



Essex County Athletic Association

Minutes of the Essex AA Executive meeting held remotely via Microsoft Teams Video on Monday 11th January 2021 at 19:30 hours

Participants:

Andy Catton (Chair), Gary Chandler (Treasurer), Claire Levey (Secretary), Gerry O'Doherty (President), Brigid Wallen (President Elect), Malcolm Bailey (Minute Secretary), Ray Pearce, Kaye Merrywest, Paul Merrywest, Diane Wooller, Scott Darney, Linda Bates, Peter Bates, Chris Akehurst, Paul Mingay, Ron Dawson.

Apologies for Absence

Matt Gillard, Melanie Peddle, Jean Tierney.

1. Minutes of the last meeting of 9th November 2020

The minutes of the meeting on Monday 9th November 2020 were **approved** as a true record of that meeting.

Proposed: Ray Pearce Seconded: Claire Levey

2. Matters Arising from last meeting

Agenda Item	Matter	Update
10	Volunteer sought to take over as Essex Senior Team Manager and Track & Field Secretary	See minutes below.

- Annual General Meeting held on 7th December 2020

The following were inadvertently not recorded in the minutes at last month's Annual General Meeting for which apologies are given:-

- Cathy James who after five years fantastic support as U13 girls Track & Field manager stepped down from the role at the AGM. Many thanks to Cathy for all her hard work supporting the county during her time in this role which is fully appreciated by everyone on the committee.
- Welcome to Melanie Peddle who has volunteered to take over the role(s) of Race Walking Secretary and Race Walking Association representative, who is also joining the committee.

There are a few vacancies on the committee and for various key roles supporting County athletics. Gary Chandler has advertised these on the County Facebook site and it is pleasing to note that within a couple of hours of posting this, interest has already been expressed. These will be reviewed at the next Committee meeting.

These roles are:-

- **Track & Field Secretary**
- **Track & Field Managers**
Senior Men
U15 Boys and U20 Men
U13 Boys
- **Trophy Secretary**
- **Executive Committee (three vacancies)**

3. Treasurers matters

Gary Chandler reported that there was just one item transacted through the County bank account during the month which was a payment of £15 received from Phoenix Striders (“PS”). PS have already paid their 20/21 affiliation fee and it is suspected that this may be an overpayment. The club are asked to contact Gary to confirm and if so, request a refund.

4. Correspondence

Nothing to report.

- Club & Committee Register Changes

A nomination has been received to co-opt Gary Floate (Ilford AC) onto the Executive committee. Proposed: Claire Levey Seconded: Andy Catton.

This was passed unanimously by all those that attended the meeting.

5. Networking

Nothing to report.

6. England Athletics Regional Reports

London – Next meeting to take place at the end of January.

The London Regional Council will be hosting an Open Forum for London based Athletics and Running clubs on Wednesday 27 January starting at 7pm.

The session will be held over the Zoom platform and last for approximately 90 minutes with **pre-registration essential**.

Registration Link:

https://englandathletics-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEtcuqgpz8oE9TpkobTaDNoVbIYcByNU_g3

The evening will be hosted by the London Regional Council and briefly update on some key generic topics including the upcoming Council elections before splitting the Forum into 2 breakout rooms covering the themes below:

Theme 1: Facilities, funding and maintenance. The England Athletics Facilities Manager Ed Hunt will join us for this session to help facilitate the discussion and answer any questions.

Theme 2: Cross Country Equal Opportunities Consultation. The recently published consultation by British Athletics has generated significant feedback so far and we know club members are keen to discuss this further and have their views put forward as part of the overall process. Dave Clarke from the London Council and Chair of Hercules Wimbledon will facilitate this breakout room and ensure feedback is submitted as part of the overall process. We would ask everyone who is interested in this session to read the statement released earlier today <https://www.uka.org.uk/news/news-and-features/joint-statement-regarding-the-consultation-into-equal-opportunities-in-cross-country/>

We aim to record the forum to ensure any key points can be followed up and the Cross Country discussion can be shared in full with British Athletics as part of the full consultation process.

Prior to the event everyone who registers will be asked to select the theme they want to discuss and they will be pre-registered into the relevant breakout room.

East – Club Forum event to take place on Monday 25th January 2021 – see details below (also posted on the County facebook site)

“East Regional Council – Club Forum (held via Zoom)

Monday 25th January – 19:00 – 20:30

Join the East Regional Council for an interactive club forum, where the key focus will be the upcoming regional council elections along with how England Athletics can support your club and members right now and in the future.

- Find out more about becoming a regional councillor and how to apply. It’s a unique and rewarding role with the opportunity to help shape athletics and running, both now and in the future, and we’re looking for new councillors to join us.

You can read more about the Regional Elections here -

<https://www.englandathletics.org/about-us/board-and-national-council/regional-council-elections-2021/>

The forum will also include sections on how to help your club and members right now and in the future.

- Support available from England Athletics including the Club Support Fund
- Latest guidance relating to Covid-19 and how to keep your club members and volunteers engaged – an interactive session
- The England Athletics Strategy – A key points summary

And we plan to conclude with a little light at end of the tunnel.

- How planning is coming together for the Commonwealth Games ?

We are thinking that 50% of the forum time will be used to communicate the information and the other 50% answering questions and discussing.

If a particular topic needs further discussion then we will endeavour to research and provide further forums as needed.

To register for the event, please click on the link below.

When: Jan 25, 2021 07:00 PM London

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://englandathletics-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwvde-ppjkhH9PeEQGoDLzI3L0OPIkwI7GC>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you there.

The East Regional Council”

7. Track & Field

2021 Indoor Track and Field championships have been cancelled

It is hoped that the Outdoor championships which are scheduled to take place over the weekend 8/9 May 2021 will still go ahead but this will be subject to any Government restrictions that are in place at that time.

Andy Catton is to arrange a ‘virtual meeting’ for all clubs that compete in Track & Field events which he hopes will take place during February. Andy will contact all relevant clubs to invite them to the meeting.

8. Cross Country

Due to the current Government restrictions there will not be any Cross Country events taking place this season.

9. Road Running

The Road relays that normally take place in March this year have been cancelled.

Essex 20 – It is now planned to hold this event during August.

Gary Chandler advised that he has contacted all the clubs that are scheduled to host a County road Championship event.

Update as follows (subject to restrictions in force at the time of the event):-

Witham 10 – A decision has not been taken as to whether this event will take place. Date of race – 2nd May

Halstead Marathon – this has been cancelled. County are seeking an alternative host (Brigid Wallen to follow up)

Pleshey 5 – A decision has still to be taken whether this event will take place

Pleshey Half marathon – planned for 19th September

Chelmsford 10k – planned for 21st November

10. Trophies

Nothing to report.

11. Walking

Nothing to report.

12. Officials

Diane Wooller has contacted a number of officials seeking their availability for the Outdoor T& F champs. So far, a good response has been received.

13. Schools

Nothing to report.

14. Any Other business

A suggestion had been received that County consider hosting an 'inter- club' virtual competition. Whilst there was not a great deal of appetite for this from those present at the meeting the idea was not dismissed and Scott Darney agreed to research this proposal further. It will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

It was reported that Lloyd Cowan former coach to Christine Ohuruogu had sadly passed away. Our thoughts and sincere condolences are with his family and friends.

Sue Deaves received a MBE in the 2021 New Years Honours list for services to athletics. She has officiated at a number of athletics track and field events that have taken place in Essex. Andy Catton is to write to congratulate her on her award.

Summary of Actions

Agenda Item	Matter	By Whom
2	Vacancies on the Executive Committee and Team Manager roles	Advertised on the County facebook site; Nominations to be considered at the next meeting
3	Potential overpayment by Phoenix Striders of their 2020/21 affiliation fee	Club to contact Gary Chandler
7	Track & Field meeting to be arranged to take place during February 2021	Andy Catton
9	Contact a potential host for the Essex Marathon	Brigid Wallen
14	Consider the proposal to host a virtual inter club County event. Further research to be undertaken.	Scott Darney
14	Write to Sue Deaves to congratulate her on receiving an MBE in the 2021 New Year Days Honours list	Andy Catton

Meeting finished at 20:26

Draft Agenda for the AGM to be held via Microsoft Teams on Monday 1st March 2021 Start time 7.30pm

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the previous meeting – 11th January 2021
3. Matters Arising
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Correspondence
Club & Committee Register Changes
6. Networking
7. Regional Reports
8. Track & Field
9. Cross Country
10. Road running
11. Trophies
12. Walking
13. Officials
14. School's Liaison
15. Any other business