

ESSEX COUNTY AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting which was held on Monday 4th February 2008 which took place in the club house of Chelmsford Athletic Club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford. Commencing at 19.45 hours.

Present: P.Cassidy (Chairman), R.Dawson (President), J.Weir (Treasurer), P.Sketchley (Secretary), R.Burrows, C.Dowsett, D.Ferguson, D.Green, S.Herbert, C.Hopkins, E.Jones, D.Keeley, A.Maycraft, R.Meadowcroft, K.Merrywest, P.Merrywest, G.Mountstevens, D.Mullane, M.Seaman, D.Staines, J.Stow, J.Tierney, R.Thompson & W.Tydeman .

1a) Apologies for Absence: L. Bates, C. Clark & R. Pearce.

1b) Chairman P. Cassidy welcomed new Essex County Schools Association representative Gerry Mountstevens to his first meeting with us.

2) Minutes of Last Meeting - 3rd December 2007 were approved.

3) Matters Arising:

a) W. Tydeman had ordered a couple of Essex Banners.

4A) Correspondence: From P.Sketchley

a) Letter from R.Stratton of Middlesex on the U.17 inter-counties match to be held at Basildon on 3rd August 2008. Need to inform the other counties of venue details and Officials required - Each county to provide 1 track, 1 timekeeper and 5 field officials. P. Sketchley to send letters.

b) Notice of Amateur Athletic association AGM on 16th March, 2008. No volunteer to attend.

c) Letter from Lee Valley athletics Centre informing us that they are open to take bookings from April 2008 for next Winter.

d) Letter from Eastern Athletics Association informing us that the inter-counties Hibbard Trophy match for Seniors and U.17 Men to take place on 7th September. Possibly at Braintree after certification problems with the new track at Harlow which was the planned venue.

e) Letter from former Essex President / Official D. Evans on not recently receiving our county association minutes. Agreed that only those members elected to sit on the committee at the most recent AGM to receive current minutes. P. Sketchley to send reply letter.

4B) Recent Club & Committee Register Changes:

a) Eton Manor A.C. has a new Secretary. Steven Dunn, address; Flat 4, Chamomile Court, 5 Yunus Chan Close, Walthamstow, London, E17 8XQ Tel: 02085212505
e.mail 5ndunn@supanet.com

b) Loughton A.C. has a new Secretary. Gabrielle Brooks, address; 69 Monkams Drive, Woodford Green, IG8 0LD. Tel; 02082700804. e.mail gabbie.brooks@ntlworld.com

c) Walthamstow A.C. New address for Secretary Danny Rose; 2 Cavendish Ave, Woodford Green, IG8 9DA

5) Essex Athletic Development Group Matters: From P. Sketchley

a) At a Eastern Region counties meeting at Newmarket on 23rd January attended by C. Cassidy and P.Sketchley the following matters raised:

- A series of Road Running Grand Prix to take place in the East. Contact a B. Corbett for information.
- On 1st March a "No Charge" Clubs Seminar to take place at the Newmarket offices.

- On 25th February "an Evening with Alan Launder", Australian Pole Vaulting Coach to take place at Lee Valley Indoor Centre.

- Latest developments at the Eastern Region offices following changes at UK Offices in Birmingham;
- Club complaints linked to Welfare/Grievances/Child Protection be referred to Chris Jones if the problem cannot be settled within ones own club.
- Eastern Region Web Site is available to advertise county championship events.
- Track certification files are now held at the Newmarket offices.
- A special Coaches Newsletter is now available on the Eastern Region Web site.

b) At the Special Budget Meeting of the EADG on 28th January attended by C.Dowsett and P. Sketchley the following funding matters were discussed:

The following payments were agreed from within the current Budget to be paid by 31st March 2008;

- Grant of £295 to Chelmsford AC to compensate for losses hosting Sports hall Athletics events.
- Grant of £240 to Essex County AAA to compensate for reduced numbers of athletes attending the General Development Workshops.
- Grant of £52.50 to Essex County AAA to fund Essex Pole Vaulting Coaches / Athletes attending the "Evening with Alan Launder" at Lee Valley Indoor Centre.

Grants agreed by the EADG that have yet to be approved by the Eastern Region:

- Grant of £1000 to Essex County AAA for Sports Hall Athletics matters.
- Grant of £2500 to Essex County AAA for continuation of the existing General & Elite Development workshops, including the Pole Vaulting Academy.
- Grant of £3000 to Essex County AAA linked to the ceasing of Road Racing Levies.
- Parachute grant of £1000 to Essex County AAA in the event of a suitable partner not been found for the Indoor Track & Field Championships to be held at the Lee Valley Indoor Centre in 2009.
- Grant of £1000 to Essex County AAA for travel expenses linked to inter counties competition.
- Coaches taking Level 1 or Level 2 courses linked to the following events; Steeplechase, High Jump, Pole Vault, Hammer and Javelin will be given grants of £35.

6) Track & Field: From P.Sketchley

a) Track & Field Sub Committee meeting which took place immediately before this meeting;

- Review of the recent Indoor Track & Field Championships at Lee Valley for the first time. Event was shared with Kent in order to reduce hire costs, etc. Was deemed a success with a few teething problems. Number of Essex athletes competing down on last year (-17). Whilst some invoices are still awaited a similar financial loss to last year of around £300 is anticipated. P. Sketchley to contact Kent to enquire as whether they wish to continue with this joint championship at Lee Valley in 2009 and to indicate suggested changes to improve championships.

Sub Committee recommendation that Essex Coaches with a valid UK Athletics Coaching Licence be granted no charge admission to all Track & Field Championships was approved by a substantial majority vote. Coaches must be able to show their current licence at the point of entry to a championship venue for this condition to apply. Any coach requesting a programme is required to pay the stated purchasing charge.

- Essex 2008 Outdoor Championship dates and Venues; Those listed below are approved.

Day 1 on 5th May at Thurrock

Days 2 & 3 on 10th & 11th May at Basildon

Combined Events (Just 2 day events - not Pentathlons) on 17th & 18th May at Woodford Green

Day 4. Initially proposed by Southend AC for 6th July was deemed not acceptable due to a clash with too many other events. Proposed date of Saturday 20th September with similar timetable to last year without the two day Combined Events champs. Subject to hosts Southend AC agreeing.

Championship Organiser K. Merrywest to prepare a entry form pack for all the championship events taking place in May. To be sent to all clubs in late February.

7) Cross Country:

- a) Agreed that the recent championships covering all age groups was a success.
- b) J. Stow requested that consideration be given to reducing the championship distance for the U.20's age group. Agreed a review was needed with regards to the distances for U.20's and Seniors.

8) Road Running:

- a) D. Staines reported that around 900 athletes competed in the recent Gt. Bentley Half Marathon.
- b) The recent Road Running Forum discussed a number of matters including the need for improved Marshalling.
- c) Next major race is the Essex and East of England Road Relay Championships on 1st March at Chelmsford.

9) Trophies: From D. Mullans

- a) Still encountering difficulties tracking down past holders of trophies. Advised to contact O. Megit on past years championship results.
- b) Following the success of the new "presentation" procedure used at the recent Indoor Track & Field championships it was agreed that this should be introduced at Days 1.2 & 3 of the May 2009 champs. with D. Mullans ordering all medals in future and organising presentations of medals and trophies. Chairman P. Cassidy to speak to H. Williams on this subject.

10) Walking: From P. Cassidy

- a) 10 Mile event on 16th February is next championship race.

11) Coaching: From J. Stow

- a) General Development Workshops going well although numbers attending were disappointingly low. Elite workshops well attended.
- b) Plans to hold an Endurance Workshop on 20th April which is financially planned to break even.
- c) P. Sketchley had recently written to London Regional Manager R. Smith enquiring whether Essex would be invited to organise Development Workshops at the new indoor athletics centre currently been built at Newham. No full reply received to date.

12) Officials: From C. Dowsett

- a) Clubs requiring a Level 2 course in Essex and any Schools seeking a Level 1 course to contact Chris.
- b) 25 Officials have recently received an upgrading. Level 4 / 5 grades currently been reviewed.

13) Sports Hall Athletics: From P. Sketchley

- a) Numbers of athletes competing at the recent Chelmsford and Newham Essex team selection events was low. Grant support sought for host clubs to ensure that they financially broke even.
- b) Enclosed with the minutes sent to all athletic clubs is a list of the selected Essex athletes.
- c) Results of the 2nd February Eastern Region inter-counties match held at Norwich: Essex U.13 Girls came 2nd behind Norfolk, Essex U.13 Boys came 2nd behind Hertfordshire,

Essex U.15 Girls came 3rd behind Hertfordshire and Norfolk. Essex U.15 Boys came 1st and will compete in the National Championship Finals at Birmingham's NEC on 12th April.

d) Low numbers of young athletes participating and only two host clubs highlights the need for greater promotion. A more acceptable regional championship date and above all the need for an Essex Sports Hall Athletics Co-ordinator, must be given priority if Essex are to have consistent success in future. Approval of the recent grant claim should help matters.

14) School Liaison: From J. Mountstevens

a) The Essex Schools have already made arrangements to hold their Combined Events team selection this year so they are unable to take up the county offer of including their team selection events in the Woodford Green Championships on the third weekend in May.

b) The Schools Association were concerned about the current lack of interest and participation in athletics within the county.

b) P. Sketchley enquired as reasons why "schools" entries were substantially down at the recent Lee Valley indoor championships compared with previous years when they were held at Chelmsford. J. Mountstevens to give feedback at a future meeting.

15) Tug of War:

a) Agreed that P. Sketchley invites those known Tug of War clubs in Essex to become affiliated to the county association.

16) Any Other Business:

a) County Web Site: A. Maycraft was still upgrading information held on the site and would welcome contributions from members with function responsibilities.

b) J. Tierney as past President had received a note of thanks from former Essex County Schools A.A. Secretary R. Edwards thanking our association for the gift which was presented to him at our recent December AGM.

c) R. Burrows informed those present that the new England Athletics Chief Executive is a Mike Summers.

Date of next meeting

3rd March 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.