



Essex County Athletic Association

Minutes of the Essex AA Executive meeting held in the clubhouse of Chelmsford Athletic club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford on Monday 1st November 2021 at 19:00 hours.

Participants:

Andy Catton (Chair), Claire Levey (Secretary), Gary Chandler (Treasurer), Gerry O'Doherty (President), Malcolm Bailey (Minute Secretary), Diane Wooller, Ray Pearce, Paul Mingay, Allison Gillan, Scott Darney, John Weir, Mathew Gillard, Richard Charleston, Jean Tierney, June Cork, Peter Bates, Linda Bates.

1. Apologies for Absence

Brigid Wallen (President Elect), Paul Merrywest, Kaye Merrywest, Susan Edwards, Alistair Gillian, Gary Floate, Ron Dawson, Hayley Pegg, Chris Akehurst.

2. Feedback from Indoor Championships working party group meeting held on 19th October 2021

Copy of the minutes from the working party group attached.

It was acknowledged and appreciated the hard work and enthusiastic support that both Kaye and Paul Merrywest have given over three decades of organising very successful, Indoor and Outdoor track and field County Championships.

A strong view we expressed that we need to support them with the significant administration that is required to organise these championship events for Essex athletes.

Open Track and the move to on line programmes were discussed.

The proposed date for the 2022 County Indoor track and field (incorporating Eastern) championships is the weekend of 12/13 February. This date clashes with the English Junior Indoor (u15/17/20) championships which are being held in Sheffield that same weekend. It is expected that a number of our top athletes and officials will attend that event. However, in view of the congested calendar it was agreed that we will continue to hold our championships, that weekend.

Whilst, the 'Open Track' system was considered as an option for the Indoor championships it was agreed that in view of timescales that we will continue with the current (IMG) system for the Indoors with a view to explore the capabilities of 'Open Track' for the 2022 Outdoor championships.

Full consideration was given to whether we should continue to produce a paper programme or revert to a digital/online programme only. The meeting was strongly in favour of dispensing with a paper programme and Scott Darney offered to liaise with Andy Catton to consider how this could be achieved. It was noted that our current programme is of a high standard listing all the names of the competitors taking part in each event; it also includes championship records.

Names of competitors are required to support the use of the Photo finish and field cards

Noted that there are additional costs if 'Open Track' is used. But this is potentially outweighed by the anticipated reduction in administration time.

It was agreed that paper entries should be seriously discouraged; looking to only accept online entries for 2022 outdoor championships. Very few road races now accept paper entries.

A £4 entry fee was proposed for spectators, this being monitored on a trust basis or a wrist stamp.

A suggestion had been made that consideration be given to additional Masters Category races. Due to previous demand there are some events for V35 athletes. The current timetable is very busy and it

would be impossible to add any additional events to the championships. This proposal was rejected.. Indeed, if entries into existing events are not supported, these should be scrapped.

Succession planning for all the key Essex Championship Secretary roles was discussed. There is an enormous of work and time required to support these roles and it was suggested that each role should be supported by 2/3 volunteers.

Due to another commitment, Kaye & Paul Merrywest were unable to attend this meeting. Andy Catton agreed to contact them to provide feedback from our discussions.

3. Minutes of the last meeting of 12th July 2021

The minutes of the meeting on Monday 6th September 2021 were **approved** as a true record of that meeting.

Proposed: Allison Gillian

Seconded: Andy Catton

4. Matters Arising from last meeting.

Agenda Item	Matter	Action required	Update
3.	Essex representative volunteer sought for co-option onto the England Athletics East Regional Council	Volunteer sought	All clubs to speak to their members. Role discussed at forthcoming AGM
4.	2021/22 Club Affiliation fees due on 1 st October	All affiliated clubs to remit the 2021/22 affiliation fee of £15 to the County bank account	See Treasurer's report below. Four clubs fees still outstanding
5b.	Updated Secretary list distributed	List to be distributed	Actioned
8.	Date for the next Track & Field subcommittee to be agreed	Date agreed and all clubs advised	Working party meeting took place on 19 th October 2021
8.	On line entry and results systems that will be used at forthcoming Track & Field Championships	To be discussed at Track & Field subcommittee in October	See these minutes. Agenda item 2.
8.	Dates for the 2022 track relays	Dates to be agreed at the forthcoming Track & Field subcommittee	Date still to be agreed
8.	Restriction re number of County medals to be awarded when only a small number of entrants received for an event. To apply to all Essex County Championship events	To be discussed at the AGM which is being held on Monday 6 th December	Item is on the AGM agenda. Meeting taking place on 6 th December
10.	Endurance Subcommittee to take place at Chelmsford AC on Wednesday 6 th October	Agenda to be sent to all clubs inviting them to send a representative	Meeting took place and minutes have been sent all club secretaries
12.	Missing County Trophies	Clubs are requested to investigate to ascertain whether they hold any of these missing trophies.	Good progress has been made with a number of trophies recovered.

12.	New trophy for the Ladies 5k track Championships	Design/Production and Costing of a new trophy. Funding to be arranged	See minutes below.
16.	Code of Conduct	To be reviewed and redraft as necessary. To be signed by all team managers and volunteers	See minutes below
17.	Annual General Meeting of the Essex AA	Notification papers sent to all affiliated clubs by 10 th October 2021	All club secretaries have received an invitation to attend.

5. Treasurer's Report

Gary Chandler reported that:-

- Four clubs have not yet paid their 2021/22 affiliation fees. They have been chased. The clubs concerned are:-
Rochford Running Club
Harlow AC
Eton Manor AC
Cambridge & Coleridge AC

Whilst individuals from these clubs can enter County Championships (as long as they meet the entry qualifications and are EA registered) the clubs concerned would not be able to win team medals.

- The men's track 5k track championship trophy (Atlanta trophy which dates back to the early 1900's) is being valued for insurance purposes. It is anticipated that the valuer will report back shortly.

6. a) Correspondence

SEAA are hosting a meeting on Saturday 6th November in London to discuss the future of Inter County competition in the region. Andy Catton is attending on behalf of Essex AA.

If a suitable opportunity arises he was asked if he could raise the following matters:-

- The possibility of hosting Inter County road races. Essex hosts an Invitation event at our 20 mile championships which has been well received by a number of counties;
- Why is there not a Senior Inter County track and field championship. There is a championship for U15 and U20 age groups.

b) Club & Committee Changes

Since the last meeting two clubs have affiliated to Essex AA. Innovation Multisport, based in Harlow and Running Colchester (previously affiliated)

7. Networking

Round 2 of the Essex Athletic Network Sportshall is taking place on Saturday 13th November with round 3 on Saturday 11th December. Both events taking place at Chelmsford. The finals are being held in Norwich on Saturday 5th March 2022.

8. Regional Reports

London – No meeting held.

East – No meeting held.

9. Feedback from Endurance meeting held on 6th October 2021.

Minutes from this meeting have been sent out to all clubs. A copy has been posted on the County website.

Update since the meeting:-

- 10 Counties have been invited to take part in the Invitational 20 mile Inter County race. So far, 6 have accepted
- Road relays – it was agreed that the event will take place on Sunday 10th April 2022. Colchester Harriers to host. A junior championship will also be held.
- Braintree AC are keen to host the County 5 mile championships. They are in discussion with the racecourse at Chelmsford to agree a suitable date
- Chelmsford Marathon went well. Good support provided by the race organiser, Nice Work who provided an excellent race results service, which enabled County medals to be awarded on the day.
- The possibility of a 5k road championship is being considered. This will be considered further at the next Endurance subcommittee meeting in the New Year.

Cross Country

The following message was posted on Facebook on the 31st October following the second Essex League XC fixture that was held at Writtle University College on Saturday 30th October.

“Yesterday at Writtle we witnessed a fabulous day of racing, in great weather at a terrific venue. However, last night I received an email outlining a complaint in relation to some disappointing behaviour by some runners. Several runners were seen urinating outside the students bedroom and kitchen accommodation, just a short distance from the urinals we had supplied. As organisers, we feel rather let down by this behaviour and it’s taken the shine off of what was good day for the Essex League.

Rightfully so, Writtle University College find this unacceptable and have said that it “could jeopardise the use of the estate for future races”.

Both Chelmsford AC and Southend AC are keen to remind all runners, that we are the guests of Writtle University College and to behave appropriately – please use the facilities provided at these events

Can I please ask all clubs, team managers, coaches and athletes to share this with all runners to ensure this does not happen again.”

Meeting endorsed the comments made on facebook.

Allison Gillian had previously announced her intention to stand down at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting in December as the County XC Secretary. Allison is writing a Job Description (“JD”) to set out what the role involves. JD to be posted on facebook and Website. Clubs are asked to approach their members to ask whether they would be willing to take over this very important role.

10. Code of Conduct

The proposed Code of Conduct was approved; this is to be signed by all team officials/volunteers that support Essex AA.

11. Trophies

Susan Edwards was unable to attend the meeting; and sent in a report.

A page has been set up to support the fundraising of the purchase of a trophy which is to be awarded, annually, to the ladies winner of the track 5k championships.

This can be located at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/essextrophyinitiative

Pleased to report that it has generated a good amount of positive feedback. Nearly £500 has been raised. There is a fundraiser event taking place on 3rd December 2021 which is a quiz, hosted by East London Runners at the clubhouse of Woodford Green and Essex Ladies AC. If other clubs are organising any events or wish to speak with Susan she can be contacted at essextrophyinitiative@virginmedia.com.

Missing Essex trophies

- Good progress has been made locating a number of trophies but some remain missing. All clubs are kindly asked to check their clubhouse and ask their members.

Unfortunately, we were advised that some trophies are lost and cannot be recovered.

12. Walking

Nothing to report. There will be a vacancy for the County Race Walking Secretary at the AGM and volunteers for this role would be welcomed.

13. Officials

Diane Wooller reported that invitations have been sent out for the 2022 Indoor Track & Field championships. Some responses have been received although with the clash of events (as previously reported) that weekend with the English Junior Championships, some officials may accept an invitation to attend that event. We have been supported in the past by officials from Eastern and Middlesex.

Courses. Official courses continue to be held virtually. Details of courses can be found on the England Athletics website. The only course being currently advertised is a Level 1 Endurance Course.

The meeting was advised that to obtain a permit for a Cross County event someone at the host club must hold a Level 2 Endurance Official accreditation. This is causing some issues and it is recommended that if there is no one that has achieved this qualification that consideration should be given to arranging for one of their members to sign up for a course (as and when they are held).

14. Schools

At the English School Multi Events Championships held at Bedford, the Senior Boys won the team event, for the first time in 21 years. Feat was even more impressive as all three boys are in the first year of competition at this age group. The Inter boy's team finished an excellent second. Well done to everyone that took part.

15. Any Other business

Claire Levey announced that it is her intention to stand down as Secretary at the forthcoming AGM. A volunteer is sought for this role.

Proposals to award Life memberships to three individuals, all of whom have given outstanding service to the Association over a number of years.

Proposed: Jean Tierney

Seconded: Claire Levey

Agreed unanimously by those present.

The individuals concerned will be invited to the AGM to be presented with their County plaque.

16. Date of next meeting

Monday 7th February 2021 to be held in the clubhouse of Chelmsford Athletic club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford start time 19:30 hours

Summary of Actions

Agenda Item	Matter	Action required	By whom
2	Consideration be given to using the 'Open Track' system for entry and management of the 2022 Outdoor County Track & Field Championships	To be discussed at the next committee meeting	Agenda item for meeting on Monday 7 th February 2022
2	Are we able to dispense with paper programme for 2022 Outdoor championships and revert to a digital/online programme only	Andy Catton to liaise with Scott Darney to consider possibilities	Andy Catton/Scott Darney
4	Dates for 2022 track relays/ Multievents championships	Dates to be agreed	Track and Field sub committee
9	Do we host a 5k road County Championships	To be considered by Endurance sub committee	Subcommittee due to meet Jan/Feb 2022.
9	Job Description to be written for the County XC Secretary role	JD to be posted on County Facebook and Websites	Allison Gillian
9	Volunteer sought for County XC Secretary	Nominations to be considered at AGM on the 6 th December 2021	
12	Volunteer sought for County Race Walking Secretary	Nominations to be considered at the AGM on the 6 th December 2021.	
15	Volunteer sought for Essex AA Secretary role	Nominations to be considered at the AGM on 6 th December 2021	

Meeting finished at 21:25

Draft Agenda for the next Executive Committee meeting to be held at the clubhouse Chelmsford Athletic Club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford on Monday 7th February 2022 (Subject to Government restrictions). Start time 7.30pm

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the previous meeting – 2nd November 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. Fell running
12. Trophies
13. Walking
14. Officials
15. School's Liaison
16. Any other business
17. Date of next meeting – to be agreed