries at races down by some 30-40% on pre Covid levels with around 40% of 'no shows' at events.

Kaye Merrywest has received a request from an athlete based in Plymouth to enter the Senior 60m Hurdles event at these championships. He is seeking a qualifying time to enter the UK Indoor Track & Field Championships. His current time is just two hundredth of a second outside of qualifying time. This was debated at some length at the meeting. Noted that we wish to support athletes but the Essex (incorporating Eastern) championship is a closed event and the deadline for entering has passed. It was mentioned that if we allowed this athlete to take part then we should offer the opportunity to other non resident athletes to take part in an open race so that everyone has the opportunity of achieving a qualifying time.

It was agreed that we would decline the individual's request to race at our championships.
At our AGM in December 2021 the following was agreed:-

“Constitution states that (law 15c):-

In all championships Essex County medals shall be awarded subject to the number of entries as follows:-

- 1. One medal only if four entries or less;*
- 2. Two medals if five entries;*
- 3. Three medals if six entries are more.*

Except that, if second and/or third place positions, are better than, or equal to UKA Grade 3 performances, then medals shall be awarded.

Team Championships

- 1. One set of medals if three teams are less are entered;*
- 2. Two sets of medals if four teams are entered;*
- 3. Three sets of medals if six teams or more are entered.*

No track or field championship may be won unless the standard of performance is approved by the Executive Committee.

Over recent years, medals have been awarded, irrespective of the numbers that have entered these championships. The meeting was of the view that this law does not apply to Road Racing or Cross Country.

By a majority verdict it was agreed that in future track and field championships this law will apply.”

This ruling applies to the 2022 Indoor Championship.

But concern was raised that we had not fully communicated in the pre event information that if numbers in events was not sufficient for three medals to be awarded that they would only be presented if the UKA Grade 3 performances were achieved.

It was agreed that this would be announced on the day and added to the County website before the championships.

11. Cross Country

A detailed summary of the XC season to date was set out in the Endurance minutes of 31st January 2022 (copy of which has been sent to all Club Secretaries and posted on the County website).
Proposals from that meeting were endorsed with the cost of entering 2022/23 Championships events would be agreed by Gary Chandler/Allison Gillan once the total costs of hosting these have been determined. Main costs include hiring the venue, chip timing and on line entries.

- Distances for 2023 main County Championships.

The debate for equalisation of distances was covered in depth in the Endurance minutes of 31st January.

Guidelines have still not been issued by UKA.

Consideration is being given to organising an ‘on line survey’ of all Essex Athletes to gauge opinion on whether the championship distances should be equalised at what distances they would prefer to compete over. Scott Darney has agreed to work on this and report back at the next Executive meeting.

(*see foot note)

12. Road Running

See Endurance minutes dated 31st January 2022.

Essex Road Relays – a question was asked whether the date of birth for age categories will be based upon the XC or Track & Field qualification. Confirmed that the date is the XC qualification.

13. Fell Running

See Endurance minutes dated 31st January 2022.

We continue to try and generate interest from athletes to take part in the Junior Inter Counties event.

14. Trophies

Susan Edwards (County trophy secretary) was unable to attend this meeting. She has spent a considerable amount of time compiling a list of trophies that we hold and those that are missing. Likely that some of the missing trophies have been missing for some time.

Susan will report back at the next meeting. Andy Catton thanked Susan for all her hard work locating and compiling the lists.

To date, £2,075 has been raised towards the target of £3,000 to acquire a trophy to award to the Ladies Essex 5k track championships.

Gary Chandler has received feedback from the valuer about the Atalanta trophy (awarded the winner of the men's 5k track championship). This is for insurance purposes.

If we purchased one on the second hand market (if we could find one of a similar size) would be circa. £20k One that is roughly half the size is currently being marketed at £6k.

To produce a new trophy (in stature and complexity- but not identical which would cost even more) would be £40k.

Agreed. Gary to refer back to our Insurance Brokers to seek the difference in premium if we insure the trophy for either replacement as new cost or replacement with an equivalent trophy.

15. Walking

Nothing to report.

16. Officials

Diane reported that she now has sufficient officials to cover the Indoor championships but she had seek volunteers from as far as away from Southampton

Currently canvassing officials to cover Multi Events and Outdoor Championships. Slow response, so far.

Luke Finch from Woodford Green AC won at The England Athletics National Volunteer Awards the Newcomer to officiating award. A fantastic achievement for a 16 year old official. Well done Luke.

17. Schools

Nothing to report.

18. Essex Coaching Forum and Essex AA Running Seminar

Scott Darney proposed that County considers hosting a network event for coaches in Essex. These events used to be organised by Essex Network and funded by England Athletics.

Scott has agreed to undertake a review and support proposals to the Committee.

It was also agreed that an email would be sent to clubs to see whether there would be any interest in such an event from clubs.

19. Planning for Essex AA's 150th Anniversary in 2023

Andy Catton mentioned that next year will be the 150th anniversary of Essex AA. He sought ideas from committee members on how we can celebrate this.

For instance, we could present commemorative County medals that year.

Ideas/suggestions can be emailed to Andy.

20. Dates for 2022 Essex AA Executive and sub committee meetings

7th March – Track & Field sub committee

4th April – Executive committee

May – to be decided (first Monday of the month is a bank holiday)

4th July – Executive

5th September - Executive

3rd October – to be decided

7th November - Executive

5th December – Annual General Meeting

Noted that there was a three month gap between Executive meeting of 4th April and the 4th July meeting. This will be discussed at the next Executive meeting on 4th April.

21. Any other Business

Nothing raised

22. Date of next meeting – Monday 4th April 2022

Summary of Actions

| Agenda Item | Matter | Action required | By whom |
|-------------|--|---|--|
| 5 | Volunteer sought for County Race Walking Secretary | Nominations from clubs sought | All clubs |
| 11 | Equalisation of XC distances at the Senior XC championships | Consideration to sending out a survey to clubs/athletes to seek their opinion re equalisation and distances at championships. | Scott Darney to present at next Executive meeting. |
| 14 | Insurance cover for Atalanta trophy | Insurance Broker to be contacted to ascertain difference in premium cost between full replacement and equivalent trophy. | Gary Chandler |
| 18 | Essex Coaching Forum and Essex AA running Seminar | Contact clubs via email to gauge interest | Malcolm Bailey |
| 19 | Ideas/suggestions to commemorate the 150 th Anniversary of Essex AA | Contact Andy Catton with ideas | All |

- The morning after the meeting, we were made aware that the UK Inter Counties XC in March the Senior Women will race 8k, while the men will compete over 10k.

Meeting finished at 21:18

Appendix 1

Minutes of London Regional Council Meeting

Zoom – Wed 12 Jan 7.30 – 8.25pm

Everyone attended apart from Mark Purser, Mara Yamauchi, David Ralph, Ivor Wiggett and John Gande- apologies sent in advance for all

3. Adrian Day (AD) (Chair) mentioned that he had been invited onto the London Heathside committee (approx. 800 members) and found it a worthwhile and stimulating experience.
4. Chris Mallender (CM) had emailed all members an update prior to the meeting.
 - Number of affiliated members was up on last year with over 18,00 members in London.
 - EA were running six weeks of workshops to support **Club Standards** initiative which was now a requirement for clubs getting reaffiliated. Last year 30+ people had signed up to similar workshops, so far 550+ signed up!
 - Three clubs had received funding in last round - London City Runners(?), Orion Harriers & Barking Road Runners. Next round of funding to come soon – Round 4 ends at end of this week.
 - ED Hunt was holding a meeting with Head of Sport at the GLL to discuss facilities across London
 - Paul Merrywest (PM) asked about **Trackmark** – CM informed meeting the he and Ed Hunt were refining document prior to sending round soon.
 - Mick Bond (MB) suggested clubs might like a little more guidance about grants and how clubs should apply.
 - Short discussion on service given by Greenwich Leisure (they are taking over Lee Valley) – feeling was that they did exactly what was in their contract and little more at Sutcliffe Park. Need to ensure contract was thought out!
 - Tony Ganio (TG) asked about issue at Sutton impact of football take -over but seems a fait accompli now - facility had to pay for itself so little one can do now.
- 5&6 Discussion about **Volunteer awards**.
 - David Clarke (DRC) liked awards and felt that it was great that coaches/officials who had given up decades to the sport should be recognised but also wondered whether there were too many awards to the smaller, start-up “jogging” clubs?
 - MB felt that clubs might not be recognising their coaches/officials for fear of upsetting other coaches/officials. Also, too many categories & too long?
 - TG felt that clubs needed to do more to promote themselves. Presentations were too long. Could we get more high profile speakers as many of the councillors were not “famous” enough.
 - Devonte Casely (DC) felt it was great that people were recognised but could each interview have only two questions in future to save time?
 - Ishmail Islam (II) felt that everything ran smoothly and YouTube video was very smooth. A good event, well delivered.

- Paul Miller (PM) questioned whether we needed a runner-up, could the categories be tweaked and steered more towards T&F.
 - Nadia Williams (NW) suggested use of a grid to decide winners and then mention of 4th – 1st. Make the evening slightly shorter. This was the second time it had been on Zoom and by the second hour people were getting tired. Could one have the event made into a pre-recorded show with winners being filmed receiving award?
 - CM felt that after two years online it needed to be refreshed. And he had either sent out or was in the process of sending out trophies for members to deliver and get pics to AD.
7. Next **London Club Forum** would be in March and everyone agreed that it would be good to have Ed Hunt running a forum on **Facilities**. MB happy to be a part and use his experience of managing tracks.
8. **Recruiting and Retaining officials** was discussed.
- MB felt it was best to use the personal touch to encourage parents and ex-athletes. He was trialling an “unofficial official” coaches’ course to introduce prospective officials to the world of officiating prior to letting them loose on the real world and hoping that they would catch the bug. EA courses could be a little dull!
 - TG believed that officiating was an “acquired taste” and that only a small percentage really enjoyed it. Also, the pathway from Level One to Level Two involved a lot of paperwork – could one make it any easier to move on?
9. **Counties and SEAA – updates**
- PM informed the meeting that the Essex indoor Champs were at Lee Valley in February and was awaiting guidance from Lee Valley re Covid requirements. Numbers were quite low at present but closing date a week away. All other usual meetings were proceeding as usual.
 - AD had raced at LEE Valley several times and was surprised that the numbers were so high and few Covid measures seemingly being taken: 40+ rounds of the 60m, 25+ rounds of the 200m.
 - John Gandee (JG) had informed AD that everything was on track for the Southern Counties events
 - David Ralph (DR) had similarly informed AD that all his meetings were going ahead as normal.
10. AOB Brief discussion on what the **current Covid regulations** were for meetings.
- CM said there had been no new guidance from EA since 13 December. TG said that at the recent SLAN meeting he felt people were being more cautious with more mask-wearing. Common sense was prevailing. DC asked what would happen in fixtures if were short of athletes due to Covid – the general consensus was “tough luck” – bit harsh but then this is athletics.

Draft Agenda for the next Executive Committee meeting to be held at the clubhouse Chelmsford Athletic Club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford on Monday 4th April 2022 . Start time 7.30pm

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the previous meeting – 7th February 2022
3. Matters Arising
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Correspondence
Club & Committee Register Changes
6. Networking
7. Regional Reports
8. Track & Field
9. Cross Country
10. Road running
11. Fell running
12. Trophies
13. Walking
14. Officials
15. School's Liaison
16. Essex 150th Anniversary Celebrations.
17. Any other business
18. Date of next meeting