



Essex County Athletic Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Essex County Athletic Association held on Monday 2nd December 2019 in the clubhouse of Chelmsford Athletic Club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford

Present:

Gary Chandler Allison Gillan Alistair Gillan (Springfield Striders), John Weir (Chelmsford AC), Diane Wooller Chris Akehurst (Colchester Harriers AC), Kaye Merrywest (Life Vice President), Paul Merrywest (Championship Secretary) Ray Pearce (Life Member and Southend AC), June Cork Ron Dawson Mathew Gillard (Southend AC), Jonathan Wooldridge (East London Runners), Peter Cassidy (Loughton AC), Dave Ainsworth Claire Levey (Ilford AC), Linda Bates Peter Bates (Pitsea RC), Nick Burston Peter Eates (Phoenix Striders), Malcolm Bailey (Tiptree Road Runners and Mid Essex Casuals), Gerry O'Doherty (Billericay Striders), Bernard Johnson (Thurrock Harriers), Brigid Wallen Scott Darney (Witham RC), Keith Thornton (Brentwood RC), Gerry McGovern (Little Baddow Ridge Runners) Wendy Tydeman (Basildon AC)

1 Election of Chair for the evening

Dave Staines was unable to attend the meeting and Claire Levey (Hon Secretary Essex AA) proposed that Gary Chandler be elected to chair this meeting.

Proposed Claire Levey Seconded June Cork

Unanimously agreed by all those present.

2. Apologies for Absence

Dave Staines (Chair Essex AA & Thurrock Harriers), Lance Williams Paul Mingay (Colchester Harriers AC), Andy Catton (President Essex AA & Ilford AC), Jean Tierney (Havering AC)

Gary Chandler advised the meeting that Paul Mingay had competed at the Valencia Marathon on the 1st December 2019 finishing in a time of 2:45:14 which places him top of the all time British list in his age category.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last AGM held on 4th December 2018 were approved as a true record of that meeting.

Proposed by: June Cork

Seconded by: Brigid Wallen

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Presentation of the Accounts (Gary Chandler)

Overall Position

I am pleased to present unbelievably my 8th Treasurer's report – how time flies. For the 3rd consecutive year the county has dipped into its funds, this year by almost £4000.

Far from being concerning this has been a series of deliberate initiatives that started 6 years ago to re-address a 7-year trend of increasing net income.

I would say, though, that this year's deficit is probably a more accurate reflection of our current "trading position" (if I can call it that) and so whilst not yet alarming we do need to be careful not to let our healthy financial position become one of concern as it was back in 2007.

Championships

The outdoor T&F championships income was up 5% but expenses were up 10% resulting in overall income remaining broadly the same at £6000 and this year accounted for 2/3rds of the overall championship net income.

The indoor T&F championships saw income drop by 14% but expenses increase by 8% resulting in the £1800 profit in 2018 completely wiped out and left the county with an overall loss in 2019 of £232. The T&F championship subcommittee has taken steps for next year to readdress the balance of income between Essex and Eastern AA (with whom we share the championship) to hopefully take us back into a revenue generating position.

Cross country numbers look a bit odd but that is down to the XC relays which is traditionally held on the last Saturday in September. In 17/18 there were 2 relays events (in Oct 17 and Sept 18) and this event is now the main income generator for XC netting approximately £2000. In 18/19 there was just the normal one event falling in the financial year (Sept 19).

Road championships have just two revenue generating events (the 20 and the relays). In 17/18 the Essex 20 was snowed off but there was no such problem this year and it generated £1400, with the relays approx. £800.

Expenses

I'm not going to go through each item in the income and expenditure sheet but I'd like to focus on a few items:

1. Affiliation fees reflect an additional 6 clubs affiliating to the county in 18/19 taking the total now to 51. This year we saw the addition of Running Colchester, Rochford Running Club, Weald Park Warriors, Rogers Runners, JBR Triathlon Club and Be Fit for Today Athletics.
2. Contribution to athlete expenses have gone up by almost 50% due mainly to the CAU inter counties being held in Manchester and most athletes needing to travel up the night before. Attending this event costs the county over £2600 (when you add in the team manager expenses). I am told that we have to assume that Manchester could be a permanent fixture for the foreseeable future.

3. General expenses included £200 for team manager jackets for the T&F team managers, something that other disciplines have looked at this year.
4. This year we hosted the U17 Intercounties (after the Southern Intercounties last year) – at a cost of almost £2000.
5. £700 was spent on the newly introduced Grand Prix series medals for runners that run in at least 5 of the 6 road races.

Balance Sheet

Turning to the balance sheet a couple of points worth mentioning:

1. Cash at the bank is down nearly £7k and we are likely to have to dip into the savings account this year for the first time since I became Treasurer.
2. The overall capital account is now £67,566 down from its high of £74,378 3 years ago.

Summary

The county continues to thrive financially due to the hard work of too many volunteers to mention across the road, XC and T&F communities putting on a wide range of superb county events.

Finally, my thanks again to Rodney Silk, our honorary auditor, who audited the accounts again within a very short timeframe to enable them to be presented here at the AGM just 2 months after year end.

Alistair Gillan has why the grant monies from England Athletics had reduced from £500 to £300 during the year. It was explained that you had to apply for the grant, which is for a specific purpose and England Athletics then decide whether to award the funds. We were not advised why a lower sum had been awarded this year and you only receive this grant if you apply for the monies.

Proposed by: R.Pearce Seconded by: J Cork

6. Presentation of Secretary's report. (Claire Levey)

Cross Country

Firstly, a thank you to all those that have helped organise the cross-country events during the time since the last AGM and to all the officials that stand out in all weathers helping and making sure these events run smoothly.

Senior, under 20's and under 17's event took place in January at Writtle college. Entries were slightly down in relation to the previous year, but we had a greater percentage of finishers.

The inter counties cross country was held in March at Prestwold Hall in Loughborough. Adam Hickey won the men's race with the Essex woman finished second in the team event.

Adam also competed in the World cross country champs finishing in 51st place and he was the third British runner home. Congratulations to Adam for great success this year.

At the English school's cross-country championships in Leeds, Kate O'Neill finished third in the senior girl's event and the girls also finished third overall in the team event.

Cross country relays took place at Writtle college at the end of September which was very successful. 863 runners were entered for the event with 751 taking part.

A thank you also to all the hosting clubs that have taken place this year.

Road Running –

Essex Road Relays took place in March once again at Harwich, which went well.

March also saw the Essex 20 mile at Rochford. This included an Inter Counties event. Essex winners were Rachel Sweatt from Witham with James Connor from Havering winning the men's race. The team trophies went to Springfield Striders for both men and women. With regard to the Inter County event James Connor was the first male finishers and Lucy Reid from Kent won the woman's title. Essex won the team event for both men and women. The Inter county event was well received and will be held again in 2020.

Braintree 5 for the woman was won by Liz Davies of Springfield Striders with James Connor from Havering taking the men's title.

Road relays took place on a windy course in Harwich. 126 teams from 18 clubs took part. The woman's race was won by Springfield Striders with Havering winning the men's. Colchester Harriers won all categories for the vets for both men and woman.

Essex Marathon championships were held in May at Halsted. This was won by Crispin Bloomfield of Billericay with the ladies being won by Jackie Stretton of Springfield. Once again, the both team events were won by Springfield.

The half marathon champs were incorporated as part of the Pleshey half. James Connor won the men's race with Rachel Sweatt taking the ladies title.

With regard to the County 10k this was incorporated within the Southend 10k and was won by Thomas Firth of Southend and the ladies' race being won by Liz Davies of Springfield.

Track and Field –

Essex indoor champs alongside Eastern Counties were held at the beginning of February at Lee Valley which overall went extremely well. Thank you to all that run this successful event.

Outdoor track and field champs in May went well. Entry levels were the same as last year but with a lower senior participation due to a clash with the British League fixture.

County relays took place at the end of June with the majority of Essex clubs being represented

5k track champs took place at Braintree in June with 64 men and 10 ladies taking part. Liz Davies won the ladies race with Adam Hickey taking victory in the men's.

The 10k track champs were also held at Braintree with two races being run. There were 43 finishers with the ladies being won by Laura Shewbridge of Colchester Harries and her teammate Ramadam Osman winning the men's.

As we have seen over the last couple of year's making both the 5k and 10k track champs a mid week race has been a great success.

Inter county results for this year for Essex is as follows:

U13 Boys – 1 st	U13 Girls – 3 rd	Combined team – 1 st
U15 Boys		Combined team – 1 st
U17 Men – 1 st	U17 Women – 1 st	Combined team – 1 st
U20 Men		Combined team – 1 st
Southern Seniors		
Men – 1 st	Woman – 3 rd	Combined team – 1 st
Eastern seniors		
Men – 1 st	Women – 2 nd	Combined team – 1 st
U17 Men – 1 st		
UK CAU		
Men – 2 nd	Women – 4 th	Combined team – 2 nd

A thank you to all the officials, host clubs and team managers for their help and assistance throughout the year.

Race Walking –

The Essex 10k walking championships were held in conjunction with the Enfield 1-hour race at Lee Valley.

Winners for Essex were Melanie Peddle of Loughton who completed 9,624m within the time limit and Stuart Bennett of Ilford completing 9,400m.

Conclusion –

Thank you, this year, to our president Andy Catton for his work throughout the year. Gerry O'Doherty will take over the honour for 2020.

A big thank you also to all the volunteers we have in Essex that helps athletics within the county run smoothly. Without this dedication we would not be able to hold the events that we do.

It is with pleasure that I submit this report to the AGM.

Proposed by: R. Dawson

Seconded by: J. Cork

The meeting thanked Claire Levey (Correspondence Secretary) and Malcolm Bailey (Minute Secretary) for their work on behalf of the County during the year.

7. Election of Officers and Executive Committee

a) The President: Andy Catton was thanked for his work & support of the County Association during the year. He was unable to attend the meeting and he will be presented with a plaque at the first opportunity in recognition of his services to the County.

It was mentioned that Andy had only missed two County events during the year. An incredible achievement as there is a number of events which take place covering Track & Field, Cross County and Road Running.

Gary Chandler presented the incoming President, Gerry O'Doherty with the Chains of Office.

b) President Elect: The Chair advised the meeting that Brigid Wallen has been proposed to take over this role, which she has accepted.

Proposed by A. Gillan

Seconded by J Cork

Gerry O'Doherty presented Brigid Wallen with the President Elect Chains of Office.

c) Life Vice Presidents & Life membership:

Life memberships were awarded to the following for their services to the County over a number of years:

- Peter Cassidy
- Dave Ainsworth
- Ron Dawson
- Paul Merrywest

Plaques were presented to all four by Gerry O'Doherty

A further Life membership has been supported by the Committee to Dave Staines. As he was unable to attend the meeting, the plaque will be presented to him at the first available opportunity.

Proposed by A. Gillan

Seconded by: P Cassidy

d) Treasurer: G Chandler has expressed his willingness to continue as Treasurer.

Proposed by: R Pearce

Seconded by: J Cork

e) Secretary: Role is split with C Levey taking responsibility for secretarial correspondence and other related matters and M Bailey as minute secretary. Both have indicated their willingness to continue in these roles.

Proposed by: J Cork

Seconded by: B Wallen

f) Chair: D Staines had advised the committee that after a number of years in the role that he wished to step down. He has been a fantastic ambassador for the County and in recognition of his service a presentation of a commemorative glass vase will be made to him at the first available opportunity.

Andy Catton, who was unable to attend the meeting has expressed his willingness to take over as Chair. There were no other nominations and Andy was duly elected.

Proposed by G O'Doherty

Seconded by: B Wallen

g) Vice Presidents/Life Members: The following were elected (elect 6)

The following are agreeable to remain on the committee - J Tierney, R Pearce, K Merrywest and J Weir. There are two vacancies on the Executive Committee from this group of members.

It was proposed that the two vacancies are filled by Paul Merrywest and Ron Dawson.

Proposed by: G Chandler

Seconded by P Cassidy.

h) Members of the Executive Committee (20 +1 Essex Schools representative)

L Bates

P Bates

P Cassidy

A Gillan

D Staines

M Gillard

K Palmer

L Williams

M Bailey

P Mingay

D Wooller

M Emms

N Burston

J Cork

K Thornton

C Akehurst

R Casey (Schools representative)

Witham RC proposed that Scott Darney be elected to the committee which was welcomed by those present.

(There are three vacancies on the Executive committee under this category)

Proposed by: J Weir

Seconded by R Dawson

i) Honorary Auditors: R Silk has expressed his willingness to continue as Honorary Auditor.

Proposed by: G Chandler

Seconded by: C Levey

j) Honorary Trustees: K Merrywest, R Pearce, J Weir

Proposed by: P Merrywest

Seconded by: C Levey

7) Presentation of Trophies (all presented by the incoming President, Gerry O'Doherty unless otherwise stated)

Anna Neagle Trophy for Senior & Under 20 Women at Track & Field, Road & Cross Country. Winners Chelmsford.

George Holroyd Trophy for Under 13 Girls at Track & Field & Cross Country. Winners Basildon.

Joe King Trophy for Under 17 Women at Track & Field & Cross Country. Winners Basildon.

