



Essex County Athletic Association

Minutes of the Essex AA Executive meeting held in the clubhouse of Chelmsford Athletic club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford on Monday 6th February 2023 at 19:30 hours.

Participants:

Andy Catton (Chair) Gerry O'Doherty (Vice Chair) , Malcolm Bailey (Secretary), Claire Levey, Kaye Merrywest, Paul Merrywest, Ray Pearce, Jean Tierney, John Weir, Ron Dawson, Chris Akehurst (President Elect), June Cork, Scott Darney, Keith Palmer, Michael Wilson, Richard Charleston, Elaine Forrest, Sylvia Sergeant

Gerry O'Doherty chaired the meeting until item 8 when Andy Catton arrived.

1. Condolences to families who's loved ones who had been active participants in Essex Athletes over the years.

Gerry O'Doherty sadly advised the meeting of the deaths of two individuals who had been heavily involved in Essex athletics over a number of years.

Our sincere condolences were sent to the families of Peter Sketchley and John Webb.

- Peter Sketchley

Peter was a founding member of the Sports Hall Athletics Association and became the team manager for the Essex teams in 1988.

In 1991 the Essex U13 boy's team won their first UK Championship, by 2004 when he stood down as manager the Essex Sports Hall. Athletes had won 19 UK team championships, making it the most successful UK County over that period of time.

Over the subsequent 24 years membership of Essex County Athletics Association Peter held the posts of -

Coaching Secretary. 1996 -2006

Hon. Secretary 2006 - 2012

Team manager, for a number of Essex age group, track and field teams.

Meeting organiser at a number of Indoor track and field Championships and Inter County competitions.

Honours given

Peter was given the Ron Pickering award in 2003 for his services to Sports Hall Athletics.

Life membership of Essex County AA in 2004

President of the Essex County AA during 2011

His funeral is taking place on Monday 13th February 2023 at the Three Counties Crematorium (just north of Braintree) at 10.30 am

- John Webb (Basildon)

After a lengthy period of ill health, 1968 Mexico Olympic 20K Walk Representative John Albert Webb passed away, aged 85.

He was Basildon Athletic Club's first Olympian

A minute's silence was held in remembrance of both Peter and John by those present.

2. Apologies for Absence

Allison Gillan (President), Hayley Hemmings, Peter & Linda Bates, Diane Wooller, Gary Chandler (Treasurer), Rick Thompson, John Clarke, Paul Mingay.

3. Minutes of the last meeting of Monday 7th November 2022

The minutes of the meeting on Monday 7th November 2022 were **approved** as a true record of that meeting.

Proposed: Chris Akehurst

Seconded: June Cork

4. Matters Arising from last meeting.

All outstanding matters arising from the last meeting will be covered under the relevant agenda item.

5. Treasurer's Report

Gary Chandler was unable to attend the meeting. He provided an update of the projected profit and loss from the main three XC Championships events at the previous week's Endurance meeting:-

- Relays - lost approx £900 (due to the cost of chimp timing and venue)
- Vets - made a profit of circa. £350 (venue cost at this event £300)
- Main championships – made a profit of £3,200 (venue cost at this event £600)

6. a) Correspondence

Nothing to report

b). Club & Committee Changes

No changes to report

7. Networking

Prior to the meeting, Wendy Tydeman, sent in a report, covering the success of the Essex teams that took part in the Regional Final at Sportspark, Norwich on the 28th January 2023-

“What an exciting day we had with our U11/U13/U15 Boys and Girls teams who performed exceptionally well in all age groups earning a comment from Adam Burgess the UK Organiser of Sports Hall Athletics saying “Super Impressed with Essex performance today “. No other area county received this comment

Essex U15 Girls WON the East Region final along with our Individual winner U15G Amelie Scott will all be going to the UK Final I Stoke on 1st April 2023. We wish the Team and Amelia every success at this championship

Our other Teams performed amazing well too with U15B - 2nd / U13G - 2nd U13B - 3rd U11G – 2nd U11B – 2nd

We also had Alice Coshell 3rd U15G and Stephen Adesina who come 2nd U15B in the U15 age group, well done to both of you

Athletes a big thank you and congratulations on your performance today your county are proud of you

Thank you to our parents for their support at the Sports Hall Rounds, Training day and Competition day along with our officials we couldn't do any of this without you all. Thank you to our U15 athlete helpers Millie Trotter , Jessica Heath along with Daniel Headley, Oscar Phillips and Stephen Adesina who not only lead the warm up sessions, but as officials and encouraged our younger athletes. They have represented Essex Sportshall Team age groups at Regional Finals

Thanks to our Team Managers U13B Nichola Hewitt, U15B Chris Headley, U13G/U15G Steve Michell and Sarah Besford

Thanks to our supporters Essex Athletics Network and Essex County AA”

Many thanks Wendy for your report and congratulations to everyone that took part, representing Essex

8. Regional Reports

London – Please see appendix 1 for minutes from the meetings held (virtually) on 28th September and 15th November 2022.

East – We still have a vacancy for an Essex representative to attend these meetings.

9. Track & Field

At last week's Endurance meeting, provisional dates were discussed for the track 5k, 10k and relays.

Iford had been proposed as a venue for the 5k which would then form part of the club's 100th celebrations.

Following the meeting, it was established that the Trackmark at Cricklefields Stadium had not been renewed by the Local Council. Consequently, if this is not renewed, a County Championship event cannot take place. Andy Catton is in contact with the Council to resolve this issue. Date still to be agreed, but a Friday night in June was suggested.

Scott Darney has been in contact with Braintree AC about them hosting the track 10k Championships at the Braintree Leisure Centre, Panfield Lane, Braintree. Braintree AC will discuss this at their Committee meeting next week. A provisional date of Friday 28th July 2023 has been suggested

Track relays – provisional date of Friday 14th July 2023 agreed. Venue – Chelmsford – Hayley Hemmings to be contacted to request that she books the venue and Rick Thompson to organise officials to support the event.

Andy Catton advised that arrangements for the Indoor championships are in hand. These are taking place over the weekend 4th/5th March 2023.

The Roster system, which has recently been updated, is working well. Elaine Forrest advised that so far over 300 entries have been received. Closing date is 22nd February.

It was noted that details/entry forms for these championships are not on the Essex AA website. This is because of Website administrator is away on holiday until mid February. We are in the process of upgrading our County Website and it is anticipated that this will be launched shortly. See agenda item 17 below. When this is up and running, we will not be reliant upon one person to update the site.

Entry forms for the Indoors have been sent to all club secretaries, advertised on Social Media sites and are available on the Eastern AA website.

Link to entry system attached below.

[Roster Athletics](#)

The programme and timetable will be produced once it is known how many athletes have entered the events.

Message from Rick Thompson – we are short of Field Event Officials for these championships and he makes a plea for support. He also needs volunteers to help support the event.

Clubs please can you ask your members whether they can assist either on the Saturday or Sunday. Rick can be contacted at rickthompson452@hotmail.co.uk.

Comment was made that some enquiries have been made from potential guests to take part in these championships. These are closed championships with athletes restricted to those that are qualified to take part in the Essex and/or Eastern Championships.

Elaine confirmed that eligibility to compete is being checked.

Andy Catton advised that he will contact Tony Chatham (Eastern AA Treasurer) to ask whether he can arrange to pay the officials the £5 lunch allowance.

10. Cross Country

Allison was unable to attend this meeting. At last week's Endurance meeting, she provided the following report:-

- Cross County relays.

These took place on 24th September 2022 at South Weald County Park. This year, chip timing was used for the first time with teams being declared before the day of the race. ATW organised the event and this went very well. Excellent venue; although, costly to hire – approx £1200. Some changes to the 2023 event are being considered including team managers being given a week to declare their teams after the event, before results being sent to Run Britain (this process will be used at the 2023 Road Relay champs) and the format of the mixed teams

- Vets

These took place at Writtle University. There were three races on the day:-

- V40 Ladies

- V40 Men

- V50 Men.

Over the last few years the U13 and U15 championships took place on this day but it was decided that these would take place on the same day as the Senior Championships.

Again the championships were chip timed. Day went well. No issues highlighted.

- County Championships for all age groups.

These took place at Gloucester Park, Basildon on 7th January 2023.

Entries in some of the events were up; in the U13 and U15 categories these increased by between 30-50% on the previous championships which was pleasing as these were combined with the Senior championships rather than included on the Vets day (see above). Some races were down, notably the Senior Women (20%) and the U20 Women (25%), although the later only had 6 entrants and this race was combined with the U17 men.

Championships went well with a positive feedback received; comments received included 'Best Championships for years'.

The event was chip timed which helped with announcements of results. These were timetabled and adhered to.

One issue noted with the chip timing system was that once a club had a full team finish it discounted further runners from that club completing a second team from the team championships. This happened in the U15 girls but this was noted before the results were declared and a manual calculation was undertaken. We will need to monitor this at the forthcoming Road Relays in April.

County team managers were able to offer invitations to the Inter Counties Championships on the day. It was felt that we did not need manual time keeping but funnel officials are a necessity to ensure that runners kept line at the end of the race.

The nearest refreshments were at the Basildon centre which was not close to the course. Basildon AC will try and arrange a mobile van next year, they tried this year but the charge that was being quoted by the Basildon centre was very high.

Other issues debated:

- Agreed that we would keep the Vets and Senior (all age groups) Championships on separate days.
- Review will take place on how we can streamline the entry procedures. This was a lengthily process this season with team managers having to populate a number of boxes for every entrant.
- We did not ask whether entrants were Essex qualified on the entry form and this needs to be included on the 2024 form.
- A comment was made that it was disappointing that the U20 women's race was held in conjunction with the U17 men. This was acknowledged although with only 6 women racing it was felt that combining the race made sense.

Finances

Gary advised that

- Relays - lost approx £900 (due to the cost of chip timing and venue)
- Vets - made a profit of circa. £350 (venue cost at this event £300)
- Main championships – made a profit of £3,200 (venue cost at this event £600)

Provisional dates for 2023/24 season championships

Weald Park (Relays)	23 rd September 2023
Writtle (Vets)	2 nd December 2023
Main Champs	6 th January 2024.

Many thanks to our host clubs for organising the events.

11. Road Running

Gary Chandler was unable to attend this meeting. At last week's Endurance meeting he provided the following report:-

- Essex 20

This is taking place on Sunday 5th March 2023 at Debden Airfield, Carver Barracks, Saffron Waldon. The race was held here for the first time in 2022 and it went well.

As last year, the event is being organised by Active Training World.

To date, we have received 278 entries.

This will include an Invitational Inter Counties championship, where so far Essex, Cambs, Sussex, Norfolk, Suffolk and Hants will be sending teams. Waiting for other counties to respond

Inter County champs declarations will need to be received a week before the event.

Essex – three men have accepted invitations (Scott Cousins, Peter Robinson, Paul Molyneux) with one place to fill

Invitations have been sent out to Essex ladies but to date, no acceptances have been received. Selections for the Essex Inter Counties team will be taken over by Gerry O'Doherty as Gary Chandler will be out of the country as he is working abroad.

The trophies for the team and individual prizes will be returned although we are still trying to contact Hedi Hogan - Steele who holds the ladies trophy. Paul Mingay has agreed to arrange to contact Hedi through her club, Colchester Harriers.

The race continues to be published via social media sites.

- Essex Road Relays

These are being hosted by Colchester Harriers on Sunday 16th April 2023. Venue Northern Gateway Leisure Park, Colchester. It will be 'chipped' timed.

This is the second time these championships are being held at this venue after a very successful inaugural event in 2022.

Entry forms have been sent to all clubs.

The Race Adjudicator last year was the Suffolk team manager and he was impressed with the facilities and approached Essex to ask whether we would be happy to incorporate their championships with ours this year. We agreed to this request.

There will be 5 races

- U13, U15 and U17 girls (3 legs of approx 1.6miles) – start time 10am
- U13, U15 and U17 boys (3 legs of approx. 1.6 miles) – start time 10.45am
- Open Women, V40, V50, V60 Women and Non affiliated Women (3 legs of approx. 3miles) – start time 11.30
- V40, V50 and V60 Men ((3 legs of approx. 3miles) – start time 1.15pm
- Open Men and Non affiliated male team (4 legs of approx 3 miles) – start time 3pm.

Team declarations will not need to be submitted before the day. Team managers will be sent a link, post event, whereby it will be their sole responsibility to enter runners' details correctly. Team managers will have one week to submit details before the results are finalised and sent to Run Britain.

It is hoped that medals will be presented, shortly after each race.

A suggestion has been made by Scott Darney that the route that we used last year is reversed which will mean that the finish will be along the long straight. This was the route used by ATW (who are providing the chip timing for the event) at an event that they hosted last year.

12. Grand Prix Medals – 2022

As discussed at the Endurance meeting, we have not yet sourced any medals/mementos to award to the athletes that finished 1st, 2nd and 3rd in their respective age groups (both female and male) in the Road Running grand prix championships

Andy Catton brought with him a medal that he is able to source at a cost of around £5 each. 49 medals required.

It was agreed that we would proceed with this option.

Proposed – Gerry O'Doherty

Seconded – Claire Levey.

13. Fell running

The following report was received from John Clarke, who was unable to attend this meeting:-

“The 2023 Senior British Inter-Counties Mountain Race will be held on Sunday 7th May at Sedbergh in Cumbria. The route is 14km with 760m of ascent over two laps. More details to follow.”

14. Trophies

Susan Edwards has decided to step down as the County trophy secretary. Susan was thanked for all her hard work in this role. A volunteer is sought to take over.

A Job Description to follow in due course.

15. Walking

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

16. Officials

Previously mentioned under Track and Field agenda item that we are short of Field Event officials for the forthcoming Indoor Championships on 4/5th March

17. Proposed new County website

The new site is under construction. The framework for the site has been built and the next step will be to transfer the content across.

Scott Darney will contact our website designer to move this forward.

18. Proposal from Heidi Nicholas to improve communication within the County between athletes/coaches/parents/County Team Managers

Heidi has suggested the use of Mailchimp. Heidi has used it for work the last ten years or so and is aware that Carey Hollick at EMAC (Eastern Masters) uses it to keep in contact with members. It is free provided the subscribership is below a certain number (2000 from memory). It's very quick and easy to use. Heidi feels that it would help iron out a lot of issues that she has noticed as assistant senior women's team manager. It would enable us to alert athletes to up-coming Essex fixtures and allow them to contact their team managers to confirm their availability and preferred events (where relevant) with plenty of time to spare. Also, by having mass mail outs it would save time and money in the long run. She suggests having an account for each gender to ensure the subscribership is kept within the 'free' zone?

Those present at the meeting were happy to trial the system for a year. A volunteer is sought and Heidi will be approached to ask whether she would be happy to manage the database.

19. County Kit

This was discussed at a previous meeting, but we are no further forward with finding a supplier to provide County merchandise.

A number of potential suppliers have been contacted but to date, they have not replied.

Richard Charleston will speak to the company that supply Chelmsford AC

There is another possibility of a contact within Southend Flyers which will be passed to Andy.

20. Schools Liaison

Nothing to report

21. Any other business

Richard Charleston has been contacted by a member of Tonbridge Athletic Club to ask him whether County would be prepared to circulate a survey to clubs, 'How they would act in the face of a Transgender or DSD athlete wishing to compete in Women's events'.

UKA has recently commented upon this issue

Those clubs or individual that wish to take part in this survey can access it, via the following link:

<https://forms.gle/6aaxNqV2bN8YC47B6>

22. Date of next meeting

Monday 3rd April 2023 start time 7.30pm. To be held at Chelmsford AC Clubhouse.

Time meeting finished 20:31

Summary of Actions

Agenda Item	Matter	Action required	By whom
8.	Representative required to fill the position of Essex rep on the EA East Regional meetings	Volunteer sought	All clubs to approach their membership
9.	Essex 5k track championships	Venue and date to be agreed	Track & field subcommittee – to be discussed at virtual meeting of 13 th March 2023
9	Essex 10k track championships	Venue and date to be agreed	Track & field subcommittee – to be discussed at virtual meeting of 13 th March 2023. Braintree AC have been approached to support
9.	Track Relays	Contact Hayley Hemmings/Rick Thompson to book the venue and arrange Officials to support. Provisional date 14 th July 2023	Malcolm Bailey
9	Officials /Volunteers needed to support the Indoor County Track & Field Championships – weekend 4/5 th March 2023	Volunteers urgently needed to support these championships	All clubs to approach their membership
12..	2022 Grand Prix Medals	49 medals to be purchased	Andy Catton
14.	County Trophy Secretary	Job description to follow	Committee
15.	County Walking Secretary	Volunteer sought	All clubs to approach their membership
18.	Use of Mailchimp to improve communications within the County between athletes/coaches/parents/County Team Managers	Volunteer sought	Malcolm Bailey to approach Heidi Nicholas
19,	County Kit	Company that supply Chelmsford AC kit to be contacted to ask whether they would be interested in supplying merchandise to County and at championship events	Richard Charleston
21.	Survey	Details of survey ‘How they would clubs act in the face of a Transgender or DSD athlete wishing to compete in Women’s event	Clubs to consider whether they wish to complete survey.

Draft Agenda for the next Executive Committee meeting to be held at the clubhouse Chelmsford Athletic Club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford on Monday 3rd April 2023 Start time 7.30pm

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the previous meeting – Monday 6th February 2023
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. Update on 2022 Grand Prix medals
12. Fell running
13. Trophies
14. Walking
15. Officials
16. Update on new County website
17. County Kit
18. Updating the Essex County Constitution
19. School’s Liaison
20. Any other business
21. Date of next meeting – Monday 3rd April 2023

APPENDIX 1

England Athletics London Regional Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday 28th September 2022. Via Zoom		
Present: Adrian Day (Chair), Mick Bond, Ismail Islam, Paul Miller, Chris Mallender David Clarke, Helena Stone, Mara Yamauchi, John Gandee, Marc Ritchie, Amy Murtagh, Mark Purser		
Apologies: Tony Ganio Paul Merrywest, David Ralph, Nadia Williams		
		Action
1	Introductions. Welcome to Marc Ritchie EA Technical Officials Development Manager and to Amy Murtagh Regional Club Coaching Lead	
2.	Minutes of Previous Meeting. Nothing specific arising	
3.	Marc Ritchie outlined his background and his plans on recruitment, training and retention of technical officials and took questions	
4.	Chairs update Active at Commonwealth Games, Tooting reopening, Lily B Trophy presentation. Also actively participating and seeing the lack and sometimes over supply of officials at various events	
5	Club support Update. Chris Mallender <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Amy Murtagh appointed as Club Coaching Lead ▪ Club Improvement Fund – Five successful bids ▪ Track Night support – One application from Cambridge Harriers ▪ Facilities. Support for Track mark inspections at Finsbury Park, Linford Christie Stadium and Ladywell ▪ Acquisition of Pole Vault bed from Bath to Sutton. Transport being arranged ▪ Spare Cage from Commonwealth going to Croydon Arena ▪ Wimbledon Park package of repairs and improvements imminent ▪ Herne Hill looking for help on Club Survey ▪ Club Standards. Still 26 clubs with zero standards in place but they tend to be smaller running clubs. Most clubs now at least 4 out of seven in place Club Support Update Amy Murtagh Amy outlined how she is waiting for expressions for interest to come back from clubs with a view to working with two clubs initially and to put together examples of good practice that can be shared	
6	Volunteer Awards. Date and venue set, 15 th November London City Runners, Druid Street London Bridge, Catering to be sorted, Agenda and details of presentations to be sorted Donna Fraser to attend as Guest speaker plus Chris Jones CEO and Gary Shaunessy Chair likely to attend CM led on judgement of SE area awards in the week and believe they are judging ours this week	CM/II
7	Club Engagement program. Few club visits over the summer; hopefully we can meet with some more clubs now the summer track season is over. Tony Ganio – Sutton Runners and attempting to meet up with Epsom and Ewell	All

	Mara Yamauchi – Ealing Eagles and Shaef Shifters. Trying to meet with Serpentine and St Mary’s Richmond	
8	SEAA Track champs over the summer went Ok at Chelmsford. Road Relays at Crystal Palace. DC commented on the need for earlier information and co operation to avoid clash with AFD relays that happened on the same weekend	
8	Next London club forum Suggestions – Officials, Adrian to set date and Marc hopefully to lead and speak	AD
9	Any Other Business Ad hoc feedback from councillors on the summer’s season. Generally good numbers, good TV coverage for the sport with Worlds, Commonwealth and Europeans Discussion re recent edict from UKA about all athletes having to sign up for non drug taking statement before each competition	
10	Date of next meeting – 15 th November 6pm at London City Runners	

**England Athletics London Regional Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday 15th November 2022, 6pm – 7pm,
at London City Runners Clubhouse, 130 Druid St, London**

Present: elected councillors Adrian Day (Chair, AD), Mark Purser (MP - part), Mick Bond (MB), Paul Miller (PM), Tony Ganio (TG - part); co-opted councillors Ismail Islam (II), Devonte Casely-Hayford (DCH), Helena Stone (HS), minute-taker Mara Yamauchi (MY); invited Gary Shaughnessy, EA Chair (GS), Chris Jones, EA CEO (CJ), Amy Murtagh, EA London Club Coach Lead (AM), Paul Merrywest (PM) representing Chair, Essex County AA.

Apologies from: John Gandee, David Ralph, Dave Clarke, Chris Mallender;

- 1) Welcome, apologies, declarations of interest, introductions: AD opened the meeting and invited all present to introduce and give a little background about themselves. There were no declarations of interest.
- 2) Minutes of the last meeting, Sept 2022: there were no queries arising and these minutes were duly adopted.
- 3) Chair’s update – AD had three items to report:
 - Lots of good work on officials was ongoing, led by Marc Ritchie. He was prioritising simplifying processes and guidance, encouraging recruitment and mentoring. AD encouraged everyone to attend the online zoom forum for London about officiating on 30 Nov.
 - Competitions: this was a big theme at the EA annual conference. In 2021 the numbers competing had fallen so EA were attempting to recast and redefine competition, and find out what athletes really wanted. EA would hold a conference about competitions in Birmingham in the first week of December to thrash this out, especially on track & field. All invited.
 - EA LRC elections were coming up in March 2023 with the campaign starting soon. AD hoped co-opted councillors would stand for election so new members could be co-opted. The LRC was reasonably diverse which was good. The election period would start on 21 Jan and close on 24 Feb, with the results announced in early March. The new Council would meet in early April to elect a chair and decide on new co-optees.

4) Amy Murtagh coaching update: AM explained that she was one of nine new EA club coach leads. She was working on coach development with clubs' coaching coordinators. Support online had been good. She was setting up a network of London coaches to share best practice, pool information and hold workshops. Following an invitation of expressions of interest to become focus clubs with enhanced support, two clubs, Orion Harriers and Kent AC, had been chosen. PM asked how many clubs had coaching coordinators and if EA had set out what they were expected to do. AM said there were about 15, some clubs had a 'job description' and EA had a template for a 'job description'. PM asked about sharing assistant coaches and said Hercules Wimbledon needed coaches, especially in field events. MB enquired about sharing best practice and said Cambridge Harriers needed coaches. AM suggested a pool of coaches who could be shared around amongst clubs, especially in the throws, similar to the discontinued Flying Coach programme.

5) EA CEO and Chair updates: Chris Jones gave an update:

- Overall, there was good progress as athletics recovered from COVID but also some challenges. The Birmingham Commonwealth Games had been excellent with a good England medal haul, and Birmingham could showcase itself again as the host of the 2026 European Championships. The number of registered athletes had recovered to 163,000 from its COVID low of 142,000, but was not yet at its pre-COVID level of 190,000. EA hoped for continued recovery in these numbers. Many were older and off-track runners. T&F was more difficult, as was the 16 – 19 age group, who had been badly affected by COVID with exam cancellations etc.
- Competition was key, especially in T&F. EA's own competitions had to be world class. CJ encouraged event providers to change things that did not work rather than to wait for EA's lead. There was some excellent event delivery eg Mike Harris in Trafford, Ben Pochee, and in Hull. Challenges included the length of programmes, distance to travel, transport costs and a congested diary. Road races had also suffered in COVID; there were now 3,100, up from 2,000 in 2021 but not yet back up at 4,000 from pre-COVID. Races were receiving fewer entries. Brighton Marathon had just gone into administration.
- EA taking on more responsibility from UKA: CJ said UKA should focus on the World Class Programme (WCP) and major events. From April 2023, EA would take over road race licensing from UKA, and the Run Britain brand would be replaced by a new England road race brand, led by Barry Hopkins. UKA would retain responsibility for licensing levels 4 and 5, but EA would take on levels 1, 2 and 3. On coach licensing, EA would take on licensing for the Athletics Coach and Leader licenses. The environment for securing sponsorship was very tough at the moment.
- The PB Foundation: this was the new charitable arm of EA which would launch on Thurs 17 Nov, to raise money for athletics, recruit more youngsters, and build on the legacy of 2012. Its website is www.personalbestfoundation.org, with Mark Laurie as its new chair. Initially it would not employ staff.
- Challenges: CJ identified three big challenges for EA and UKA: a) sustainability – the EA Board was looking at a strategy on this; b) safeguarding – good progress had been made since the Quinlan Review but the number of cases was high; and c) transgender policy – UKA were leading on this as the World Athletics member and coordinating with the HCAFs. CJ said it was very important to get this right.
- GS added two points to CJ's comments. EA faced two ways – it was the NGB but also had to deliver for coaches, clubs and officials. EA also had to look short- and long-term, with the

latter needing investment. He also mentioned that 25% of 11 – 14 year olds were obese and in the last three years, the amount of time children spend on screens had doubled.

Q&A

- TG said we urgently needed to make athletics more attractive. CJ agreed, but the cost of living crisis made this difficult – others sports were also struggling. We needed to keep as many people as possible in athletics for as long as possible. Different regions were doing very well, including London and the SW. Various attendees commented on the cost and time taken by travel. Devonte said children he coached loved having days out. CJ agreed, but mentioned the costs to parents' time and money, when they were looking after other family members too.
 - MB encouraged more PE teacher education in athletics. CJ said EA had good courses for primary and secondary teachers, and Funetics. But it had been very difficult to get into schools and maybe out-of-term activities should be prioritised. Teachers were very stretched and had too little time to do athletics well.
 - CJ said the English Schools would be saved and Hugh Brasher deserved recognition for the London Marathon stepping up to help fund it.
 - Devonte raised the poor amounts of money top athletes can earn, making it unviable compared to careers in other sports. PM raised the need for more support for athletes below the WCP. CJ said EA was boosting the support for athletes not quite at the WCP level, but perhaps EA needed to communicate this better. The current support system supported youth (16-18), junior (18-20) and senior athletes in all event groups, in total 700-1000 athletes. Birmingham and Leeds were the hubs, and work was ongoing to use St Mary's Twickenham, Brunel and Loughborough too. Sarah Benton was leading work on this. It should be an item at a future meeting.
 - AD suggested the time commitments required was putting people off becoming officials. Devonte suggested officials' work should be recognised on power of ten. CJ said parkrun did this with its volunteers. AD said he would raise this with Marc Ritchie for the next meeting.
 - HS said the timing and content of the officials' pathway needed to be clearer. Her club, London Heathside, were encouraging 16-18 year olds into officiating.
- 6) Chris Mallender was setting up for the Awards evening so we skipped item 6 – his update.
- 7) PM said their track was being resurfaced, which would finish in May 2023. There had been discussion about only awarding a gold medal in any event with fewer than four competitors.

The meeting had to end abruptly as the Awards evening was about to start so we did not discuss items 8 and 9 – the next London Clubs Forum on officials and AOB.

Mara Yamauchi
16 Nov 2022

