



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 April 2022 at 19:30 hours.

Participants:

Andy Catton (Chair), Gary Chandler (Treasurer), Gerry O'Doherty (President) Malcolm Bailey (Secretary), Brigid Wallen (President Elect), Claire Levey, Diane Wooller, Ray Pearce, Allison Gillan, Scott Darney, John Weir, Ron Dawson, Peter Bates, Linda Bates, Kaye Merrywest, Paul Merrywest, Chris Akehurst, Jean Tierney, Michael Wilson, Nick Burston.

1. Apologies for Absence

Paul Mingay, Alistair Gillan

2. Minutes of the last meeting of 7th February 2022

The minutes of the meeting on Monday 7th February 2022 were **approved** as a true record of that meeting.

Proposed: Ray Pearce

Seconded: Brigid Wallen

3. Matters Arising from last meeting.

Agenda Item	Matter	Action required	Update
5	Volunteer sought for County Race Walking Secretary	Nominations from clubs sought	Volunteer still sought to cover this role
11	Equalisation of XC distances at the Senior XC championships	Consideration to sending out a survey to clubs/athletes to seek their opinion re equalisation and distances at championships.	Discussed under any other business – see below
14	Insurance cover for Atalanta trophy	Insurance Broker to be contacted to ascertain difference in premium cost between full replacement and equivalent trophy.	Discussed under Treasurer's report
18	Essex Coaching Forum and Essex AA running Seminar	Contact clubs via email to gauge interest	Club Secretaries contacted 3 rd April by email
19	Ideas/suggestions to commemorate the 150 th Anniversary of Essex AA	Contact Andy Catton with ideas	Discussed under Any other business – see below

4. Treasurer's Report

Atalanta trophy - Valuation of the trophies received from Jewellery Portfolio Valuations. New replacement value - £55k, second hand replacement value £20k. It has been agreed that we will insure at the lower value. Our insurance premium has increased by approximately 25%. Insurer has confirmed that our cover extends to where the trophies are 'housed'.

2022 Indoor Track & Field Championships – one invoice outstanding (catering). Small profit made circa. £21. Eastern Counties have made a loss on championships (which they anticipated). This is likely to be around £600 plus the cost of medals awarded. Likely that they will be seeking an increase in entry fee for the 2023 championships of between £2-3.

Question was raised whether we are looking to make a profit from these championships. Gary Chandler responded by saying that it costs the County has expenses of around £10k per year which includes sending Essex athletes to championships and monies raised from our events goes towards funding our total outlay.

Essex 20 – broke even. We used a professional race event company to host the event. They agreed to refund our deposit for the event if race entry was over 400. A total of 410 entered.

5. a) Correspondence

Letter dated 4th April 2022 received from Diane Wooller to tender her resignation as the County Officials Secretary with effect from December 2022.

Andy Catton thanked Diane for all her hard work over the last 12 years. She has gone above and beyond undertaking this role on behalf of the County.

Diane has suggested that going forward we should split the role – one volunteer being responsible for Track & Field and another, Endurance. Diane indicated that the volunteers should be people that have qualified as an Official at possibly grade 3 or 4 and above.

Email received from June Cork to advise that Southend AC are in the process of changing their name to "City of Southend-on-Sea Athletic Club" (COSAC)

b) Club & Committee Changes

A new club is being formed in Essex – Brentwood Beagles. Contact has been made with the club to discuss with them possibly affiliating to Essex. Brentwood Beagles are in the process of affiliating to England Athletics.

6. Networking

At the Sportshall regional finals in March the U13 girls and U15 boy's team qualified for the National Finals. These will take place at the University of Essex on 10th April.

7. Regional Reports

London – Paul Merrywest advised that the next meeting is taking place w/c 11th April

East – A volunteer is still sought to represent Essex. As far as we are aware there has not been a Regional meeting taking place for some time.

8. Track & Field

Multi – Events championships are taking place on Saturday 23rd April. Closing date is 13th April. So far 36 entries have been received.

2022 Outdoor championships entry form has been sent out to all club secretaries and posted on facebook. Concern has been raised that the closing date for entries is 6th May which will create

difficulties for our Official team to organise their duty sheets. The minutes of a working party meeting in January indicated that the closing date would be 30th April and that we would not accept postal entries. Hayley Pegg was not at this meeting and Andy Catton will contact her to discuss.

Paul Merrywest raised two issues that were covered at the recent Track & Field subcommittee meeting held 7th March 2022.

It was minuted that:-

- There was some seeding errors at the 2022 Indoor Track & field Championships and
- That at previous Multi – Event Championships that there had been problems with the calculation of the results.

Paul advised that the seeding issues were because some athletes failed to report to the reception desk. He disputed that there issues at the last Multi Events championships – he had used a spreadsheet which calculates the correct points to be awarded at each discipline.

Comment was made that it is very difficult to locate previous year's results on our County website. It was established at the meeting that results can be found but it was asked whether we could consider investing in a new website. If we proceeded with this proposal we may need to potentially find someone to manage the site on behalf of County. Andy Catton is to speak to Dave Keeley who very kindly looks after our existing site.

(After the meeting Chris Akehurst volunteered his son (he us a commercial web designer) to work on a new County website. Chris would then be prepared to act as a joint site Manager. Andy Catton will contact Dave Keeley)

9. Cross Country

Chris Akehurst advised that the Essex League XC fixtures meeting will take place at Chelmsford AC Clubhouse on Wednesday 25th May 2022 start time – 7.30pm. All clubs that take part in this league are encouraged to send a representative.

Gerry O'Doherty attended the Inter Counties XC Championships which were held at Prestwold Hall, Loughborough in March.

Our teams were slightly depleted due to some last minute injuries and athlete 'no shows' on the day. Those that took part represented the County with some fine performances with pride of place going to our U15 boy's team with an excellent individual 3rd place for Sam Plummer.

Gerry mentioned that both our team managers work very hard behind the scenes to organise the Essex teams at this event for which we are extremely grateful and we thank them for their support and commitment. Concern was raised that two senior ladies and one U17 boy failed to turn up to run without notifying the team managers. This was considered to be 'bad manners' and disappointing and a debate took place as to what action should be taken against those that failed to attend. The U17 boy has been spoken to by his club chairman. It was the view of the meeting that those individuals that are selected to compete in the Senior events but fail to turn up and do not notify the team managers in a timely fashion should be disqualified from being selected to run for the County again. As far as the Junior is concerned there was an opinion expressed that this would be reset once they join the senior ranks. This should be set out in the selection letter. It was agreed that Gerry O'Doherty would speak to the Team Managers to seek their views before making a decision.

10. Road Running

Essex 20 – 6 counties took part in the Invitational Inter Counties championships. The Men's was won by Essex and the ladies by Hampshire.

The event company that organised the race have indicated their willingness to organise the 2023 event. A provisional date has been agreed (5th March 2023). We will accept their offer unless a club comes forward to organise the race on behalf of County.

As mentioned earlier, County broke even on the event as the Professional event company refunded our deposit but they did not make a profit either. In view of this if they organise the 2023 event, entries fees will have to increase.

It is likely that the 2023 London Marathon will take place in April next year which would generate additional interest in the 20 mile event in March. Venue is considered to be very good (a number of fast times were recorded) which could accommodate a very sizeable entry. Excellent feedback from

runners. The only downside is that there is not any indoor space available. It is anticipated that other counties may send teams.

Road relays – are taking place on Sunday 10th April at Colchester. 189 teams have entered. Race Instructions have been e-mailed out to all club secretaries.

Scott Darney on behalf of Witham RC are organising a 5k race at Colchester in conjunction with Active Training World. This is a trial event with the possibility that 2023 it might be a County Grand Prix event. It is likely that there will be a 3k event for juniors, open 5k and 10k races and an elite event for those that have posted qualifying times of sub 14:30 (Male) 17:15 (Female). There will be a prize fund. Event will be sponsored. Further details to follow.

11. Fell running

The athletes that have been selected to run for Essex in the Inter Counties fell race have been selected.

12. Trophies

Nothing to report

13. Walking

Nothing to report.

14. Officials

Diane requested that further volunteers are required to support the Outdoor Track and Field Championships which are being held on 14/15 May. These are to cover a number of important support roles and clubs are asked to seek volunteers from their membership.

15. Schools

Nothing to report.

16. Essex President Elect role

This post is currently held by Brigid Wallen. Due to the Covid epidemic she has held onto this role for nearly three years. Brigid is moving to Scotland later this month and will not be able to fulfil the duties as President in 2023. Brigid now holds the distinction of being the longest holder of the post of President Elect. She has been a great servant of athletics in Essex and we all wish her well for the future. On behalf of Essex, Gerry O'Doherty presented Brigid a plaque commemorating her time as President Elect.

We did not receive any nominations from clubs for the role of President Elect from clubs at the 2021 AGM so it has been proposed that Allison Gillan takes over this role from Brigid.

Proposed: Andy Catton

Seconded: Gerry O'Doherty

Unanimously agreed by all those present.

The chains of office were presented to Allison by Gerry.

17. 150th Anniversary of Essex AA

Discussed at the last committee meeting. Andy asked for ideas to support this landmark in the history of Essex AA. For the 100th there was an Anniversary dinner, book produced, special commemorative medals, T-shirts and racing vests and a relay around Essex took place. Acknowledged that it would be very difficult to organise a relay but all clubs and committee members are asked to consider ways in which we could celebrate this anniversary.

Ideas/suggestions can be emailed to Andy.

18 Any other business

Equalisation of XC distances for senior events.

It has been agreed that the 2023 Championships that Men will compete over 12k and Ladies 8k.

At the Inter Counties Championships the distances were 10k and 8k (previously equalised). It is very disappointing that UKA have failed to provide guidance to counties over the distances that County Championships should compete over.

There has been some discussion that we should survey all Essex athletes to seek their views (the feedback that we had received from athletes favoured 12k and 8k). This subject has been discussed at length at previous Executive and Endurance meetings. There are strong and passionate views on both sides of the argument but with a decision already taken as far as 2023 is concerned and with the likelihood that it will resurface in the future, it has been decided not to proceed with the survey at the present time but would review this at a later date. Scott Darney was thanked for all his hard work putting together a proposal to send out a survey.

Paul Merrywest mentioned that he had been challenged as to the extent of Counties knowledge and understanding of the issues faced by runners in Essex.

Each club has its own committee and all clubs are invited to send representatives to the County AGM and are invited to both the Endurance and Track & Field subcommittee meetings.

18. Date of next meeting

Monday 6th June – Chelmsford AC Clubhouse – start time 7.30pm

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

4th July – Executive

5th September - Executive

3rd October – to be decided

7th November - Executive

5th December – Annual General Meeting

Time meeting finished 20:44

Summary of Actions

Agenda Item	Matter	Action required	By whom
3	Volunteer sought for County Race Walking Secretary	Nominations from clubs sought	All clubs
5	Volunteers sought to take over the role as County Officials Secretary from January 2023 from clubs Possibly splitting the role – Track & Field and Endurance	Nominations sought from clubs	All clubs
8	Closing date for 2022 Outdoor Track & field Championships – currently 6 th May – should this be 30 th April. Should we also still accept postal entries	Andy Catton to contact Hayley Pegg. If so, revised entry form to be sent to clubs	Andy Catton
8	Should County consider investing in a new website	Andy Catton to contact Dave Keeley	Andy Catton
9	Essex League XC fixtures meeting taking place on Wednesday 25 th May 2022 – start time 7.30pm	All clubs that compete in this league are encouraged to send a representative to the meeting	All clubs
9	What action should be taken against athletes selected to run for Essex that fail to turn up without advising the Team	Gerry O’Doherty to contact XC Team Managers for their views	Gerry O’Doherty

	Managers		
14	Volunteers sought to support key roles at the forthcoming Track & Field Championships	Clubs asked to seek volunteers from their membership	All clubs
17	Ideas and suggestions welcomed to celebrate Essex AA 150 th anniversary celebrations	Ideas and suggestions to Andy Catton	All clubs

Draft Agenda for the next Executive Committee meeting to be held at the clubhouse Chelmsford Athletic Club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford on Monday 6th June April 2022 . Start time 7.30pm

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the previous meeting – 4th April 2022
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. Essex 150th Anniversary Celebrations.
17. Any other business
18. Date of next meeting