



Essex County Athletic Association

Minutes of the Essex AA Executive meeting held remotely via Microsoft Teams Video on Monday 2nd November 2020 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), Allison Gillan (XC Secretary), Ray Pearce, Kaye Merrywest, Paul Merrywest, Diane Wooller, Scott Darney, Linda Bates, Peter Bates, June Cork, Chris Akehurst, Jean Tierney, Lance Williams.

Apologies for Absence

Matt Gillard, Richard Casey

1. Minutes of the last meeting of 5th October 2020

One amendment noted:-

Under agenda item 3 - Treasurer's matters; clubs that not paid their affiliation fees. Should read Herts Phoenix and not Hertford & Ware.

Otherwise approved.

Proposed: Allison Gillan Seconded: Ray Pearce

2. Matters Arising from last meeting

Agenda Item	Matter	Update
7.	Are we able to host the 2021 Indoor County Track & Field Championships?	See agenda item 7 below
8	Are we able to host the 2021 XC Championships	See agenda item 8 below

3. Treasurers matters

At the last meeting it was noted that 10 clubs were still to pay their 2020/21 affiliation fees. Since that meeting one club, Roger Runners have advised that they have disbanded. Four clubs still to pay their affiliation fees – Weald Park Warriors, Harlow AC, Rochford Running Club and Victoria Park Harriers & Tower Hamlets AC

We had received 56 entries for the proposed 3k track senior championships due to take place on 15th November. Due to lockdown 2, this event has now been cancelled. It has been agreed to refund all entries fees; we might incur a small loss due to the cost of refunding the fees.

4. Correspondence

Letter received from SEAA. They advise that they were hopeful of staging some Indoor events during the winter, even though it was likely to be for the younger age groups. With the country now in a further lockdown, this ambition has been thrown into doubt. They have provisionally booked Lee Valley for 19/20 December, 16/17 January and 6/7 February. If the Government restrictions and EA guidelines at those times permit, they hope to provide some competition. They wished to confirm and reassure our athletes and officials that they will do their utmost to stage some competition.

- Club & Committee Register Changes

As already advised in these minutes, Roger Runners have disbanded.

5. Networking

Nothing to report.

6. Regional Reports

E-mail received from Nichola Skedgel (Competition Partnerships and Innovations Manager EA) dated 16th October 2020 (although since the latest Government restrictions most of the planned activity has not progressed)

“Cross Country

Pilot dates for cross country being pushed towards the end of October meant that we had to update our guidance to reflect a new ‘return to competition’ date for competition. This meant that the licence application process was delayed, and is due to open on the 19th October, with licensed competition to resume from the 7th November.

We have three pilot competitions planned, 24th October in Croydon, 24th / 25th October in Chelmsford and 31st October in Leicestershire. All have been signed off by the local authority SAG, even though two are to be held on private land.

We have worked closely with UKA to achieve an online cross country licence application process which is now live available for the licence application opening date of the 19th October. The link is below:

<https://www.mysporthost.com/CCEventLicence/>

The Regional Councils have once again supported the implementation of this system and we have a representative from every region assisting with the Cross Country licence applications, so a big thank you to those volunteers for stepping in to volunteer their time and share their expertise.

The role of the Covid 19 Coordinator has now been expanded to include completion of a post event report based purely on the Covid aspects of the competition. The standard post-race returns form will be completed online via a form on the England Athletics website.

Track and Field

The track and field season is still ongoing. Licence applications are reducing however there is still appetite to continue in some areas. With this in mind, in collaboration with Ed Hunt and UKA we have updated the licence application system including guidance regarding floodlighting and competition prior to and after the hours of sunset.

Indoor T & F

Currently working with indoor venues to discuss the approach to indoor competition and what is possible. We are looking to release Indoor guidance W/C 2nd November, with pilot competitions commencing 15th November, and a proposed return to competition from the 5th December. The guidance documentation is still being finalised, and the timeline could change due to Government Guidance.

2021

The ongoing focus on 2021 is to continue partnership working to ensure we work collaboratively towards good competition with an athlete focus. The fixtures forum will take place on the 17th October lead by UKA.

Team

Andy Day and Alison Potts have now returned to work full time”.

Paul Merrywest reported back from the London Regional meeting of England Athletics:-

“A pilot cross country event in Lloyds Park Croydon and a YouTube has been made of the event.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tISpXhpQ8U&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2iAPGAKy1yVqW3tnsvGqAemh1aokAHZkngFNkCGtVRmEhmdWzsbajr6dE>

The meeting debated cross country and the difficulty in finding venues, numbers that can take part, manual/chip timing. Excluding the public if public park. General consensus was that county championships would be difficult because of numbers. There was some confusion as to where permit requests should be sent, whether through regions or direct to Nicola at EA, this to be sorted.”

- England Athletics Volunteer Awards are taking place later this month. There are two potential winners from Essex and Gerry O’Doherty has been nominated to represent the County at the event, which is being held virtually.

7. Track & Field

Following the cancellation of the 2020 3k Track Senior Championships it was agreed that we would not look to rearrange for the time being but might revisit this next year.

Currently, Lee Valley is supportive of us hosting the 2021 Essex Indoor Championships, subject to the restrictions that are in place at the time. A decision to hold these will need to be taken in December so that there is sufficient time to open up entries and decide how the day (Sunday 14th February) will be structured. The only age groups that we might be able to cater are - U13, U15 and U17. The team at Lee Valley will write the Risk Assessment. It is unlikely that a programme will be printed and that all winners' medals will be sent out in the post. Due to the additional costs that will be incurred the entry fee for each event will be higher than in previous years. Potentially, £12 per event. Also, consideration will need to be given to how many events an athlete will be able to enter. This is because it is expected that the number of people allowed in the arena will be limited so athletes will have to leave once their event has finished and not remain if they have entered a later event. Dates for the 2021 Outdoor Track & Field Championships have still to be announced.

8. Cross Country

Allison Gillan had been approached by a company who specialise in organising running events (Active Training World) offering to put on the 2021 XC Championships. We expressed interest in exploring this as a possible avenue for the event. (After the meeting, ATW withdrew their offer as all the potential venues that they were in discussion with have dropped out and not prepared to reconsider until the Spring). Richard Charleston at Chelmsford AC has offered to host an event on the basis that we will only be able to accommodate the junior age groups, U13, U15, U17 and U20's. They are unable to host a Senior event because EA do not issue permits for lapped courses and it would not be possible to map out a suitable one lap course at Writtle. They will utilise the course (3k) which was planned for their relay event, a course that UKA/EA are happy with. This will be a single lap with up to 25 maximum on the start line and the capacity for up to 75 (3 waves) athletes per age group, which is more than any age group had last year.

This will of course be subject to the restrictions in place at the time. Discussions with Richard continue and a decision will need to be made in December as to whether this event can go ahead.

9. Road Running

Nothing to report

10. Preparations for the Essex AA AGM on Monday 7th December

The AGM will be held remotely, via the Microsoft Teams platform. If you wish to attend, please contact Claire Levey at claire.levy@ntlworld.com who will send you an invitation.

Keith Palmer has advised us that he will not be offering to stand as Essex Senior Team Manager and Track & Field Secretary for next season. Keith has undertaken this role for fifteen years during which the County has enjoyed a considerable amount of success. He will be greatly missed in these roles and we wish to thank him for all his hard work over the years. Consequently there is a vacancy for these important and strategic roles. Amongst the duties involved it includes sourcing County vests, obtaining licences for the Track & Field events, booking the stadiums and the organisation of the events. Will all clubs speak to their membership to ask whether they would be prepared to take on these roles.

Those present at the meeting expressed their willingness to continue in their current roles for the next season.

11. Trophies

Nothing to report.

(Although after the meeting we were advised of the sad news that Mike Emms (who was the Trophy secretary) had passed away. See below for an eulogy that has been written about Mike by Gerry O'Doherty)

12. Walking

Nothing to report. Melanie Puddle has offered to take over the role as the County Walking Secretary. This was appreciated by all those present and will be endorsed at the AGM.

13. Officials

Nothing to report

14. Schools

Nothing to report.

15. Any Other business

Brigid Wallen asked whether we could nominate one of our trophies to commemorate Dave Staines. This was strong support for this proposal. Currently, we do not have a trophy for the Boys school track and field (there is one for the girl's school) and this was considered to be an excellent choice, especially as Dave was a Primary School Head teacher.

Summary of Actions

Agenda Item	Matter	By Whom
7	2021 Indoor Track and Field Championships – do we host?	Committee during December
8	2021 XC Championships for U13, U15, U17 and U20's – do we host	Committee during December
10	Volunteer sought to take over the role as Essex Senior Team Manager and Track And Field Secretary	All clubs.

Meeting finished at 20:51

Agenda for the AGM to be held via Microsoft Teams on Monday 7th December 2020. Start time 7.30pm

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the AGM held on 2nd December 2019
3. Matters Arising
4. Presentation of Accounts
5. Presentation of Secretary's Report
6. Election of Officers and Executive Committee:
 - a) The President
 - b) The President Elect – Nominations
(A proposal has been made that the current President and President Elect remain in office for a further year due to the impact of COVID-19 on this year with very limited competition taking place)
 - c) Life Vice Presidents & Life Memberships – Nominations
 - d) Honorary Treasurer
 - e) Honorary Secretary
 - f) Minute Secretary
 - g) Chair
 - h) Vice Presidents/Life Members (Elective 6)
 - i) Members 21 (includes 1 from the Essex County Schools Athletic Association)
 - j) Honorary Auditors
 - k) Honorary Trustees
7. Election of Officers for Executive Committee:
 - a) Track & Field Championship Secretary's
 - b) Track & Field Secretary Track & Field Team Managers
 - c) Cross Country Secretary
 - d) Cross Country Team Managers
 - e) Road Running Secretary
 - f) Walking Secretary
 - g) Race Walking Association Representative
 - h) Eastern Region AA Representative
 - i) Officials Secretary
 - j) Championship Records Secretary
 - k) Trophies Secretary
 - l) School Liaison Representative.
 - m) 2 x Welfare Officers

Mike Emms

Just been informed (by my friend Nigel Burvill) that Mike passed away at noon today in Basildon hospital - he had been in St Luke's in recent weeks. Organ failure was the cause of death.

Mike was 72.

Mike and Nigel started their running careers as 15 years olds with Woodford Green AC - Mike later ran with Havering AC.

Nigel tells me that one of Mike's athletic achievements was running the marathon in the 1974 Commonwealth Trials in Manchester - finishing in 18th place in a time of 2hr 22 (more proof that there were quality runners at club level in the 70's and 80's)

Mike, a very private man never married and is survived by an older sister and younger brother.

A very pleasant man who loved being involved in grassroots athletics.

The last time I met Mike was outside The Bell pub in Horndon at Dave's funeral

May he rest in peace