



## *Essex County Athletic Association*

Minutes of the Essex AA Endurance Meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 19.30 hours in the clubhouse of Chelmsford Athletic Club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford.

### **Present:**

David Staines (Thurrock Harriers), Gary Chandler (Springfield Striders), Diane Wooller (Colchester Harriers & Essex Officials), Malcolm Bailey (Tiptree Road Runners), Brigid Wallen (Witham RC), Mick Ford (Havering AC), Ron Dawson (Southend AC), Graeme Knott (Harwich Runners), Martin Clarke (Ilford AC & Harwich Runners), Andy Catton (Ilford AC), Paul Mingay (Tiptree Road Runners), Dave Keeley (Havering 90), Jim Kevany & Judy Burston (Phoenix Striders), Mike Emms (Woodford Green AC with Essex Ladies), Susan Edwards (Woodford Green AC with Essex Ladies).

### **Apologies for Absence**

Claire Levey (Ilford AC) John Weir (Chelmsford AC), Anthony Knight (Tiptree Road Runners), Michael Wilson (East London Runners), Keith Thornton (Thrift Green Trotters)

### **1. Essex 20**

Ron Dawson advised the meeting that he went round the course last weekend. He was concerned that there were road repairs taking place from 13<sup>th</sup> February along part of the route, which would cause problems if they were still in place on the day of the race (4<sup>th</sup> March). He spoke to workers on site and they were confident that the repairs would be completed by the 4<sup>th</sup> March. Ron said that he will monitor and provide an update, if there is going to be a problem.

Ron has confirmed that all other arrangements are in place and that he has sufficient marshals.

There were some issues picked up by the Race Adjudicator at last year's Essex 20 and Gary Chandler went through these to ensure that these will not be reported as a failing at this year's event.

Gary Chandler mentioned that two Counties have already declared their teams for the Inter Counties Championships. It is anticipated that there will be a high quality field taking part in these championships.

Race was sold out sometime ago although it is possible to transfer numbers until 24<sup>th</sup> February.

### **2. Essex Road Relays**

These are being held at Harwich on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March.

Martyn Clarke reported that organisation of this event is going to plan. There will be a slight change at the handover area this year with runners only being allowed to enter the start area once the incoming runner has past the 4k mark.

Entries close on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

So far 13 entries have been received from 3 clubs.

### **3. XC -18/19 season**

Brigid Wallen advised the meeting of the dates and potential venues for next season's XC Championships:

Relays – 29<sup>th</sup> September – Gosfield School, Halstead

Vets & U13 and U15 Championships – 1 December. Venue still to be confirmed either Hilly Fields or Abbey Fields

Senior, U17 and U20 Championships – 5<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Venue, Writtle University College.

Brigid Wallen suggested changes to the format of both the Vets and Senior Championships.

**Vets** – With the entry numbers from female runners increasing over recent years various options were discussed including an all Women race followed by an all Male race. Another suggestion was to combine the Women Over 35 with the Male Over 40 in one race followed by Women Over 45 and Male Over 50.

For the time being it was suggested that we leave the current format as it is although it could be discussed again at the fixtures meeting in May.

It was agreed, that County Women O45 team medals would be awarded for the first time. In the past team medals had only be awarded to the O35's

**Senior** – It was proposed that distances for the Women and Men races be equalised. Currently Women run 8k and Men 12k.

Rule 250 – IAAF Competition Rules for use in the UK 2016-2018 states:

**“Distances (4) Distances at IAAF World Cross-Country Championships should be approximately: Men 10km Women 10km U20 Men 8km U20 Women 6km The distances recommended for U18 competitions should be approximately: U18 Boys 6km U18 Girls 4km It is recommended that similar distances be used for other International and National competitions”**

After a lengthy debate, it was agreed that the Senior Women and Men races would both be 10k for the 2019 Championships.

Distances for the other age groups, would remain as before.

Chip timing will be used at future County XC Championship events.

Entry fees for the Individual County Championships will be a flat fee per runner.

#### **4. ARC affiliated clubs**

County's interpretation of the UK rules is that for athletes to take part in a County Championship event they have to be affiliated to England Athletics. There are two clubs in Essex that are affiliated to ARC. Graeme Knott said that other Counties allow ARC registered runners to take part in their championship races.

There were strong feelings on both sides of the argument and it was agreed that David Staines would speak to both UK Athletics and ARC to seek their interpretation of the rules.

Graeme Knott will provide the telephone number to David Staines for the appropriate person at ARC.

#### **5. Howard Williams Trophy.**

Only 20 of the 44 eligible clubs are voted. Gary Chandler provided the members present with a spreadsheet detailing the voters cast by each club (not naming the clubs that voted).

Stebbing 10 (last year's winner) was a clear first with 23 votes with Tiptree 10 and Pleshey Half joint second with 12 votes. Halstead Marathon was 4<sup>th</sup> with 9 votes.

The trophy will be presented to Grange Farm & Dunmow Runners at the Essex 20.

#### **6. Update on Grand Prix finishers medal**

It has been agreed to present a medal to all runners who compete at least 5 of the 6 events. This will be a bespoke medal each year listing all the events where the championship races were held.

#### **7. Any other Business**

The Inland Waterways Association is organising a 10k race in September starting from Hoe Mill Lock. They are advertising this as the Essex 10k. There was some concern at the meeting that this could cause some confusion as runners might believe this to be a County event. The Pleshey half is taking place that day (which will incorporate the Essex Half marathon championships). There is nothing to stop the Inland Waterways from calling their race the Essex 10k (as there is no other race in the county with this name and the main championship race is always incorporated into another event), David Staines has agreed to contact Inland Waterways to discuss this with them.

**General Data Protection Regulations (“GDPR”)** – this comes into effect on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018. This will be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March.

**2018 London Marathon Club places**

At the last Endurance meeting, David Staines agreed that he would write to the organisers of the London Marathon to question the fairness of the very late notification to clubs for the reduction of club entries.

David Staines advised the meeting that he did receive a response stating that this was due to an increase in the number of runners qualifying for ‘Good for their age’ and a high demand for charity places. Thrift Green Trotters also wrote and received a similar response.

It was suggested that all clubs should also write so that the London Marathon organisation will understand the strong disappointment of affiliated members of EA.

Meeting concluded at 9.11pm.

**Summary of Actions**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>By Whom</b>
4	Contact EA and ARC re non EA affiliated but ARC runners taking part in County Championship events	David Staines
4	ARC contact number to be provided to David Staines	Graeme Knott
7	Contact The Inland Waterways Association re naming their race the Essex 10k	David Staines
7	GDPR – to be discussed at next Executive committee meeting	To be added to the agenda by Minute Secretary