



## *Essex County Athletic Association*

Minutes of the Essex AA Executive meeting held in the clubhouse of Chelmsford Athletic club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 at 19:30 hours.

### **Participants:**

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

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Peter Bates, Linda Bates, Paul Mingay, John Clarke.

### **2. Minutes of the last meeting of Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023.**

The minutes of the meeting on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June were **approved** as a true record of that meeting.

Proposed: Claire Levey

Seconded: Chris Akehurst

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

#### **Summary of Actions**

Agenda Item	Matter	Action required	Update
4	Representative required to cover the position of Essex rep. on the EA East Regional meetings	Volunteer sought	All clubs to approach their membership. We have carried this forward over a number of meetings and request that clubs speak to their membership. This will not be discussed again until the AGM in December. This is an important role as it serves to support our work with England Athletics ensuring that the interests of Essex AA are well represented.

4	County Trophy Secretary	Volunteer sought.	All clubs to approach their membership. As with previous role vacancy we will raise this at the next AGM. A copy of the Job Description for this role will be distributed to all Club Secretaries with these minutes.
8	Feedback from the EA London Council re decline in Seniors taking part in County Track & Field Championships events	London Council has been contacted	Response received which suggested that numbers at the County Championships at Senior level were broadly the same. We are querying this response; evidence from Power of 10 and from our own experiences does not support this statement. It was suggested that they need to compare this against numbers a few years prior to Covid.
9	Track & Field Sub Committee meeting	Arrange a date for the next T&F committee meeting to cover points raised at this meeting – see minutes	See Track & Field below
9	Letter sent to all clubs from Andy Catton seeking their views about why there has been a reduction in the number of Seniors taking part in the County Champs.	Only two clubs have responded. Contact those clubs that have not responded	We have received two responses from two clubs with feedback promised from two other clubs. Various suggestion/views received which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Championships are too early in the year (dates are binding on us as they are set by UKA), as such competition when athletes are still in early stages of their summer training; Some concern that results might adversely affect their overall performances on Power of 10; level of competition is not strong. Perhaps we might need to think about ‘Jazzing up’ the weekend. To be discussed at the next T&amp;F committee meeting. Date still to be arranged.</li> </ul>

14	Missing County Track & Field trophies	Club Secretaries to contact their membership to ask whether they have any of the missing 25 trophies	No further progress and this will be an item for discussion at the next T&F committee meeting – Question to be considered - ‘Do we wish to continue awarding trophies? If not, should we discontinue this as there are so many missing! We do not award a trophy to the winner of every event (trophies have historically been donated by kind benefactors over the years).
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#### 4. Treasurers’ Report

Gary Chandler updated the meeting on the financial position on recent Essex Track & Field Championships and raised a number of issues which he felt should be discussed at the forthcoming T&F committee meeting.

##### - Outdoor Track & Field Championships

These were very successful. Unable to finalise accounts for these championships as he is still waiting for the invoice for the hire of the EDM (last year this cost £360). He is chasing Total revenue was £13,870 with expenses paid to date £4,371. Potential profit circa. £9,000 (£6, 100 – 2022).

This was due to increase in entries fees £1,700, Spectators £1,700 (we did not charge in 2022 – monies were given to support Essex Schools events), Venue Thurrock cheaper than Chelmsford (approx £400) although there was an increase in Official expenses of around £1,000.

Gary is of the view that this level of profit is higher than Essex needs to support its various annual commitments. Track & Field committee needs to consider whether we should reduce entry fees (entry system this year did not allow us to offer a discount if an athlete entered more than one event; it is anticipated that this will be an option for 2024). Also, should we pay Officials more?

##### - Track 5k championships.

Held at Cricklewoods, Ilford on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Revenue £682 Costs to date £230 (medical) – still to pay, fee for hire of track, but very likely that there will be a surplus from the championships

##### - Track Relays

These are being held on 14<sup>th</sup> July. We normally generate a surplus from this event

##### - Multievents

This is being combined with Eastern Championships in September. In the past when they were run as purely an Essex event, we lost money.

##### - 10k track championships – 28<sup>th</sup> July

Entries still being accepted for these championships although we normally incur a loss.

Other expenses paid since the last meeting, include:-

- Purchase of Tablets £500
- New printer - £100
- Purchase of Team Manager tops - £300
- Purchase of County vests - £1,000.

## **5. a) Correspondence**

Nothing to report

## **b). Club & Committee Changes**

One change – new club secretary at Brentwood RC, Amanda Burke. Updated club secretary list will be sent out with these minutes to all club secretaries

## **6. Networking**

Nothing to report.

## **7. Regional Reports**

We have not received any minutes from the East Region Council and we continue to chase. London Regional Council meeting took place on 14<sup>th</sup> June but Andy Catton was unable to attend, Minutes from this meeting will be circulated once available

## **8. Track & Field**

A date and venue for the next Track & Field committee needs to be agreed and this will be advised to all Track & Field clubs shortly.

The current format of the Main Championships needs to be discussed as well as entry fees/official expenses/awarding of trophies.

Hayley Hemmings has stepped down as the County Track & Field Secretary and this work has been picked up by Elaine Forest, Rick Thompson and Andy Catton.

### **INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- SEAA U20's and Senior champs took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> July at Oxford.

Of the 18 Counties eligible to take part only 9 entered. Maximum number of competitors in an event was 8 so every race was a straight final.

Ian Pike attended the event on behalf of Essex and we thanked him for his support.

He reports that:-

‘The good news is that the U20 Women won their event. Full results:

U20 Men

1<sup>st</sup> Hampshire 83

6<sup>th</sup> Essex 38

U20 Women

1<sup>st</sup> Essex 94

Senior Women

1<sup>st</sup> Surrey 68

4<sup>th</sup> Essex 59

Senior Men

1<sup>st</sup> Middlesex 79

Joint 3<sup>rd</sup> Essex 59

Some of our teams had missing athletes so they lost out on quite a few points. Comments made by supporters that if they had known they could have asked athletes at their clubs to compete. Perhaps something could be set up with clubs (email contact) to assist team managers when they have athletes drop out with injury/illness in the week before to assist help and fill missing places.

The U20 ladies team was awarded a glass trophy at the end of the competition. It would be difficult to share this around and Ian asks whether a medal or something could be given to members of the winning team to celebrate their successes'.

June Cork, who kindly agreed to assist with selecting the Men's senior team, mentioned that she had spent a considerable amount of time trying to contact athletes to represent Essex. Club secretaries were very helpful agreeing to pass on details to their members but a number did not respond. In the past, we had given a letter to athletes who were medallists in the County championships (which still happens at the XC championships). Suggested that the lack of Counties represented at these Championships reflects the lack of appetite for this competition!

Despite this there is an excellent response from the U13's and U15's

The SEAA U15/U17 takes place on 10<sup>th</sup> September at Oxford

The U13 invitational event is on 29<sup>th</sup> July

CAU Senior inter counties (which is combined with the England Championships) takes place on 22/23<sup>rd</sup> July at Chelmsford. Athletes enter themselves into these championships and it is the first person to finish that counts as the County representative.

Discussed whether we should award medals to the winning U20 ladies team. We have never done this in the past and the general feeling of the meeting was not to support this proposal.

Gary Chandler mentioned that he has not been approached to pay entry fees for Essex athletes who take part in the Inter County Championship events. In the past these events were organised by Counties (when an entry fee was paid) but the organisation is now administered by the SEAA, which may be the reason?

The 5k track championships went well – view was that it was a good evening with a number of excellent performances. 14 Ladies and 36 Men took part.

Ladies winner – Lizzie Wellsted (Colchester Harriers) 16:59

Male winner – Dean Williamson (Colchester Harriers) 15:08

Special mention to Adrian Mussett (Colchester Harriers) who competes in the O50 category who finished in 15:17

The Miles of Miles 2023 championships took place at Melbourne Stadium on 24<sup>th</sup> June. The event incorporated the Essex championships in the following age categories:-

U13 Girls & Boys

U15 Girls & Boys

U17 Ladies & Men

U20 Ladies & Men

SEN Ladies & Men  
V40 Ladies & Men  
V50 Ladies & Men  
V60+ Ladies & Men

Over 150 Essex athletes took part over 15 races.

Essex senior men's mile was won by Lewis Harknett (Orion Harriers) 4:15.7 and senior ladies by Hannah Irwin (Cambridge & Coleridge AC) 4:47.1

Chelmsford AC covered all costs (including Essex medals).

Prior to this meeting a proposal from Chelmsford AC was received for County to consider awarding the Essex 1 mile championship to their Miles of Miles event on an ongoing basis or for an agreed period of time.

Next year, all athletes will be given a time a mile and an 1500M time. Therefore athletes could potentially pick up 2 PB's from the same race.

A suggestion was made that this event, could also host some County Field Championship events to see whether this brings in extra competitors.

Music is played in an effort to generate a better atmosphere.

This proposal was discussed at some length. Feeling of the meeting that this is a great event and we should support although noted that financially the County does not benefit, it is cost neutral with Chelmsford paying for the County medals.

Agreed that we would support for a three year period – age groups up to V50.

#### Track Relays

Entries are still open but at the date of the meeting only 11 teams have been received.

Feedback from those present that their clubs should be entering further teams in the next few days.

2024 Indoor Track & field Championships – we need to book Lea Valley and Elaine Forrest will make the necessary arrangements.

### **9. Cross Country**

Nothing to report. Reminder of the dates of the 2023/24 championships.

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

(All age groups)

### **10. Road Running**

Since the last meeting the Pleshey Friday 5 took place with 198 taking part in the County Championship race.

Winners

Female – Roanna Vickers – Colchester Harriers 29:13 (new course record)

Male – Dean Williamson – Colchester Harriers 25:04

First female team – Colchester Harriers

First male team – City of Southend AC

The next Essex Grand Prix event is the road 5k. This is the first time this event has been organised as an Essex road championship event. It is being held on a trial basis.

Takes place at The Northern Gateway Sports Centre Colchester on 11 August.

Over 180 entries received to date.

For the Open events – Ladies sub 30 minutes and Men sub 25 minutes.

The winners of the County championships will be declared once all the races have taken place.

Eastern AA is hosting a 10K Inter County event on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at Cambridge. Essex has entered teams into this event in the past.

County teams will consist of 4 men and 4 ladies.

Essex has been invited and we have accepted. Selection event will be the Southend 10k.

Gary Chandler is away that weekend and Richard Charleston has agreed to take on the role as Team Manager.

### **11. Fell running**

Nothing to report

### **12. Trophies**

Nothing to report.

### **13. Walking**

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

Essex 10k Walking Championships will be held as part of the Enfield League 1 hour event on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September.

### **14. Officials**

We are currently short of officials for the forthcoming Track relays

### **15. Proposed new County website**

This is still work in progress although it is acknowledged that this needs to be resolved as soon as possible.

### **16. Team Manger kit**

Delighted to report that this has now been order and distributed to the Team Managers.

### **17. Updating the Essex County Constitution.**

Work has started on this and it is hoped that a revised Constitution will be presented to the Committee shortly. It is our aim to adopt a new updated Constitution at the 2023 AGM.

### **18. Schools Liaison**

Sebastian Cirillo has agreed to take over this role.

### **19. Any other business**

No other business was raised.

## 20. Date of next meeting

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at Chelmsford AC Clubhouse, 7.30pm start.

Meeting finished at 8:43pm

### Summary of Actions

Agenda Item	Matter	Action required	By whom
8	Track & field committee meeting to be arranged. Time and venue to be agreed.	Chair/Secretary to discuss and then notification sent to all clubs	Secretary
8	2024 Indoor Track & Field Championships	Venue to be booked	Elaine

### **Draft Agenda for the next Executive Committee meeting to be held at the clubhouse Chelmsford Athletic Club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 Start time 7.30pm**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the previous meeting – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 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. Fell running
12. Trophies
13. Walking
14. Officials
15. Update on new County website
16. Updating the Essex County Constitution
17. School's Liaison
18. Any other business
19. Date of next meeting – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

