



Essex County Athletic Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Essex County Athletic Association held on Monday 7th December 2020 via Teams Microsoft on line platform.

Present:

Andy Catton (Chair Essex AA and Ilford AC) Claire Levey (Hon. Secretary Essex AA & Ilford AC)
Gary Chandler Allison Gillan Alistair Gillan (Springfield Striders),
Diane Wooller Chris Akehurst , Paul Mingay (Colchester Harriers AC),
Kaye Merrywest (Life Vice President), Paul Merrywest (Championship Secretary),
Ray Pearce (Life Member - Southend AC) June Cork Ron Dawson Mathew Gillard (Southend AC),
Keith Palmer, Peter Cassidy Melanie Peddle (Loughton AC), Linda Bates Peter Bates (Pitsea RC),
Peter Eates (Phoenix Striders), Malcolm Bailey (Tiptree Road Runners & Mid Essex Casuals) ,
Gerry O'Doherty (Billericay Striders), Brigid Wallen Scott Darney (Witham RC),
Jean Tierney (Havering AC) , Roy Perrott (Orion Harriers)

Before the start of the meeting Andy Catton paid tribute to two loyal and committed committee members who sadly passed away during the year. David Staines (who was the Chair of Essex AA for a number of years) and Mike Emms. Both will be sorely missed. In their memory all those present at the virtual AGM remembered them acknowledging their contribution to development of athletics in the County by way of a one minute's silence.

1. Apologies for Absence

John Weir, Nick Burston

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last AGM held on 2nd December 2019 were approved as a true record of that meeting with the addition that Keith Palmer did attend the meeting. His name was omitted, in error, from the list of attendees.

Proposed by: Claire Levey

Seconded by: Ray Pearce

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Presentation of the Accounts (Gary Chandler). Financial accounts will be send out by way of a separate email to all club secretaries.

Overall Position

A year of two halves financially for the county – everything normal up until the road relays in March and then nothing for the second half of the year.

This makes drawing comparisons from prior years pretty pointless (and to some degree impossible) but not unexpectedly we have for the 4th consecutive year dipped into our funds, this year by just over £2200.

This figure is substantially less than I originally feared when the prospect of no outdoor T&F championships this Summer meant losing 2/3rds of our annual revenue. But at the same time we also saw some of our major outgoings disappear (i.e. supporting our athletes represent the county in regional, national and inter county events).

So, all things considered, I am reasonably happy on where we landed for 19/20 but with a word of caution as I look forward to 20/21 and the realization that we are still struggling to put on events and any that we can successfully host will inevitably cost a lot more to do so.

Championships

The outdoor T&F championships were completely cancelled this year losing the county its usual £6k+ in net revenue.

The indoor T&F championships saw us return to a small net profit from last year where we made a loss. Careful consideration will be needed on the finances for this coming year if any sort of Indoor championships is to go ahead.

Cross country numbers look a bit odd but that is down to the lack of any XC relays in the year (this being our traditional main income generator during the XC season).

Road championships, at least financially, were unaffected this year. We have just two revenue generating events (the Essex 20 and the road relays) and both took place in early March before the lockdown. The increase in net revenue is entirely down to the road relays, which, despite the move from the previous popular Harwich location, went from strength to strength at the new Colchester venue.

Expenses

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

1. Equipment purchases included 3 new laptops for the T&F, XC and Road secretaries at £350 each, a new county gazebo and a replacement portable PA system when the previous one died.
2. The £600 website cost was the extremely well received Matt Yates interview, which continued Essex's prominence in promoting county athletics via online media.

Balance Sheet

The balance sheet is all pretty self-explanatory.

Stock balances at year-end of vests and medals have been affected by the lack of events but the cash in the bank remains healthy.

Summary

The county continues to thrive financially. My thanks again to Rodney Silk, our honorary auditor, who audited the accounts in record time this year (one of the benefits of lockdown).

Proposed by: Allison Gillan Seconded by: Ray Pearce

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

Firstly, a thank you again for all those attending tonight in these strange circumstances that we find ourselves in. Due to the current situation and the lack of athletics this year, this may be the shortest Secretary's report in Essex history!!

Cross Country –

Since the last AGM and prior to the country going into lockdown in March unfortunately not many races took place but I would like to say a well done to Adam Hickey on winning the Southern Counties cross country at Parliament Hill in January.

A thank you also to Basildon for hosting the U17/U20 and seniors cross country at Gloucester Park in January. It was a win for Aaron Samuel of Ilford in the MU17's; with the woman's race being won by Abigail Ives from Basildon. Team events were won by Ilford in the men's and Basildon in the Woman's.

The women under 20's race were won by Kate O'Neil from Havering whilst Leon Wheeler from Thurrock took victory in the men's race. The ladies team event was won by Havering, with the men from Basildon taking the title.

Moving on to the Senior woman the title for 2020 was taken by Jess Judd and the men by Adam Hickey. The woman's team event was close but won in the end by VPH &TH AC, with Havering running away with the men's title.

Road Running –

Again, due to CoVid a limited number of races have taken place, but we did manage to hold the Road relays at Colchester the Sunday before the first lockdown.

The men's race was won by Ilford with the men's vets' race being won by Colchester Harriers. Springfield Striders won the ladies title.

Prior to the relays the Essex 20 also took place once again at Rochford which as always was a great race. The men's title was won by Paul Molyneux of Springfield with Emma Prideux of Billericay taking the ladies title.

Track and Field –

Essex indoor champs were able to go ahead in February at Lee Valley along with the Eastern Counties which was a good event and went well. Thank you to everybody who helped and assisted in making this a successful event.

As we know the decision was made to cancel all other championships this year but hopefully restrictions will ease, and we will be able hold both indoor and outdoor championships in 2021.

Conclusion –

At this point I would also like us to think of those families that have lost loved one this year, some of which were involved heavily in Essex athletics.

A special thought to the families of Dave Staines, Mike Emms and Andy Green who have all sadly passed away this year.

Thank you to Gerry O’Doherty who’s presidential year has been a very different one to the normal, so I am very happy to say that Gerry will continue as president for 2021.

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

Proposed by: Brigid Wallen

Seconded by: Ray Pearce

6. Election of Officers and Executive Committee

a) The President:

Gerry O’Doherty

b) President Elect:

Brigid Wallen

Prior to the meeting a proposal had been endorsed by the committee to re-elect both Gerry and Brigid for a further term of one year due to the impact of COVID-19 on championship events around the County. Both office holders had only undertaken limited duties and it was felt that they should be elected for a further one year in post.

Proposed by Claire Levey

Seconded by Andy Catton

c) Life Vice Presidents & Life membership:

A Life membership was awarded to Gary Chandler for his services to the County over a number of years.

Proposed by Brigid Wallen

Seconded by: Claire Levey

d) Treasurer:

Gary Chandler

e) Secretary:

Role is split with Claire Levey taking responsibility for secretarial correspondence and other related matters and Malcolm Bailey as minute secretary.

f) Chair:

Andy Catton

g) Vice Presidents/Life Members: (elect 6)

Jean Tierney, Ray Pearce, Kaye Merrywest, John Weir, Paul Merrywest and Ron Dawson.

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

Linda Bates
Peter Bates
Peter Cassidy
Allison Gillan
Alistair Gillan
Mathew Gillard
Keith Palmer
Lance Williams
Malcolm Bailey
Paul Mingay
Diane Wooller
Nicola Burston
June Cork
Chris Akehurst
Scott Darney
Richard Casey (Schools representative)

A proposal had been received to elect Melanie Peddle to the committee which was welcomed by all those present. Melanie Peddle was duly elected.

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

Election of Officers for the roles from item 6d) to 6h) were proposed and seconded by:-

Proposed by: Gerry O'Doherty Seconded by Brigid Wallen

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

Proposed by: Gary Chandler Seconded by: Claire Levey

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

Proposed by: Paul Merrywest Seconded by: Claire Levey

7. Election of Officers for Executive Committee:

a) **Track & Field Championship Secretary:** Kaye Merrywest & Paul Merrywest

b) **Track & Field Secretary:** Position vacant

c) **Track & Field Managers:**

Senior Men: Position vacant
Senior Women: H Nicholas & J Ryan
U15 Girls: I Pike

U17 Women: I Pike
U20 Women: I Pike
U15 Boys and U20 Men: Position vacant
U17 Men: J Clatworthy
U13 Boys: K Sumon
U13 Girls: Position vacant

Andy Catton thanked Keith Palmer on behalf of himself and the committee for three decades of tireless work on behalf of the County. Keith is remaining on the committee but has decided to step down at this AGM as Track & Field Secretary and men's senior team manager.

d) Cross Country Secretary: Allison Gillan

e) Cross Country Team Managers

Male: P Bailey
Female: P Oatham

f) Road Running Secretary and Team Manager: Gary Chandler

g) Race Walking Secretary: Melanie Peddle

h) Race Walking Association Rep. Melanie Peddle

i) Eastern Region AA Rep.: Diane Wooller

j) England Athletics London Region representative: Paul Merrywest

k) England Athletics Eastern Region representative: Andy Catton

l) Officials Secretary: Diane Wooller

m) Championships Record Secretary:

Track & Field - Paul Merrywest & Kaye Merrywest
Endurance: Paul Mingay

n) Trophy Secretary: Position vacant

o) Schools Liaison Rep.: Richard Casey

p) Welfare Officers

Jean Tierney & Malcolm Bailey

Election for the roles from item 7a) to 7p) were proposed and seconded by:-

Proposed by: Andy Catton Seconded by Claire Levey

Except 7g) and 7h)

Proposed by Peter Cassidy Seconded by David Ainsworth

8. England Athletics Volunteer award winners from Essex :-

From the East region:

Run leader of the year - Sam Holmes (Basildon)

Volunteer of the year - Peter Gooding (Harwich)

From the London region:

Official of the year – runner up Tamsin James

Services to Athletics and Running – Joint winners Keith Hopson and Don Blackett. Runner up Jean Burgess

Young volunteer of the year – Samuel Wintle

(All the above represent Woodford Green AC & Essex Ladies)

Volunteer of the Year (runner up) – Bill Green (Ilford AC)

9) 2021 Essex County XC Championships

Due to the current COVID restrictions, it is currently only planned to hold a championship for the age ranges U13 to U20. Regrettably, despite considering every available option there will not be a championship event for Seniors or Vets.

The event is being hosted by Chelmsford AC. To date, 42 entries have been received.

It has been a frustrating and difficult year with a number of planned events being cancelled.

10) 2021 Indoor Track & Field Championships

Still very uncertain whether these will take place due to the Covid restrictions.

There was a vote of thanks to Andy Catton for chairing the meeting and his work on behalf of the County during the year.

Andy Catton wished to record his thanks for the support of the committee during this difficult pandemic year and especially to the members of the 'emergency executive committee' who have had to meet virtually every month to deal with essential county business.

Meeting concluded at 8.14pm