



Essex County Athletic Association

Minutes of the Essex AA Executive meeting held in the clubhouse of Chelmsford Athletic club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford on Monday 5th February 2024 at 19:30 hours.

Participants:

Andy Catton (Chair) Gerry O'Doherty (Vice Chair), Chris Akehurst (President), Gary Chandler (Treasurer), Malcolm Bailey (Secretary), John Weir, Claire Levey, Elaine Forrest, June Cork, Ron Dawson, Richard Charleston (President Elect), Kaye Merrywest, Paul Merrywest, Ray Pearce, Rick Thompson, Scott Darney, Michael Wilson.

Guest: Matthew Dalton (England Athletics, East Chair).

1. Apologies for Absence

Jean Tierney, John Clarke, Allison Gillan, Kerry Marsh, Keith Palmer, Vicky Trevor, Diane Wooller.

2. Minutes of the last meeting of Monday 6th November 2023

The minutes of the meeting on Monday 6th November 2023 were **approved** as a true record of that meeting with the amendment that the Outdoor Track & Field Championships are taking place over the weekend of 11/12 May 2024 (not 12/13 May as advised)

Proposed: Elaine Forrest

Seconded: Claire Levey.

3. Matters Arising from last meeting.

Summary of Actions

Agenda Item	Matter	Action required	Update
10.	Howard Williams Trophy	Voting closed on 31 st January 2024	See below
15.	New County Website	To be launched 2024	See below
16.	Updating the County Constitution	Working party to meet	See below
19	Complaint received from an Essex athlete	Letter to be written to EA.	Letter sent via email to Karen Saunders, John Templeton and EA welfare team.

			We have not yet received an acknowledgment from anyone and we will chase. ACTION SECRETARY – chase
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- **HOWARD WILLIAMS TROPHY**

270 votes received from the Essex athletics community.

Results:

Row Labels	Sum of Total
Tiptree 10 Mile	4.91
Horndon 10k	4.00
Stebbing Remembrance 10 Mile	2.33
Halstead Marathon	2.33
Pleshey Half Marathon	2.00
Colchester 10k	1.99
Witham Boxing Day 5 Mile	1.83
FNR & Essex 5k Champs	1.75
Great Bentley Friday 5 Mile	1.33
Chelmsford Marathon and Half Marathon	1.00
Springfield Friday 5 Mile	1.00
Horndon	1.00
Langham 10k	0.91
Southend 10k	0.83
Colchester Half Marathon	0.66
Brentwood Half Marathon	0.50
Witham May Day 10 Mile	0.33
Little Bromley 10k	0.33
Southend Half Marathon	0.33
High Easter 10k	0.33
Great Bentley Half Marathon	0.25
Grand Total	29.94

(1 point from a clear winner from each affiliated club. If there was a tie, each event was awarded 0.5 points, if there was a three way tie, each event was awarded 0.33 points)

The trophy will be presented to Tiptree Road Runners at the next Endurance meeting which is being held on Monday 12th February 2024.

- **NEW COUNTY WEBSITE**

This is nearly ready to launch. It is live and a training session is to be arranged for those officials that will update the website. Working party group – Scott Darney, Chris Akehurst, Elaine Forrest and Vicky Trevor.

- COUNTY CONSTITUTION

Working party has met once with a further meeting arranged. This is taking place Thursday 29th February. We are using the EA template but adapting it for our purposes as a County Association. Once a revised Constitution has been drawn up it will be sent to all Committee members to review. Once this process has been completed we will call an EGM (likely to take place before an Executive Committee meeting) to seek the adoption of the revised Constitution.

4. Treasurers' Report

Rochford Road Runners have recently re-affiliated.

Since our last Committee meeting, two County Championship events have taken place. The Vets Cross Country and the County Cross Country Championships.

Gary Chandler reports that the net income from the Vets is £687 although there are two outstanding invoices – Medical expenses and hire of the Writtle College facilities.

Cross County championships – potentially these will break even once costs have been paid out for hire of marquee, and the MC.

The above does not take into account the cost of the County medals awarded over the two events.

The Southern Inter Counties Championships. These were cancelled on the day. We had paid £405 to enter our athletes. We have not been advised whether these monies will be refunded and Andy Catton is to chase.

(Andy did contact Southern and received the following response – “Apologies for the delay but we are awaiting a response from the ‘Endurance Group’ and ‘Oxford City AC’ as to whether or not this event could be rescheduled in April 2024. We hope to have a definite answer in the next couple of days and notice will be put on to the SEAA website.

As this appears highly unlikely now an 80% refund will be returned to team managers and athletes who entered this event”.

5. a) Correspondence

No correspondence received.

b). Club & Committee Changes

Five club Secretary Changes:

- Saffron Striders
- Castle Point Joggers
- Tiptree Road Runners
- Boxted Road Runners

- Rochford Running Club

An updated club secretary affiliated list will be sent to all Essex affiliated clubs with these minutes.

6. Networking

Nothing to report.

7. Regional Reports

East Region

Andy welcomed Matthew Dalton to the meeting. Matthew is the Chair of the EA East Region.

Matthew covered three areas:

- Amended age groups. Agreement has been given to the changing of the current age groups of U13, U15 and U17 to new age groups of U12, U14, U16 and U18 with effect from 1st April 2026. There will be a number of regional road shows and webinar's to ensure the implementation of these changes can be delivered effectively.
- Discussions taking place about the evolution of competition. The drop out of Track & field athletes (an issue that has been debated at length within Essex) is a concern – should the competitive programme be shortened and travelling time being considered.
- The improvements to the Coach and Officials pathway. Level 1 to disappear.

London Region

Last meeting took place on Wednesday 8th November 2023. Minutes of this meeting attached.

2023 EA Volunteers awards

Well done to the following from Essex

East Council

Club Leader – Winner - Elaine Forrest (Brentwood Beagles)

Club of the year- Runner Up – Brentwood Beagles

Coach of the Year – Runner Up – Paul Forrest (Brentwood Beagles)

London Council

Newcomer – Runner Up – Chris Scott (Orion)

Coach – Runner Up – Joe Everitt (WGEL)

Club Leader – Runner Up – Bob Glasgow (Orion)

Official – Joint winner – Xavier Brown (WGEL)

8. Track & Field

2024 Indoor Championships will be held at Lee Valley – weekend 2/3 March. To date around 450 entries have been received. Closing date 17th February 2024.

We have received a number of requests for guests to take part, which have been declined.

It has been agreed that the Essex Championship Race walk will take place on 16th March at Lee Valley. It is being incorporated into the Tri Counties Event. Distance 2km. Entry time limit of 12:30.

Entries have just been opened for the 5k track championships which will take place at Brentwood. Entry link:

<https://meets.rosterathletics.com/public/competitions/details/about?id=24773>.

Information re the 1 mile and 10k championships being held at Chelmsford on 29th June. Entries now open – entry link <https://www.chelmsford-athletics.club/mofm-2024>

2024 Outdoor Championships will be held at Chelmsford AC – weekend 11/12 May. Track has been booked. Entry will open up after the Indoor Championships have taken place.

The next Track & Field committee meeting is due to take place on Monday 11th March. It has been agreed to hold this at Chelmsford AC Clubhouse. Start time 7.30pm. We experimented last year with this being held at the Brentwood Centre offering a hybrid meeting. This was poorly attended with only one club and two committee members attending via the virtual link.

Agreed that we would write out to all clubs to ask if they could advise us of the name and email address of their T&F representative so that we could send an invite to this meeting direct to that person.

9. Cross Country

The 2023/24 championships have taken place:

Writtle (Vets)	2nd December 2023
Main Champs	6 th January 2024.
(All age groups)	

The Main Championships will be discussed at the forthcoming Endurance meeting. Feedback was sought after the event; although not a great deal received. Some comments included, excellent event and that spectators liked the multiple laps and the music. The cost of the marquee was questioned (it was hoped that sponsorship but be obtained to cover this cost – but this was not successful.) Nick Wetheridge will be attending the Endurance meeting to discuss possible changes to the 2025 race.

10. Road Running

All the dates have now been advised for the 2024 Grand Prix races

5 miles – Ingatestone (18th August) – entry link
<https://www.entrycentral.com/ingatestone5mileroadrace>

10K – High Easter (16th June) - entries will open to Essex affiliated runners on 28th February and all other runners 14th March

10 miles - Stebbing 10 (10th November)

Half Marathon – Pleshey (15th September)

20 miles – Carver Barracks (17th March) – to date around have been 300 entries received. Eight Counties have confirmed that they will be sending a team to compete in the Inter Counties Invitational event. The event organiser Active Training World (“ATW”) will also be hosting a 5k and 10k race on the same day – to help ensure that the event is financially viable. Low entries so far into these races with 54 received to date.

Gary Chandler is currently selecting a team to represent Essex in the 20 miles Inter Counties Invitational event.

Marathon - Halstead. Entries open (12th May)

The 5k road championships are being held at Northern Gateway will continue to be a County Championship event but will not form part of the Grand Prix series.

Scott Darney has been approached to ask whether a team from Essex would like to take part in the Podium Home Nations 5k event taking part in Cardiff during August. Would County be able to support the costs of sending a team to this event with the athletes being selected from the 5k Road Championships being held at Northern Gateway? It was the view that as this is not an actual inter county event, therefore not an official County team, that we would not be able to support this cost.

11. Fell running

Last year we were advised that the Fell Running Inter Counties Race would take place on 19th May 2024. However, the event has now been moved to 21st April which clashes with the London Marathon.

Selection for the 2024 Essex Fell Running Team will take the same format as 2023.

Team selection. At least 2 male & 2 female runners will be selected from The Orion 15 on 23 March 2024. Those selected will earn an Essex Vest and join the best performing members from the 2023 Essex Fell Running Team to compete, at the championship, which is being held in Keswick in the Lake District.

12. Trophies

For the time being:

Elaine Forrest will manage the Track & Field trophies, Vicky Trevor the XC trophies and Gary Chandler the road.

Whether we continue to award these trophies is still under debate. A significant number of trophies have gone missing over the years and despite attempts to locate these, very little success has been made. In addition, there are a number of inequalities with trophies for some events for the Men but not one for the Female winner.

If we do decide to retain awarding trophies, then we would have to invest in purchasing new trophies.

It was also questioned whether athletes valued trophies.

We still have insurance cover for our trophies but would not be able to claim on the missing ones, as we do not know when they were lost!

The Atalanta trophy awarded to the Male winner of the track 5k is a valuable trophy, which is still in our possession.

13. Walking

This post is vacant on the Executive committee and a volunteer to take over this role is sought.

14. Officials

We have just about sufficient officials to support the Indoor Track and Field championships but would welcome further volunteers to come forward to support other roles. The World Indoor Track & Field are taking place in Glasgow the same weekend, which has not helped us find officials to cover our championships.

A plea for support will be made at the Endurance meeting on 12th February.

Requests to support the Outdoor Championships will be sent after the Indoors have taken place.

15. Consider how we award Life Memberships/Long Serving awards

This was raised at our November meeting. Rick Thompson has provided a list of all those Essex officials that have undertaken more than 20 years service.

England Athletics award badges to Officials that have completed more than 30 years service to EA.

Agreed to carry this discussion forward to our next meeting.

16. Proposed new County website

See under item 3

17. Updating the Essex County Constitution.

See under item 3

18. Schools Liaison

Nothing to report.

19. Any other business

Chris Akehurst presented the President Elect chains of office to Richard Charleston.

There are currently seven vacancies of the Essex Executive committee and we would ask club secretaries to canvas their membership to ask for volunteers to step forward to support the work of the County. Those willing to join should contact County Chair Andy Catton via email – ilfordacsec@gmail.com or County Secretary Malcolm Bailey at essexathleticaasec@aol.com. Meeting schedule below.

20. Date of next meeting

Date (all Monday's) 2024	Meeting
11th March	Track & Field *
8 th April	Executive
3rd June	Executive
1 st July	Executive
29th July	Track & Field*
2 nd September	Executive
7 th October	Endurance*
4 th November	Executive
2 nd December	AGM*

- All clubs invited to send a representative(s) to these meetings

Meeting finished at 20:45

Summary of Actions

Agenda Item	Matter	Action required	By whom
3	Update on New Website	Has the new website been formally launched	Working party group
3	Update on revised County Constitution	Has the Constitution been updated and sent to all Committee members? If so, date of EGM to be agreed	Working party group
3	Chase EA	Acknowledgment sought re the issues around an athlete complaint	Secretary to contact EA
4	Refund from Inter Counties XC Champs	Has the refund been received or has a new date been agreed	
14	Volunteers sought for Indoor Champs which are being held on 2/3 March	Club Secretaries to ask their club membership whether they can assist and a request to be made at the forthcoming Endurance meeting	Club Secretaries
15	Long Service awards	Should we award Long Service awards?	To be carried forward to the next meeting

**AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 8th APRIL 2024
AT CHELMSFORD AC CLUBHOUSE. START TIME 7.30pm.**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the previous meeting – Monday 5th February 2024.
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. Update on new County website
16. Update of the Essex County Constitution
17. Awarding of Life Membership/Long service awards
18. School's Liaison
19. Any other business