



Essex County Athletic Association

Minutes of the Track & Field Sub Committee Meeting held on Monday 2nd March 2020 at 19:30 hours in the clubhouse of Chelmsford Athletic Club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford.

Present:

Andy Catton (Chair), Malcolm Bailey (Minute Secretary), Tony Cheatham (Eastern), Kaye Merrywest, Paul Merrywest, Keith Palmer, Darren Priestley (Havering AC), Karl Sumun (Thurrock Harriers), John Weir (Chelmsford AC), Diane Wooller.

1. Apologies for Absence

Claire Levey, Gerry O'Doherty

2. Meeting Managers Report – Indoor Championships 2020

Tony Cheatham commented that the weekend went well with not too many issues being raised.

There were complaints that the U15 girls Long Jump clashed with the first round of their sprints. Competitors were advised to report to both events but it is an UKA rule at Championship events that once a round of jumps has been completed that an athlete cannot go back and ask for their jump to take place in that round. A potential solution to timetabling was discussed but with 50% of entries for the championships being received in the last couple of days it is difficult to gauge what the number of competitors will be in each event when the timetabling is being scheduled.

It was asked whether the closing date could be brought forward so additional time for timetabling could be found, but this would not be possible. There have been complaints in the past that the current closing date is too early!

Other issues:-

- County are unable to accept Credit Card payments for programmes, only cash.
- Athletes are still not reporting for their events, despite the various notices that are sited around the arena and that in the written instructions sent to the competitors before the event it asks them to do so.
- Some confusion with competitors not realising they had won a medal in the Essex Champs. As an example competitors who finished an event outside of the top three did not realise that some of them ahead were just competing in the Eastern Championships.
- Rules for U13 & U15 – one false start is allowed although not for U17 and above. One race had to be rerun.

A parent had requested a refund of their child's entry fee as they had not completed all the rounds in their event. This request was declined as it would create precedence for requests from other competitors including those that did not turn upon the day of their event.

There was a complaint that, due to the adverse weather conditions (Storm Ciara) the championships on the Sunday were not cancelled. A number of events took place around the country that day and it was felt that each person should consider whether or not they could safely travel to the venue. A response was sent by Andy Catton to the person concerned. There were very few competitors that did not turn up on the day. Logistically, it would be very difficult to contact all competitors.

The Chief Starter sent an email to Diane Wooller with some observations about the event:-

- He felt that the day went well;
- Raised some concerns that occasionally announcements for the names of the starters for an event and winners of the medals from events that had been completed were taking place at the same time. This prompted some debate.
- Some spectators were watching the Long Jump down the back straight. Programme states that this should not be happening although the feeling of this meeting that this was not a major issue as this did not interfere with the racing on the track.

A number of positive comments were made by parents and officials about how well the event was organised.

There was a request that next year, rather than the first three in each semi final progressing through to the final that it is the first two and then the two fastest losers. This was agreed.

3. Championship Secretaries Report for the Indoor Championships

Entries up, on the previous year. Although the number of boys entering the U13 championships was down. It was mentioned that the Championships may be seen by some parents as an event for the elite runners, which should not be the perception.

No late entries were accepted which helped the smooth running of the championships.

4. Medal Presentations at Championships

Gerry O'Doherty wanted to raise this subject but unfortunately was unable to attend the meeting. There was a debate as to whether medal presentations podium ceremonies should continue with athletes collecting their medals from a central desk once the results have been announced. This happens at other events. It was agreed to defer this until the next Executive committee meeting which is being held on Monday 6th April.

5. Multi – Events – Thurrock 26th April 2020

Entries open with ten received to date. Entries close on 6th April. In the past, a significant number of entries are received during the last few days before the closing date.

The track at Thurrock has been awarded Level 1 'TrackMark' which is deemed acceptable for County competitions.

6. Outdoor 2020 County Track & Field Championships

Entries are now open with about fifty received to date. Like the Multi-Events around 50% of entries are received in the last few days.

The track at Chelmsford has been fully accredited 'TrackMark' status.

Keith Palmer confirmed that Licences and First Aid have been organised.

Some concern was raised that the supplier of the merchandise clothing was only able to attend one rather than both days of the Indoor Championships. Reassurance was sought that they would be in attendance for both days of the Outdoor Championships. Whilst this cannot be given, County has an extremely good working relationship with this supplier and we would not want to change unless they gave us very good reason to do so. The supplier does leave samples of the clothing together with their cards so it can be ordered on line, if necessary.

7. Relays – Chelmsford 26th June 2020.

Licences and First aid have been organised. This year refreshments will be provided to all officials.

8. County Track 5k & 10k Championships

Braintree Leisure Centre is currently working towards 'TrackMark' status. Gary Chandler is organising both the 5k & 10k track events and details will be published shortly.

9. Trackmark

A facilities update that has been produced by England Athletics will be sent to all club secretaries with these minutes by way of a separate attachment.

10. 2021 Indoor Track & Field Championships

Paul Merrywest has contacted BUCS to ask them when they are planning to hold their 2021 championships in order that the date for the Essex County & Eastern Counties Indoor Track & Field Championships can be agreed.

(The following day, Paul received a response – 19-21 February; so it is proposed that the Essex/Eastern Championships are held over the weekend 13/14th February 2021.)

11. Any Other Business

There is a possibility that the Essex School's Multi events championships may be moved from Brentwood to Thurrock.

Meeting finished at 21:00

Summary of Actions

Item	Action	By Whom
4	Medal Presentation at Championships - To be placed onto agenda for next Executive committee meeting in April	Minute secretary

