



Essex County Athletic Association

Minutes of the Essex AA Executive meeting held in the clubhouse of Chelmsford Athletic club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford on Monday 4th July 2022 at 19:30 hours.

Participants:

Andy Catton (Chair), Gerry O'Doherty (President), Allison Gillan (President Elect), Gary Chandler (Treasurer), Malcolm Bailey (Secretary), Chris Akehurst, Ray Pearce, John Weir, Jean Tierney, Michael Wilson, Paul Mingay, Susan Edwards, Scott Darney, Hayley Pegg.

1. Apologies for Absence

Paul Bailey, Claire Levey, Nick Burston, Ron Dawson, Kaye Merrywest, Paul Merrywest, Diane Wooller, Linda Bates, Peter Bates, June Cork

2. Minutes of the last meeting of 6th June 2022

The minutes of the meeting on Monday 6th June 2022 were **approved** as a true record of that meeting, although it was noted that the date of the minutes was recorded as 7th June and not the correct date of 6th June.

An email was received from Geraldine Heapy, Chair, Thurrock Harriers.

Geraldine had read the minutes of our meeting of 6th June and wished to clarify a few issues in connection with the comments recorded about the 2022 Multi Events Championships.

The reasons why they had declined to host this event was they were unable to support it on the date proposed (no flexibility). They are a small club with limited volunteers. Both of their high level field judges were unavailable. They are working hard to ensure that other volunteers are familiar with track preparation process so that the situation does not arise again.

Also they wished to clarify that the grant provided by County was to support the purchase of a cover for the second high jump mat and not the mat itself.

They believe that with more advance notice with a date for these championships, they will do their utmost to host the championships in 2023

We have apologised to Thurrock Harriers for the factual errors in our last minutes.

Proposed: Ray Pearce

Seconded: Allison Gillan

3. Matters Arising from last meeting.

Agenda Item	Matter	Update
3	Volunteer sought for County Race Walking Secretary	This is still outstanding. A Track & Field committee meeting is being arranged and this will be discussed at that meeting.
3	Volunteers sought to take over the role of County Officials Secretary From 2023. Role could be split – Track & Field and Endurance	As matter above. All track & field club secretaries will be contacted shortly by Andy Catton to announce the date for a meeting which will be held, virtually.
6	Sportshall Final	Report received.
7.	England Athletics East Regional Council	Contact subsequently made after this meeting and copies of minutes will be sent to all club secretaries.
7	England Athletics East Regional Council	Volunteer still sought to become Essex representative at East Regional meetings
8.	Track & Field subcommittee meeting	Date to be arranged – letter to be sent to all club secretaries within the next few days.
8	Consider the following: - Payment of Expenses (mileage) to Officials and Volunteers at County Events Payment of a Meal allowance instead of providing a lunch to Officials at events Cover costs of Officials Uniform (Once they have attended a certain number of events)	Agreed – see agenda item 8 below.

4. Treasurer's Report

Gary Chandler reported that:-

- The £500 grant from England Athletics to support the costs of hosting the 2022 Outdoor Track & Field Championships has been received;
- Likely to incur an overall loss of circa. £1k at the Multi Events Championships;
- Anticipated that the profit from the Outdoor Championships will be around £6.5 to £7k. This is up on last year, despite the fact that we did not sell programmes this year;
- 5km track championships – still waiting the invoice from the Chelmsford centre to hire the venue but it is anticipated that we would incur a loss.

Discussion followed about the difficulties that athletes/clubs have experienced trying to use the Open Track system (there was also significant problems at the Outdoor Championships). This will be debated at the forthcoming Track & Field meeting but it has been agreed that this system is not fit for purpose. Other Counties have also experienced similar problems.

Our numbers at the 5km track championships were significantly down. The last time it was held it was sold out (180 entrants) but only 65 entered in 2022. It was commented that entries have been down at most events in 2022. Question was asked whether we could invite other Counties to take part but it was felt that we had sold out in previous years' and that we could do so again. We will advertise these championships more in future years.

5. a) Correspondence

As noted in last month's minutes, correspondence had been received from David Hollingsworth, Club Secretary at Woodford Green AC with Essex Ladies. They had feedback their dissatisfaction about certain aspects of the recent County Outdoor Championships; in particular the ruling around the awarding of County medals where there were only a few athletes taking part.

Following this meeting, we sent a response to Woodford Green. Whilst we have some sympathy with their views as far as the younger athletes are concerned, we commented that

- The ruling has been in place for a number of years, but had never had any impact previously as numbers were sufficient or standards were far superior;
- Ruling was stated in the entry confirmation information sent to athletes;
- Ruling was in place at this year's Indoor Championships

We explained the mechanism for changing the ruling which is set out in the County's Constitution but that this topic would be an agenda item on the forthcoming track and field meeting.

Woodford Green AC & Essex Ladies acknowledged the response and said that they will endeavour to have someone attend the forthcoming meeting.

b) Club & Committee Changes

Club secretary at Saffron Striders has stepped down from the role. New person has not yet been appointed and we are asked that all email correspondence with the club should be sent to secretary@saffronstriders.org.uk.

6. Networking

Sportshall 2021-22 report – sent as an attachment to these minutes to all club secretaries.

7. Regional Reports

London – Nothing to report.

East – A volunteer is still sought to represent Essex. Minutes from recent meetings will be sent to all club secretaries. They will send us minutes of future meetings but we have been encouraged to appoint a representative from Essex.

8. Track & Field

At our last meeting, it was agreed that we would debate:-

- Payment of expenses (mileage) to officials and volunteer at County events;
- Payment of a meal allowance instead of providing a lunch to officials at events;
- Cover costs of Officials uniform (once they had attended a certain number of events)

Gary Chandler was not able to attend our meeting of 6h June and his views were sought re the proposals.

This item was discussed under item 3 of this agenda (matters arising from the previous meeting)

Gary supported this proposal but asks that all claims are submitted yearly for each discipline as he was concerned about the time it would take to process claims (processing payments through Interbanking can be labourous) if they were submitted after every meeting/event or every month.

However, before this agreed, we need to establish likely cost to the County. Gary has asked that Diane Wooller (Track & Field) and Allison Gillan(Cross Country) to provide him with an indication of likely annual costs.

Discussion at the meeting centred around –

- What mileage rate to pay (amount per mile or a flat rate)
- It was felt that the appropriate meal allowance should be £5
- Officials who attend the Indoor Champs are paid expenses and they would not be able to claim twice

If an official incurred exceptional expenses that we would consider these based upon their merits (as we have done in the past)

An official/volunteer would have the right to decline expenses if they wished.

This would be discussed at our next meeting in September.

9. Cross Country

Dates (**provisional**) for the 2022/23 XC season are as follows

Date	Event	Venue or Host club
24.9.22	Essex XC relays	Weald Park
15.10.22	Essex League XC Event 1	One Tree Hill
12.11.22	Essex League XC Event 2	Orion
26.11.22	Essex League XC Event 3	Writtle University College
3.12.2022	County Vets	Writtle University College
17.12.2022	Essex League XC Event 4	Hockley Woods
7.1.2023	County Champs (all ages)	Gloucester Park, Basildon
28.1.2023	Southern Championships	
11.2.2023	Essex League XC Event 5	Hainault
25.2.2023	National	Leeds

Allison Gillan is currently investigating ways in which we can improve the entry and race experience for runners into the County Cross Country championships.

To reduce the significant paperwork that has been involved in the past, Allison has been looking for a company that could offer both online entries and chip timing. Active Training World (“ATW”) is a company that has been used by County in the past that could offer both.

The system that ATW offers:-

- Online system (that caters for team manager and individual entries)
- Chips are in the numbers – rather than in the shoes
- Start/Finish gantry
- Downloadable certificate for all finishers
- Immediate upload of time to website
- They will sort out all the numbers and race packs.

It will also reduce the number of officials that we need to support the events.

Costing this out together with expenses being paid to officials (see earlier comments – agenda item 8), Allison has suggested an entry fee into the events of £8. This fee is in line with that charged by other counties.

Proposal was well received by the committee and it has been agreed that we would trial this for the forthcoming season championships.

Over the last few seasons, we have used Writtle University College as a venue. This has been provided free of charge but the University has contacted Allison to advise that a fee will be payable going forward. This has been agreed at £300

10. Road Running

Springfield Striders as part of their Friday 5 at Pleshey hosted the five mile County Road Championships on 24th June.

The winners were:-

Ladies – Samantha Bilbie (Springfield Striders) 30:57

Men – Dean Williamson (Colchester Harriers) 24:25 – new course record

Team

Ladies – Colchester Harriers

Men – Braintree AC

First lady to finish was Madeline Baker (Havering); a fantastic run in 30:38 but she did not qualify for the Senior County Championships as she is a junior.

The next County Championship grand prix event is the 10km which is being hosted by Grange Farm & Dunmow runners Sunday 17th July. Entries for this event close on Wednesday 13th July.

Gary Chandler reported that Sussex AA are hosting an Inter County 10km event as part of the Brighton 10km which is being held on 20th November

Essex has been invited to send a team, which we have accepted.

The selection race will be the Billericay 10km. The first three Essex qualified UKA registered finishers (female and male) will automatically be offered selection to represent the County.

Also, Eastern AA is hosting an Eastern Counties 10km event will be part of the Cambridge Town and Gown 10km on October 16th.

The selection race (on the same basis as the Brighton event) will be the Southend 10km which is being held on 18th September.

11. Fell running

Nothing to report.

12. Trophies

Susan Edwards reported that the artist who has been commissioned to produce the Ladies 5km track trophy is working on the plastic mould and it is anticipated that the trophy will be delivered by the end of the year.

13. Walking

Nothing to report.

14. Officials

Nothing to report

15. Schools

The Essex Schools track and field championships took place in June. These were very successful with two sprinters achieving times which have resulted in them being invited to join the English sprinting team.

The English school championships are taking place on 9/10 July at Manchester.

16. Any other business

The entries received for the Track Relays which is being held on Friday 15th July are very disappointing. Closing date is Wednesday 6th July and it has been agreed that if entries into an event are below 6 that particular race will be cancelled, with clubs advised. Part of the problem maybe the problems we have encountered with the Open Track system (which we will not use in the future) and Hayley has been accepting email entries from clubs.

Regrettably it has just been noted that the post of Senior Male Track & Field Manager is vacant. The Inter Counties U20 and Senior Championships are being held on 9th July at Horspath Oxford. Teams for the U20 and Ladies have been selected and Hayley, very kindly at the last minute has been trying to organise a Senior Men's team.

17. Date of next meeting

Monday 5th September – Chelmsford AC Clubhouse – start time 7.30pm

18. Dates for 2022 Essex AA Executive and sub committee meetings

3rd October – Endurance subcommittee

7th November - Executive

5th December – Annual General Meeting

Track & Field subcommittee date still to be arranged.

Time meeting finished 20:42

Summary of Actions

Agenda Item	Matter	Action required	By whom
3	Volunteer sought for County Race Walking Secretary	All clubs to approach their membership to seek a volunteer	All clubs
3	Volunteers sought to take over the role of County Officials Secretary From 2023. Role could be split – Track & Field and Endurance	All clubs to approach their membership to seek a volunteer. Andy Catton to contact clubs to advise them of the date and time for a virtual track & field meeting.	All Clubs Andy Catton
7.	England Athletics East Regional Council	Contact to see whether they have produced any minutes from recent meetings	Andy Catton
7	England Athletics East Regional Council	Volunteer sought to become Essex representative at East Regional meetings	All clubs
8.	Track & Field subcommittee meeting. This is being held virtually.	Date to be arranged	Andy Catton/Malcolm Bailey
8	Consider the following: - Payment of Expenses (mileage) to Officials and Volunteers at County Events Payment of a Meal allowance instead of providing a lunch to Officials at events Cover costs of Officials Uniform (Once they have attended a certain number of events)	To be considered at the next Executive meeting on 5 th September 2022	Added to agenda

Draft Agenda for the next Executive Committee meeting to be held at the clubhouse Chelmsford Athletic Club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford on Monday 5th September 2022 . Start time 7.30pm

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the previous meeting – 4th July 2022
3. Matters Arising
4. Treasurer’s Report
5. Correspondence
Club & Committee Register Changes
6. Networking
7. Regional Reports
8. Track & Field – to include discussion re -
 - Payment of Expenses (mileage) to Officials and Volunteers at County Events
 - Payment of a Meal allowance instead of providing a lunch to Officials at events
 - Cover costs of Officials Uniform (Once they have attended a certain number of events)
9. Cross Country
10. Road running
11. Fell running
12. Trophies
13. Walking
14. Officials
15. School’s Liaison
16. Any other business
17. Date of next meeting – 7th November 2022.

