



Essex County Athletic Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Essex County Athletic Association held in the clubhouse of Chelmsford Athletic club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford on Monday 5th December 2022 at 19:30 hours

Present:

Andy Catton, Claire Levey (Ilford AC) ,Gerry O’Doherty (Billericay Striders), Gary Chandler, Allison Gillan (Springfield Striders), John Weir, Sylvia Sergeant, Philip Sergeant (Chelmsford AC), Diane Wooller, Chris Akehurst, Paul Mingay, Rick Thompson (Colchester Harriers AC), Ron Dawson, Keith Palmer, June Cork (City of Southend AC), Malcolm Bailey (Tiptree Road Runners), Michael Wilson (East London Runners), Vicky Trevor, Elaine Forrest (Brentwood Beagles), Jean Tierney, Doug Tierney (Havering AC), Bob Jousiffe (Orion Harriers), John Clarke (Mid Essex Casuals), Peter Eates (Phoenix Striders), Jon Whitehouse (Loughton AC), Jon Metcalf, Bernie Johnson (Thurrock Harriers AC), Joe Everitt (Woodford Green AC with Essex Ladies) , Liz Stuckley (Witham RC).

1. Apologies for Absence

Kaye Merrywest, Paul Merrywest, Ray Pearce (Vice Presidents/Life members of Essex AA), Linda Bates, Peter Bates (Pitsea RC), Lance Williams (Colchester Harriers AC), Wendy Tydeman (Basildon AC), Susan Edwards (East London Runners), Hayley Hemmings (Chelmsford AC), Paul Bailey (County XC Team Manager).

2. Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the last AGM held on Monday 6th December 2021 were approved as a true record of that meeting.

Proposed: Allison Gillan Seconded: Jean Tierney

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Presentation of the Accounts (Gary Chandler).

Overall Position

A fairly uneventful set of accounts for 21/22 so I'll keep this brief.

Outdoor T&F

The year started slowly with the multi-event championships at Lea Valley. Low athlete numbers and high overheads at Lea Valley saw that championship cost the county almost £1000 to host, something I know the T&F sub-committee is looking at for future years.

After that though, the main champs, 5000m and 10000m evenings, and the relays all did well, leaving an overall surplus of just over £5,600, a figure which is broadly in line with prior years.

Indoor T&F

The indoor champs just about broke even, a £241 profit that was boosted by £198 for official meals we were never billed for. Like the multi-events, with hosting costs across the board anticipated to rise next year, I know the T&F subcommittee have this on their radar.

Cross Country

Overall income from XC slightly down in the past due to the inclusion of 2 relay events in the financial year (October 2021 and September 2022). The former generated a surplus of nearly £500 but the latter an anticipated loss of £900 – the difference wholly down to the switch to chip timing (a move welcomed by runners and officials alike – but that comes with a significant cost).

Road

We used ATW to host the Essex 20 event in 2022. As a result of this, and lower entry numbers due to the London Marathon not being on its usual April date, the event broadly break even for Essex (whereas it had generated around £1500 in past years). In 2023 we have agreed to fully outsource the race to ATW so it will be cost neutral for Essex going forward.

The road relays, at the new venue of the Northern Gateway in Colchester, were extremely successful financially generating around £2000 for the county. All other county road races were cost neutral as hosted by running clubs.

Expenses

All pretty self explanatory, perhaps I'll mention just a couple:

1. Essex AA made a £900 contribution to Essex Athletic Network as in prior years.
2. County team expenses all jumped up again compared to 20/21 as the inter county events reopened post covid.
3. General expenses included the professional valuation of both the Atalanta Trophy (Men's 5000m) and the Essex 20 Men's Trophy at a cost of £215 and the hire of Chelmsford ACs clubhouse throughout the year at a cost of £120.

4. As a result of the valuations, we increased our insurance cover resulting in a 25% increase in premium over last year.

Balance Sheet

Stock levels of vests and medals have been further reduced this year and our multi-year deal with WGEL for photo finish equipment will run out in the coming year, when we will move to a pay as you go system.

Summary

A modest overall surplus of £1,780 for the year.

The coming year's accounts will be interesting, we have since year end committed to a new website design at a cost of £3000+, agreed to pay officials for attending events at a cost of £3000+ a year, agreed to use ATW at the road relays, the Essex 20, the new Essex 5km road champs, and all 3 of our XC events so face the reality of increased costs of hosting events which cannot all be simply passed onto athletes.

Finally, thanks again to Rodney Silk, our honorary auditor, who audits the accounts annually for us.

Proposed by: Gary Chandler Seconded by: Jean Tierney

5. Presentation of Secretary's report.

After two years of cancellations of various County championships due to COVID restrictions it has been great that we have returned to a full timetable of events during 2022.

Firstly, may I thank everyone who has supported an Essex event this year be it as an athlete, team manager, official, volunteer, host club or a spectator. Without this support, the events would not take place.

Special mention must go to those that marshal/volunteer in very poor weather sometimes for hours on end. This was the situation at the XC relays, this year.

OFFICIALS

Diane Wooller has for a number of years taken on the role as the County Officials Secretary. This is a time consuming role and without doubt, Diane has undertaken this with enthusiasm supporting a number of events, not just in Essex but around the Country. A big thank you must go to Diane and her brilliant team of officials for supporting our events during the year.

CROSS COUNTRY

Thank you to Allison Gillian, ably supported by Chris Akehurst, who has superbly led as our XC Secretary during the 2021/22 season. Allison must spend hours organizing these events, for which we are all extremely grateful.

The Cross County relays took place at South Weald Country Park, which was a new venue for these championships. Weather conditions were far from ideal. These took place the same weekend as the London Marathon. Entries were down by 98 from the previous championships to 158 teams. It was the overall verdict of everyone that the event went well. The venue being booked for the 2022/23 championships.

The Vets, U13 & U15 Girls and Boys championships took place at Writtle College. Entries were again down on last time these took place from 714 to 620. Unfortunately, the date clashed with a schools event.

The venue for the Seniors, U17 and U20 Ladies and Men was Gloucester Park, Basildon where entries were marginally down on 2019 from 618 to 592.

Many thanks to clubs Billericay Striders, Springfield Striders and Basildon for hosting these various championships.

Following the events, it was agreed that for the 2022/23 season, various changes would be considered, including the use of chip timing, on line entries, start times for races, U13 and U15's taking place on the same day as the main championships with time limits being set.

TRACK & FIELD

First of all a big thank you to Kaye & Paul Merrywest for organizing the Indoor and to Hayley Hemmings for the Outdoor, Multi Events. 10k and 5k championships. Both Kaye & Paul stepped down from the role of Championship Secretary after a number of years of service to the County. Many thanks for all your efforts and commitment to Essex athletics over the years, which has been appreciated by everyone.

The trend noted in the XC, with falling numbers, mentioned earlier was also evidenced in the various Track & Field Championships.

Probably a number of reasons for this which include a very congested calendar not helped as organizers rearrange dates from cancelled events during Covid.

Indoor championships were held at Lee Valley athletics centre at the beginning of February which incorporated the Eastern Counties. These overall, went very well. Subsequently, consideration was given to condensing these championships into one day. This has been rejected.

The Multi Events championships took place in April and following this meeting, with another low entry it was agreed that we would review whether we could hold these in conjunction with other County/Regional championships. This will be reviewed during the early part of 2023.

Outdoor Championships took place at Chelmsford in May. Following these championships a number of issues were taken forward for debate at a track & field meeting. These have been well documented in minutes that have been posted on the County website and sent to all club secretaries, so I will not go over them again.

An Essex working party group has been set up to consider how to structure and organize all the championships, next year.

Track relays and the 5k and 10k championships all took place at Chelmsford. The common theme of lack of entries was also evident at these events with the 10k only 16 turned up to compete with 15 officials there to support the event!

It is planned to publicize both the 5k and 10k more in 2023 to see whether this generates any additional interest.

ROAD RUNNING

The first two events that took place during the year were at new venues. The Essex 20 was held at Carver Barracks and the Road Relays at the Northern Gateway, Colchester.

The Essex 20 was organized by a professional race management company. This event also included Invitational Inter Counties championships

Both events went extremely well and they will once again be held at these venues in 2023.

Many thanks to Colchester Harriers for hosting the Road relay championships. The race adjudicator was from Suffolk and he was impressed with the venue and he has approached County to ask whether the Suffolk championships could be combined with the Essex event in 2023. This has been agreed.

The full suite of 6 grand prix races took place during 2022.

These were at:-

- 5 miles – Pleshey organized by Springfield Striders
- 10k – Felsted organized by Grange Farm and Dunmow Runners
- 10 miles – Witham organized by Witham Running club.
- Half Marathon – Pleshey – organized by Springfield Striders
- 20 miles – Carver Barracks
- Marathon – Halstead – organized by Halstead Road Runners
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Thank you to the entire host clubs for organizing these very success events.

The overall winners of the grand prix series were

Ladies – Open Heidi Steele-Hogan (Colchester Harriers) Team Colchester Harriers

Male – Open Peter Coates (Witham RC) – Team Springfield Striders

Before I move on I must offer my sincere thanks and appreciation to Gary Chandler for his fantastic work as Road Running Secretary – organizing and supporting Essex Road running throughout the year. He must spend many hours working on the Grand Prix series on behalf of County. This involves, liaising with the host clubs, checking eligibility and maintaining the table. A big thank you Gary for everything you do.

FELL RUNNING

This year, Essex was represented at the Inter Counties Fell Championships. Twenty Counties were represented but there were only two Counties that fielded both a Female and Male team and one of those was Essex. A fantastic achievement. Both teams did extremely well with our teams being made up of principally of Orion Harriers/Springfield Striders runners. Well done to all who took part. There was also a junior taking part as a solo runner and the aim is to send a full team of juniors for next year's championships.

Thank you to Alistair Gillian for organizing the teams.

WALKING

The 10k meters walking championships took place in October at the Queen Elizabeth II Stadium in Enfield. The winners were Ladies Melanie Peddle (Loughton AC) and the Men John Arthur (Ilford AC)

I finish off my report with a big thank you to our Chair, Andy Catton, Treasurer Gary Chandler and everyone on the Executive committee and to those that supported both the Track & Field and Endurance sub committees during the year. Certainly, without your support and dedication, athletics in Essex would not be as strong as it currently is.

Finally a big thank you to Gerry O'Doherty our outgoing President for all his sterling work supporting athletics in the County and attending virtually every County Championship event to award County medals to the successful athletes. Gerry will no doubt hold the distinction of the elected County President for longer than any other holder before him! Thanks to restrictions placed on us by Covid.

Allison Gillan will take over this honour in 2023. I wish her every success during the year.

I suspect that there are numerous successes that I should have covered but have failed to do so, please accept my apologies for any omissions

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

Proposed by: Allison Gillan

Seconded by: Andy Caton

7. Election of Officers and Executive Committee

a) The President:

Allison Gillan

Allison presented a plaque to the outgoing President, Gerry O'Doherty in recognition of his service to the County as President over the last three year (the term was extended due to Covid)

b) President Elect:

Chris Akehurst

Proposed by: Ron Dawson Seconded by: Jean Tierney

c) Life Vice Presidents & Life membership:

Nominations had been received, and supported by the Executive committee, to award a Life membership to the following:-

Gerry O'Doherty in recognition of his long service to athletes in the County,

Proposed by: Andy Catton Seconded by: Malcolm Bailey

Andy presented Gerry with his plaque.

d) Treasurer:

Gary Chandler

e) Secretary:

Malcolm Bailey

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 + Immediate Past President +1 Essex Schools representative)

Claire Levey
Linda Bates
Peter Bates
Keith Palmer
Paul Mingay
Diane Wooller
Nicola Burston
June Cork
Scott Darney
Richard Charleston
Hayley Hemmings
Phil Sergeant
Sylvia Sergeant
Susan Edwards
Rick Thompson
Lance Williams
Michael Wilson
Gerry O'Doherty (see item 10 below)
Hayley Hemmings (Schools representative)

Nomination has been received from Brentwood Beagles to support Elaine Forrest being elected onto the Executive committee. This was unanimously supported by all those present.

Two vacancies – see item 8g below

Election of Officers for the roles from item 7d) to 7h) proposed and seconded by:-

Proposed by: Allison Gillan Seconded by: Andy Catton.

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

Proposed by: Gary Chandler Seconded by: Allison Gillan

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

Proposed by: Claire Levey Seconded by: Ron Dawson

8. Presentation of Trophies

Susan Edwards was unable to attend the meeting and the presentations of trophies were deferred until the next Executive committee meeting in February 2023

9. Election of Officers for Executive Committee:

a) **Track & Field Championship Secretary:** This role is undertaken by a working party group comprising Andy Catton, Rick Thompson, Hayley Hemmings, Scott Darney and Elaine Forrest

b) **Track & Field Secretary:** Hayley Hemmings

Proposed by Allison Gillan Seconded by: Ron Dawson

c) Track & Field Managers:

U13 Boys Paul Cheal

U13 Girls Keith Palmer

U15 Boys Daryl Blows

U15 Girls Ian Pike

U17 Boys Daryl Blows

U17 Girls Ian Pike

U20 Men Susan Edwards

U20 Women Ian Pike

Senior Men June Cork (will select but unable to attend any fixtures)

Senior Women Heidi Nicholas

Jo Ryan

Proposed by Claire Levey Seconded by: Elaine Forrest

d) Cross Country Secretary: Allison Gillan

Proposed by Gerry O'Doherty Seconded by: Ron Dawson

e) Cross Country Team Managers

Male: Paul Bailey

Female: Phil Oatham

Proposed by Ron Dawson Seconded by: Jean Tierney

f) Road Running Secretary and Team Manager: Gary Chandler

Proposed by Claire Levey Seconded by: Jean Tierney

g) Fell Team Manager: One nomination received – John Clarke.

Proposed by Allison Gillan Seconded by: Claire Levey

Unanimously agreed by all those present. By virtue of post John Clarke also nominated onto the Executive committee

g) Race Walking Secretary: Vacant

h) Race Walking Association Rep. Vacant

i) Eastern Region AA Rep.: Diane Wooller

j) England Athletics London Region representative: We had received two nominations for this post. Current holder – Paul Merrywest and Andy Catton.
Following a vote at the meeting, Any Catton was unanimously elected to fulfil this role on behalf of Essex AA.

Malcolm Bailey will write to advise Paul Merrywest and to thank him for his time and energy supporting this role over the last few years

k) England Athletics Eastern Region representative: Vacant

l) Officials Secretary:

Track & Field: Rick Thompson

Endurance: Diane Wooller

Proposed by Claire Levey Seconded by: Chris Akehurst

m) Championships Record Secretary:

Track & Field - Hayley Hemmings

Endurance: Paul Mingay

Proposed by Gerry O’Doherty Seconded by: Chris Akehurst

n) Trophy Secretary: Susan Edwards

o) Schools Liaison Rep.: Hayley Hemmings

p) Welfare Officers

Jean Tierney & Malcolm Bailey

Items o) to p)

Proposed by Allison Gillan Seconded by: Chris Akehurst

10. Review of Essex County Athletic Association Constitution

Two motions have been received to amend the County Constitution.

First motion was proposed by the Executive committee

Paragraph 7. Management

Clause a) i and iii

(Amendments in red)

- i. The officers of the Association, that is to say; The President, The President elect, The Chairperson, **Vice Chairperson**, The Honorary Secretary and The Honorary Treasurer, all of whom shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

- iii) **Nineteen** members representing athletics to be elected by the Clubs at the Annual General Meeting.

Proposed: Jean Tierney Seconded: Allison Gillian

Unanimously agreed by all those present

Proposed by Woodford Green with Essex Ladies

15. Rules Governing Championships

Clause c) to be replaced by the following sentence:

- c) In all championships, Essex County medals shall be awarded to all athletes finishing in first, second and third places

Proposed: Joe Everitt

Seconded: Allison Gillan

This was unanimously approved by all those present.

County Constitution will be updated and sent to all Essex Affiliated clubs.

11. Election of Vice Chair

Following the agreement to amend County Constitution 7) Management

Gerry O' Doherty was proposed by Andy Catton and Seconded by Malcolm Bailey to be elected as Vic Chair of the Association

Unanimously approved by all those present.

12. Dates for 2023 meetings

Date (all Monday's) 2023	Meeting	
30 th January	Endurance	
6 th February	Executive	
13 th March	Track & Field Sub committee	Virtual
3 rd April	Executive	
5 th June	Executive	
3 rd July	Executive	
31 st July	Track & Field Sub committee	Virtual
4 th September	Executive	
2 nd October	Endurance	
6 th November	Executive	
4 th December	AGM	

Meeting ended 20:28.