



Essex County Athletic Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 2nd September 2019 at 20:00 hours in the Back Hall of Our Lady of Good Counsel RC Church, 61 London Road, Wickford, SS12 0AW

Present:

David Staines (Chairman), Gary Chandler (Treasurer), Claire Levey (Secretary), Andy Caton (President), Gerry O'Doherty (President Elect), Malcolm Bailey (Minute Secretary), Chris Akehurst, Peter Cassidy, June Cork, Mick Emms, Allison Gillan, Kaye Merrywest, Paul Merrywest, Paul Mingay, Ray Pearce, Brigid Wallen, Diane Wooller.

1a) Apologies for Absence

Linda Bates, Peter Bates, Nick Burston, Richard Casey, Ron Dawson, Mathew Gillard, Jean Tierney, Lance Williams, John Weir.

2) Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting on Monday 1st July 2019 were **approved** as a true record of that meeting, subject to the following amendment:-

12) Walking

The 2019 Essex walking championships are being held on the **track** not road as stated.

Proposed by Paul Merrywest and seconded by Ray Pearce.

At the last meeting it was mentioned that it will be a requirement that the venues that host a County Track & Field Championship in 2020 must hold the Trackmark accreditation. Gary Chandler agreed to contact Braintree AC (who host the track 5k and 10k championships) to ascertain whether they hold this qualification.

(England Athletics was subsequently contacted who advised that:-

Chelmsford – TrackMark Accredited (all six units),

Thurrock & Braintree both working towards (no units submitted) and;

Basildon not started (NB Cage modification has been completed)).

Paul and Kaye Merrywest will be attending the England Athletics 2019 Volunteer Awards evening which is being held on the 12th October at the Hilton NEC.

3a) Matters arising

Item	Action	Update
3a)	Host sought for the 2020 Road Relay championships	Colchester Harriers has offered to host. See Road Running below
13)	Chip timing at 2019/20 XC County events	See minutes below

3c) Treasurer's matters

Gary Chandler reported that the 2019 5K and 10K County track championships hosted at Braintree AC had been very successful. Profit of circa. £663 (Income £1k, Costs £350).

A number of significant costs/expenses have been incurred since the last meeting, including:-

- £1,400 to assist with the hosting of the U17 Inter Counties Track and Field Championships;
- £3k to support sending a team of 18 athletes and two team managers to attend the Inter Counties Track & Field championships held in Manchester. It was suggested that this cost will need to be reviewed if the championships are held at this venue in the future;
- £100 to purchase two new team manager jackets.

As a result of meeting the above costs the funds held on the County's Current account has reduced to the point where the Treasurer may have to transfer funds from the Deposit account to maintain an effective float.

It has been agreed to set up Internet Banking to assist with making payments. Gary Chandler will be the principal user with Dave Staines, Claire Levey and Allison Gillian as second authorisers.

Proposed Paul Merrywest

Seconded June Cork

4a) Correspondence

Claire Levey has received an email from Alyson Harvey (Hon. Secretary UKCAU). Their AGM was poorly attended and they are seeking views from the clubs on '**How do we strengthen the County voice at UK Athletics level?**' All clubs are asked to consider this and send your ideas, views and comments to Claire Levey (claire.levey@ntlworld.com) by 11th October so that she can collate and forward these to UKCAU.

4b) Club/Committee Register Changes

Rochford Running Club has now affiliated to County.

5) Networking

Nothing to report

6) Regional Reports.

Paul Merrywest attended the EA London Regional meeting on 2nd August. He advised that Chris Jones (CEO England Athletics) is due to attend the next meeting.

At the August meeting, 'Funetics' a new EA initiative was discussed. This is a new and exciting programme that has been created. Its aim is to provide fun athletic sessions to help 4-11 year old children learn, develop and practice running, jumping and throwing all year round. The content of the 'funetics' programme has been devised so that these young children can enjoy fun physical literacy sessions whilst developing their movement skills and confidence. All clubs that cater for young children should look at the site (<https://funetics.co.uk/>). There is a cost implication.

There was a debate as to why there is a drop out of young people from the sport as they grow older.

Fees for EA athlete affiliation for the year from 1st April 2020 have not yet been agreed. The likelihood is that it will increase by a further £1 to £16.

The proposed affiliation fee that SEAA were also proposing was raised by members of this committee. This has gone quiet. June Cork mentioned that she had sent a letter but had not received a response. Dave Staines agreed to write again to express County's view that we would be opposed to any additional affiliation fee.

7) SEAA

The following documents from SEAA Competition Limited in respect of the year to 31 March 2019 will be sent to all clubs as an attachment to these minutes:-

- Annual report
- Finance Director's report
- Hon. Secretary's report
- Financial accounts for the year to 31st March 2019.

8) Track & Field

The 10K track championships were held on 10th July at Braintree AC. There were two races with 43 finishers (18 in 2018). Winners:

Female – Laura Shewbridge (Colchester Harriers) 39:34

Male – Ramadam Osman (Colchester Harriers) 32:05

Moving both the 5k and 10k to a mid week evening has been very successful and it has been asked whether other Endurance events could also be catered for in this way. Chelmsford AC hosted in the summer an evening of mile races on the track. This was also very well supported. Could we also hold a County track championship event at this distance, on a mid week evening?

To be debated at the forthcoming Track & Field sub-committee meeting on 13th September.

Kaye Merrywest asked whether County would be prepared to purchase some software which will help with the entries for the County Championship events. Currently the system is not user friendly with a number of manual amendments needing to be made to addresses etc. Meeting was happy for Kaye to make some enquires and revert back with a proposal is a suitable programme can be found.

9) Cross Country

The County XC relays will be hosted by Springfield Striders at Writtle University College on Saturday 28th September. Entry forms have already been sent out to clubs. Weald Country Park in Brentwood was going to be used (run over the Brentwood Parkrun course) but the park had double booked the venue (same day as the Essex Country Show). We have been offered the venue for Saturday 3rd October 2020. This is likely to be the same weekend as the Southend 10K and we are going to speak with that club to ensure that they do not have any objections to the relays taking place the day before their event.

Allison Gillan confirmed that permits and First Aid has been booked for both the relays and the Vets & U13 and U15 Championships (which is also being held at Writtle). Both events will be chip timed but Harwich who have supported these events in the past are unable to assist with this year's championships. Chip Timing UK has been booked although they are more expensive than Harwich (£850 rather than £550).

10) Road Running

Chelmsford AC has agreed to host the 2020 10k championships.

Colchester Harriers have agreed to host the road relays. This will be on Sunday 15th March at Abbey Fields. In the past, these championships have been held on a Saturday but Colchester can only accommodate the event on a Sunday. This means the event will clash with the Brentwood half marathon but with the Spring race calendar already very busy it would be difficult to find another date. It was felt that this will not significantly affect entries for both events.

It has been agreed to hold the next Endurance sub-committee meeting on Monday 21st October at Chelmsford AC starting at 7.30pm. All clubs are invited to send a representative. Further details will be sent closer to the date.

11) Fell running

Nothing to report

12) Trophies

Mick Emms apologised that there were not sufficient medals available to present at the County track relays. These have now all been delivered.

He has contacted the 2018 winners of the XC relays and half marathon championships to ask them to return their trophies so that they can be presented at the 2019 events.

13) Walking

The 2019 Essex 10k track walking championships will take place on Saturday 28th September at Lea Valley. It will be held in conjunction with the Enfield Badge Race one hour event.

14) Officials

Diane Wooller advised the meeting that she is considering organising Officials courses during the Autumn. There is sufficient demand for courses. The Health & Safety course, which used to take place before the Officials Course is now on line. This will reduce the amount of time that delegates spend on the course. The H&S is a free module.

The new safeguarding course for Coaches is also on line – charge for this course is £10.

15) Schools Liaison

Nothing to report.

16) Any other business

Kaye Merrywest raised an issue regarding the contribution made to Eastern Counties for each of the athletes that competes in the joint County and Eastern Indoor Track championships. In 2019 the levy was £3 which effectively meant that County made a small loss for hosting this event. With the majority of the organisation undertaken by County it is considered that the levy paid to Eastern Counties is inequitable. It was agreed to reduce this to £2 per athlete.

The Essex County AA 2019 AGM is taking place on Monday 2nd December at Chelmsford AC. Preparations for the AGM will be an agenda item at the next committee meeting.

Suggestions for nominations for new Life members were discussed and four names were proposed. Further nominations for Life Members are sought from clubs (this is for services to County rather than the clubs themselves). In addition, nominations are also sought for the 2020 President Elect. Again, clubs are asked for nominations.

It was reported the sad news of the deaths of the following people:-

- Doreen Sparrow (Ilford AC)
- Debbie Church (Ilford AC & Thurrock Harriers AC)
- Jimmy Venn (Southend AC)

Our sympathy and deepest condolences go to all the families and the friends of the above.

Meeting closed at 21:21

Summary of Actions

Item	Action	By Whom
3c)	Internet Banking to be set up through Barclays for the County bank account. Gary Chandler to be the principal user with Dave Staines, Claire Levey and Allison Gillian as second authorisers	Gary Chandler
4a)	Views, comments suggestions to be sent to Claire Levey on 'How do we strengthen the County voice at UK Athletics level' by email (Claire.levey@ntlworld.com)	All clubs and committee members
6)	Write to SEAA re their proposed affiliation fee	David Staines
8)	Track & Field sub-committee meeting on 13 th September to consider moving other County track Endurance events to mid week evenings following the success of the 5k and 10k events	Track & Field sub-committee
10)	Next Endurance sub-committee meeting – 21 st October	Details to be sent to all clubs
16)	Nominations sought from clubs for:- - New Life members - President Elect for 2020	All clubs. Nomination form attached. Responses please by Monday 30 th September 2019.

Meeting agenda for Monday 7th October 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 2nd September 2019
3. Matters arising
Treasurers Matters
4. Correspondence
Club & Committee Register changes
5. Networking
6. Regional Reports
7. SEAA
8. Track & Field
9. Cross Country
10. Road Running
11. Fell Running
12. Trophies
13. Walking
14. Officials
15. School's Liaison
16. 2019 AGM
17. Any other business