

ESSEX COUNTY AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting which was held on Monday 7th April 2008 which took place in the club house of Chelmsford Athletic Club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford. Commencing at 19.30 hours.

Present: P.Cassidy (Chairman), R.Dawson (President), J.Weir (Treasurer), P.Sketchley (Secretary), R.Burrows, C.Dowsett, D.Ferguson, S.Herbert, C.Hopkins, E.Jones, Maycraft, R.Meadowcroft, K.Merrywest, P.Merrywest, D.Mullane, R. Pearce, D.Staines, J.Stow, J.Tierney & R.Thompson.

1a) Apologies for Absence: G. Mountstevens, H. Williams & L. Bates

1b) Chairman called for a minutes silence in remembrance of Ken Owles. Ken was a well respected Chief Timekeeper who had attended many county and club events. Chairman to send a note of condolence to Ken's wife.

2) Minutes of Last Meeting - 3rd March 2008 were approved.

3) Matters Arising:

a) Minute 16a) - No strong views were expressed against dropping "amateur" from the associations title. Matter to be raised at next A.G.M.

b) Minute 16d) - Due to the poor Essex club's attendance at the recent Newmarket Seminar and numerous other occasions when information from the county was failing to get through to club Chairman, etc, it was agreed that in conjunction with Eastern Region representative. N. Deans and a London Region representative, we would arrange a evening meeting on either the 12th or 19th May at Chelmsford A.C. club house commencing at 19.30 hours. Chairman P. Cassidy to invite athletic club Chairman and Secretary's to this seminar with the view of improving communications between the county and clubs. It was also agreed that a range of other matters should be discussed in order to improve effectiveness and efficiency within athletics.

4A) Correspondence: From P.Sketchley

a) Notice from SEAA of an Extraordinary General Meeting on 27th April. Proposed motion was agreed. E. Jones to attend on behalf of the county association.

b) SEAA AGM to take place on 7th September at Marathon House, Southwark St, London.

c) The SEAA are moving offices to the Crystal Palace Sports Centre from 1st April 2008. Clubs to be informed of new address and telephone number at a later date.

d) Letter from the Eastern A A that at their recent AGM it was agreed that in their future championships medals would be awarded to the first three places in an event, irrespective of the number of athletes entered or competing on the day. The county took up the matter on behalf of a Basildon athlete who was denied a medal last Autumn at a Eastern Championships. Basildon AC has been informed of this decision.

e) Letter from England Athletics Chairman J. Graves giving details about new club membership modules, etc. Also sent to all clubs.

f) Letter from Eastern A A that their Hibbard trophy inter-counties match was to take place on 7th September at Stevenage. Eastern region Combined Events Championship to take place 27 / 28th September at Bedford.

g) Letter from Kent indicating that they are happy to co-host with Essex again the 2009 indoor track and field championships at Lee Valley. Ideally seeking a later date.



h) Package of information from the Eastern Region on Coaching Bursary's, Club Initiatives and Courses for Teachers, etc. This pack has also been circulated to all clubs.

i) Letter from Lee Valley Athletics Centre Manager apologising for the misunderstanding over First Aid Cover payment, but Essex and Kent are still required to pay late invoice. Cheque subsequently sent by P. Sketchley.

j) Letter from Surrey informing us that their U.13 Inter-Counties match is on 27th July at Kingston and their Seniors Inter-Counties is on 10th August also at Kingston.

k) Acceptance letters also received from Middlesex and Sussex to attend our U.17 Inter-Counties match at Basildon.

4B) Recent Club & Committee Register Changes:

a) Saffron Striders have a new Secretary: Janet Lipski, address; 10 Oasthouse Court, Saffron Walden, CB10 1DX, Tel: 01799 524687, e.mail janet.lipski@dante.org.uk

b) Thrift Green Trotters have a new Secretary: Ken Branch, 29 Viking Way, Brentwood, CM15 9HX, Tel: 01277 217752. e.mail kenb@manet.freeserve.co.uk

5) Essex Athletic Development Group Matters: From P. Sketchley (a) and P. Cassidy (b)

a) Grant payments received from EADG for the county Development Workshops, Pole Vaulting seminar at Lee Valley & Officials upgrades. Their County Plan for 2009 was questioned as to why 28 new Sportshall athletics officials were required and the county associations potential involvement in the Jiangsu project needs to be clarified at a early date.

b) Last EADG meeting poorly attended by non county association representatives.

6) Track & Field: From P. Sketchley

a) At May championships: Need for school representatives to help out undertaking auxiliary tasks as last year. C. Dowsett to arrange. R. Burrows has contacted host clubs so that they are aware of requirements.

b) Combined Events championships at Woodford Green: Letter from Secretary S. Wright suggesting that there be no programme / spectator entry charge and the event be under IAAF rules was agreed.

c) Olive Megitt has indicated that this will be the last championships that she compiles the programme content and arranges printing. She will also cease producing the athletes "standards certificates". Need to find volunteers for both functions by the AGM in December.

d) During the past month Essex has been informed of the following inter-counties competitions:

- Sunday 27th July - U.13 Boys & Girls at Kingsmeadow, Kingston, Surrey.

- Sunday 10th August - Senior Men & Women at Kingsmeadow, Kingston, Surrey.

- Sunday 24th August - U.15 Boys & Girls + U.20 Men & Women at Cophall, Middlesex. Likely charge of £20 per team (£80 in total) imposed by the SEAA.

- 25 / 26th May - Senior Men & Women in CAU at Bedford.

Details of all the competitions to shortly be sent to all the Essex team managers. An "athletes availability" form will be circulated to all athletes in first three of each event at May championships.

e) U.17 inter- counties at Basildon on 3rd August. Acceptances to attend received from Middlesex and Sussex. Need for a Meeting Manager identified, C. Dowsett to select.

f) Indoor Track & Field Championships in 2009: With Kent agreeing to share use / cost of Lee Valley Indoor Centre with Essex it was agreed that P. Sketchley to arrange a booking, ideally avoiding



clashing dates / events which draw off officials and athletes from our championships. Agreed the 2009 event would be "open" to athletes from outside Essex & Kent.

7) Cross Country: From H. William's

a) Clubs prepared to host and promote championship events in the coming Winter to contact Howard. Meeting arranged for 14th May at Chelmsford club house to select venues, etc.

b) Howard William's has indicated that he is prepared to step down as Cross Country Secretary. Volunteer required to take over from 2009.

8) Road Running: From H. William's

a) Future events:

- 11th May - Marathon at Halstead in Open race. Start at 10am.
- 18th May - 10 miles at Gt. Baddow in Open race. Start at 11am.
- 6th July - 10K at Ongar in Open race. Start at 11am.

b) Clubs prepared to stage any of the following events in 2009 to contact Howard; 10 Miles, 20 Miles & 10 K.

c) 6th April Colchester Relays were cancelled at the last moment because many athletes declined to travel to Colchester due to "snow". It appears that at Colchester there was very little snow and the event could have taken place. Event will not now take place as there is no free date available.

9) Trophies: From D. Mullans

a) Medals have been ordered for all of the May championships.

b) Still looking for support from clubs to track down missing trophies.

10) Walking: From R. Pearce

a) In the recent UK championships held at Earles Colne, Scott Davies of Ilford came 2nd.

b) Essex finished 2nd, one point behind the winners Warwickshire at the recent inter-counties match. Agreed that the county would fund travel expenses to the event at Leamington Spa.

11) Coaching: From J. Stow

a) Winters workshops completed. Elite went well although a couple of the talk speakers were not that well received. Will evaluate having different subjects next Winter. It is likely endurance will be added to the events offered. General workshops poorly attended with only two clubs providing athletes. Hertfordshire once again supplied their agreed number of athletes, without them we would struggle.

12) Officials: From C. Dowsett

a) UK Athletics have established a Road Running Leadership Group which should help with the future provision of officials for endurance events.

b) The shortage of Timekeepers within the county is of increasing concern. With regards to the May championships; Officials availability is okay in all events except for Timeskeepers and Photo Finish.

c) Provisional dates for 2009 Track & Field championships; Day 1 = 4th May, Days 2 & 3 = 9/10 May

13) Sports Hall Athletics: From P. Sketchley

a) The Essex U.13 Girls team have made the Birmingham championship finals on 12 April as "best runners up" in the UK. They will join the U.15 Boys team who have already qualified.



14) School Liaison: From P. Sketchley

a) With Kent now joining us for our indoor championships next year, it potentially releases a £1000 grant from the EADG for other uses. It was agreed that P. Sketchley to contact the EADG to request that these funds be made available for Essex schools teachers and senior pupils to attend the recently advertised Eastern Region Courses for Teachers linked to athletics coaching & officials training.

15) Tug of War: From E. Jones

a) Advised P. Sketchley that he should contact those Public Houses on the list he recently sent, as they have had teams in past years, to become affiliated to the county association.

b) Results of the 6th April Prelims held at Gt. Dunmow;

- Men = 1st Maldon "A", 2nd Colchester, 3rd Southminster.

- Women = 1st Chelmsford, 2nd Colchester, 3rd Essex All Stars.

c) Results from Rosedale Training League held in March;

- Men = 1st Sandhurst "A" from Berkshire, 2nd Sandhurst "B" from Berkshire, 3rd B.A.C. from Surrey, 4th Totham Bull from Essex.

d) Forthcoming events;

20th April = Essex County Fire & Rescue Service Inter Station Event at Melbourne Park, Chelmsford

18th May = Essex Young Farmers Clubs finals at Boyton Hill Farm, nr Chelmsford.

16) Any Other Business:

a) County Web Site:

- Agreed that the updated site arranged by A. Maycraft was a substantial improvement.

- On a 10 vote "for and 3 against" it was agreed that the Essex Cross Country League and Essex Schools Championship results would be permitted to be shown on the county web site.

- It was also agreed that results and other information from clubs and associations would not be permitted to be shown on the county web site.

b) Proposed by J. Tierney that a suitable gift be presented to O. Megit by the President on a suitable May championship day for her long standing service to the county association. This was agreed.

c) R. Burrows informed those present of the following:

- Details about the Eastern Region Disciplinary & Grievance Procedures is on their Web Site.

- Neal Deans is acting Eastern Region Manager for 6 months whilst Chris Jones is on secondment.

- The Eastern Region Awards will again be taking place this coming Autumn. Nominations should be forwarded to the Eastern Region.

- Hammer cage specification changes linked to cage heights now implemented

- It is expected that from 2009, track certification will be required before any track can be used for competition purposes.

Date of next meeting

2nd June 2008, commencing at 19.30 hours in the Chelmsford A.C. club house.

Next Meeting Agenda: 1) Apologies for Absence 2) Minutes of the Last meeting 3) Matters Arising 4) Correspondence & Recent Club & Committee Changes 5) Essex Athletic Development Group Matters 6) Track & Field 7) Cross Country 8) Road Running 9) Trophies, 10) Walking 11) Coaching 12) Officials 13) Sports Hall 14) School Liaison 15) Tug of War 16) A.O.B.

Meeting concluded at 21.30 hours.

