



Essex County Athletic Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 1st April 2019 at 19.30 hours in the clubhouse of Chelmsford Athletic Club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford.

Present:

David Staines (Chairman), Andy Catton (President), Malcolm Bailey (Minute Secretary), Nick Burston, Richard Casey, June Cork, Ron Dawson, Mick Emms, Kaye Merrywest, Paul Merrywest, Paul Mingay, Ray Pearce, Phil Sergeant, Keith Thornton, Jean Tierney, John Weir, Diane Wooller, John Harris (England Athletics Club Support Manager covering North London, Hertfordshire, Essex and Berkshire).

1a) Apologies for Absence

Claire Levey (Secretary), Gary Chandler (Treasurer), Gerry O'Doherty (President Elect), Chris Akehurst, Mathew Gillard, Brigid Wallen, Lance Williams.

2) Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on Monday 4th March 2019 were **approved** as a true record of that meeting.

Proposed by Paul Merrywest and seconded by Ron Dawson.

3a) Matters arising

Item	Action	Update
16)	Venue for the Road Safety Course	Course will be held at The King Edmund School, Rochford. Date still to be arranged.

A question was asked whether Chelmsford FC and the Vanarama League have responded about the booking made by Essex AA on Sunday 12th May 2019 for Day 3 of the Outdoor County Track & Field Championships. There is a possibility that Chelmsford FC may need the stadium later on that day if they reach the Play off Final. A response has not been received although it is expected that the Track & Field Championships will be completed in time to allow us to vacate the stadium providing Chelmsford FC with sufficient time to be able to prepare for the game, if they reach that stage.

3c) Treasurer's matters

Gary Chandler was unable to attend the meeting as he was out of the Country on business. He sent an email covering the following issues:-

- Harwich Road Relays netted County - £794
- County Clock hired out to organisation holding 5k in Fairlop Waters - £50

Gary also asked a question. Senior athletes are reimbursed an amount when they represent County at Track & Field events (depending upon distance travelled). Cross Country team managers do not make

a similar claim. Is this equitable? The meeting was unsure of the amount paid to T&F senior athletes and it was agreed to defer this discussion to the next meeting. Prior to this meeting, Dave Staines will contact the two Cross Country team managers to seek their views.

4a) Correspondence

Claire Levey was unable to attend the meeting due to a business commitment. Claire had forwarded an email that she has received from the South of England Athletic Association (“SEAA”). They are holding an informal get together on Tuesday 9th April in London. They have invited three County representatives to this meeting. They have asked for suggestions from the Counties on topics that they would like to raise with the Board members. Claire has said that she will attend and Paul Merrywest volunteered to join her at the meeting.

SEAA has sent a letter to all club secretaries. They are losing their funding from England Athletics and have suggested that they may consider proposing a £2 levy to all athletes at clubs in the region. This has already been discussed by some clubs in Essex who will refuse to pay this should SEAA try and levy this amount. This proposed charge will cover all athletic disciplines. Dave Staines has said that he will write to SEAA saying that members of the Essex committee unanimously opposed this idea.

4b) Club/Committee Register Changes

Nothing to report.

5) Networking.

Hayley Pegg has stood down from the Network role of Coaching Coordinator. The role was advertised and it is understood that David Farrell has been appointed to take over from Hayley.

6) Regional Reports

The next London Regional meeting will take place on 17th April.

7) Track & Field

Paul & Kaye Merrywest advised the meeting that:-

- Multi – Events championships, entries close on 5th April. So far, 34 entries had been received (at this time last year 36 entries had been received);
- Main Championships, entries close by post on 12th April and on line 18th April. So far, 288 entries have been received (at this time last year, 301 entries have been received).

There has been one complaint from an athlete about the clash of dates of the County Championships and a BAL fixture. The County dates have been the first weekend in May for a number of years and it is the BAL that has moved its dates. The athlete concerned has been encouraged to complain to the BAL.

The County 5K track Championships, which have been moved to a mid week date, has sold out.

Chelmsford AC is hosting a Mile of Miles festival on 11th August 2019 at Melbourne Park. Further details can be found on their website.

Following on from last month’s meeting there was a further discussion about TrackMark which all track clubs need to achieve depending upon current facilities within the next couple of years. A number of clubs in Essex have already attained this standard. It is expected that Chelmsford will receive its accreditation by the end of April 2019.

8) Cross Country

The Inter Counties XC Championships were held on Saturday 9th March at Prestwold Hall, Loughborough.

Adam Hickey won the Senior Men’s race with the Senior Women finishing second in the team event. In the World Cross Country championships, Adam Hickey was 3rd British runner home in 51st place.

At the English Schools’ XC Championships on a wet and muddy course at Leeds, Kate O’Neill finished 3rd in the senior girls event and the girls finished 3rd overall in the team event.

9) Road Running

Since the last meeting, there have been two events which have incorporated the County Championships. These were the Braintree 5 and the Road Relays which were held at Harwich.

The Essex winners at the Braintree 5 were:-

Female – Liz Davies (Springfield Striders) 27:55

Male – James Connor (Havering AC) 25:05

The event was held at the Chelmsford Race Course and both the venue and route were considered, excellent. It has been suggested that the venue might be suitable for a Cross County event and this is going to be investigated by Dave Staines and Ron Dawson.

The only issue that occurred on the day was the chip timings. The chip was in the running number and as some runners completed the course they put their arms across their chest which apparently can block the signal from the chip as they cross the mat. About 20 runners did not have their times recorded. Runners were advised not to do this in the pre race instructions. The Event organisers had videoed the finish and were able to sort out the correct list of finishers.

It was a very windy day at the Road Relays which created a few problems for the host club, Harwich Road Runners. They overcome these extremely well and event was very successful. It was a chip timed event, with the chip being positioned in the baton. This helped with the production of the results which were finalised very quickly after the last runner had completed the course.

126 teams (from 18 clubs) took part. The Winners of the Open events were:-

Ladies

Springfield Striders (Liz Davies, Victoria Curren, Jennifer Lovelock) 59:36

Male

Havering AC (Ben Davis, James Buckley-Stanton, Rob Warner, Grant Twist) 65:4

The Vets events were won by:-

Female

O35 Colchester Harriers

O45 Colchester Harriers

Male

O40 Colchester Harriers

O50 Colchester Harriers

First individual times on the day:-

Female – Liz Davies (Springfield) 17:33

Male - Tom Firth (Southend AC) 15:40

10) Trophies

Nothing to report

11) Walking

Nothing to report.

12) Officials

Diane Wooller reported that 15 people attended the recent track & field official's courses and she is hopeful that some may support events over the coming summer.

She is still short of officials for the Outdoor County Championships. Also short of people to help out as runners/back room team over the two days. All volunteers will be welcomed.

Diane has ordered EDM's and time clocks for championships.

13) Schools Liaison

There are a number of Track & Field School events taking place during the summer including the Schools Cup which is taking place on Saturday 6th July at Chelmsford (for U14 & U16). The National Schools Track & Field Championships are taking place on 12/13 July at Birmingham.

A proposal to support Essex Schools' track and field events during the summer with a grant of £500 was fully supported by all those present at the meeting.

14) Any other business

John Harris (England Athletics Club Support Manager) talked about his role and emphasised that he is happy to support to all England Athletic affiliated clubs; supporting and signposting clubs on how to access a range of EA services, programmes and training opportunities. He is happy to attend club training nights.

Nominations will shortly be open for EA Athletic Volunteers Awards. All clubs are encouraged to vote for people who deserve to be recognised for their support of the sport.

Meeting closed at 20:53

Summary of Actions

Item	Action	By Whom
3c)	Consideration to be given to funding Senior XC runners when they represent Essex at Events (similar to the support provided to Track & Field Athletes)	To be discussed at the next meeting; Dave Staines to contact the XC Team Captains for their opinion.
4a)	Write to SEAA to advise them that the members of the Essex Committee unanimously oppose the introduction of a levy of £2 per athlete (to compensate them for losing funding from England Athletics)	Dave Staines
9)	Review the possibilities of staging a County XC event at the Chelmsford Racecourse venue	Dave Staines/Ron Dawson

Meeting agenda for Monday 3rd June 2019 at 7.30pm to be held at the clubhouse of Chelmsford Athletic Club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford.

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the meeting of 1st April 2019
3. Matters arising
Treasurers Matters
4. Correspondence
Club & Committee Register changes
5. Networking
6. Regional Reports
7. Track & Field
8. Cross Country
9. Road Running
10. Trophies
11. Walking
12. Officials
13. School's Liaison
14. Any other business

