

ESSEX COUNTY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting which was held on 1st June 2009 which took place in the club house of Chelmsford Athletic Club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford commencing at 19.30 hours.

Present: J. Weir (Chairman), E. Jones (President), P. Sketchley (Secretary), R. Burrows, R. Dawson, D. Keeley, D. Mullane, R. Meadowcroft, K. Merrywest, P. Merrywest, R. Pearce, C. Rolewicz, M. Seaman, D. Staines & J. Tierney.

1) Apologies: P. Cassidy, L. Bates, P. Bates, C. Dowsett, D. Ferguson, J. Stow & H. Williams.

2a) Minutes of the last Meeting - 6th April 2009 were approved subject to the following changes;

Para 8d) - Replace "held at Basildon" with "held at Chelmsford".

Para 8e) - Replace "held at Chelmsford" with "held at Colchester".

2b) It was noted with some sadness that L. Dordoy of the Ilford AC recently died following a road accident. L. Dordoy was a former county race walking champion.

3) Matters Arising:

Para 3a) - Networking Meetings: 1st May at Chelmsford = 6 clubs & 12 representatives attended.

15th May at Woodford Green = 3 clubs & 8 representatives attended.

Reasonably well attended by athletic clubs but only one running club came. Number of clubs will now be setting up meetings to try and establish networking groups.

Para 4Ad) - Affiliation payment sent to England Athletics.

Para 4An) - Letter sent to Eastwood School but no reply received at this moment in time.

Para 15c) - Letter sent to England Athletics on "Schools Affiliation".

4A) Correspondence: From P. Sketchley

a) Affiliation certificate received from England Athletics.

b) Details about Inter-Counties match at Bedford received from UK Counties Athletic Union. A few days later on 16th May details received about their AGM on 24th May. Agreed that this was insufficient time to inform members. P. Sketchley to send letter requesting at least one months notice.

c) Letter from SEAA informing us of the team charges for the coming U.15 & U.20 inter-counties, Request for a discount due to previous years overcharging was declined.

d) Letter from Lee Valley Park Centre confirming our booking for the 2010 Indoor Championships. See Track & Field section.

e) Accident report received from C. Dowsett on young athlete who was injured in the Triple Jump event on Day 2. Subsequent phone call to her parents revealed that the injury was not that serious and the athlete has made a full recovery.

f) Letter from Kent linked to Indoor Championships. See Track & Field section.

g) Letter and cheque received from the Fine Designs clothing company. A link which has become very beneficial to the county association.

h) Letter from R. Watts of Great Bentley R.C. See Club Register and Road Running sections.

i) England Athletics magazine "Pace" received. Agreed that the county association would nominate David Green of Newham & Essex Beagles AC for the Services to Athletics National Award. All clubs are encouraged to make their own nominations by the 1st August 2009 closing date.

j) Letter of thanks to all Officials & Helpers from a R. Harris representing Sportability, to those who attended an event on 25th April for disabled youngsters held at Marks Hall Sports Centre in Harlow.

k) England Athletics are currently advertising for a Chairman.



l) Next Eastern A.A. Executive Committee meeting due to take place on 9th June at Cambridge. David Staines indicated he was happy to become the Essex representative attending these quarterly meetings. It was also noted that in the 21st April Minutes there was adverse comment about their recent indoor championships held at Chelmsford and they had received grants from England Athletics (South Region) for their championships when previously Essex had been told that such grants were not available. P. Sketchley to write to regional manager M. Beaver seeking support for the Seniors inter-counties which Essex are hosting in August.

m) Eastern A.A. Combined Events championship taking place at Bedford on 26th & 27th September received.

n) Letters from H. Williams which includes the coming Winters proposed championships. See Cross Country and Road Running sections.

o) Letters from new Essex Team Managers. See Track & Field section.

p) Letter from Castle Point AC Secretary on club ceasing. See Club Registers section.

q) Letter from Treasurer J. Weir. See AOB.

r) Letter from Southend AC representative J. Cork on matters linked to the recent May championships. To be discussed at the next Track & Field Sub. Com. Meeting. P. Sketchley to reply.

s) Letter from UK Athletics on "Schools Affiliation". P. Sketchley passed copy to Championship Secretary K. Merrywest.

4B) Club / Committee Register Changes: From P. Sketchley

a) Castle Point A.C. Ceasing of club due to a lack of coaches / members.

b) Great Bentley Running Club: New Secretary R. Watt, 80 Holly Way, Elmstead Market, Colchester, CO7 7YQ. Tel: 01206 822172 E. mail: watt136@btinternet.com

c) England Athletics Essex representative R. Thickpenny contact E. mail address = rthickpenny@englandathletics.org
Note: all contact is via England Athletic's Birmingham office.

5) Essex Athletic Development Group From C. Rolewicz

a) The meeting planned for 20th April was cancelled by the Chair. The EADG no longer exists.

b) Agreed that this part of the agenda be replaced with "Networking". This will enable members to keep up-to-date with what is happening between groups in the county.

6) Track & Field: From P. Sketchley

a) 2010 Indoor Track & Field Championships at Lee Valley Centre.

- The centre had offered weekend of the 6th / 7th February with a 10.00 hours start for the planned Essex & Kent championships. Whilst this date avoided clashes with national championships, there was a downside as it clashed on one day with the Southern Officials Conference. An alternative weekend two weeks later on the 21st / 22nd was available, but that was at the end of the schools half term and would probably result in less young athletes entering. The conclusion was that the 6th / 7th February was the date that should be accepted and the Officials availability situation should be okay if Officials are contacted early. P. Sketchley to inform Kent and the Lee Valley Centre.

b) Days 1,2 & 3 of Track & Field Championships + Combined Events Championships, etc

- Number of athletes entries exceptionally good on Days 1, 2 & 3. Numbers competing in the Combined events was poor and needs to improve. Further matters to be discussed at the next Track & Field Sub. Com. Meeting on 3rd August at Chelmsford AC club hut commencing at 19.00 hours.

- On Day 2 a member of the public made the associations secretary aware that athletes were throwing javelins in the adjoining public playing field. The Secretary asked the coach to cease this activity which he refused. Staff at the centre were made aware and the assistant manager also asked the coach to cease which was declined. The Police have been consulted on this matter and they have advised that the throwing of javelins in a public place is an offence. Agreed that this practice should not take place at any future venue where county championships or athletics competition is taking place. P. Sketchley to write to the coach involved to warn him that his conduct in this matter is not acceptable and if it occurs again the Police will be involved.

- c) Relay Championships at Braintree on 14th July
 - Closing date for entries to be 1st July. Entry form and other information is on the county web site.
- d) Seniors Inter-Counties match at Chelmsford on 9th August
 - Timetables and other documentation to be sent to participating counties and interested parties by P. Sketchley early in June.
- e) New Essex Track & Field Team Managers;
 - U.13 Boys = Mr C. Wint of the Woodford Green club.
 - U.13 Girls = Mrs S. Sergeant of the Chelmsford club (Subject to meeting satisfactory CRB clearance).
 - U.15 Boys & U.20 Men = Mr P. Cheal of the Ilford club.
 - U.17 Men = Mr M. Whittaker of the Newham & Essex Beagles club.
- f) Results of the UK C.A.U. inter-counties match at Bedford on 24th / 25th May at Bedford. Essex 1st in both Senior Men's and Women's competitions. Congratulations to the athletes and team managers. However, a number of problems occurred on the days of competition which were linked to the Organisers new rules. Agreed P. Sketchley to write to the CAU Secretary.
- g) Days 1, 2 & 3 of Essex Track & Field Championships on 3rd, 8th & 9th May 2010
 - Would any club interested in hosting Day 1 or Days 2 & 3 inform Secretary P. Sketchley in writing by 3rd July.

7) Cross Country: From H. Williams

The following proposed championship events for the coming Winter were agreed:

- 5th December 2009 = Veterans at Chigwell Row.
- 9th January 2010 = U.13's to Seniors at Southend.
- 17th January 2010 = Senior Relays at Stubbers, Havering.

8) Road Running: From a) & b) D. Staines & c) H. Williams

a) At the recent Fixtures meeting a number of host clubs were close to agreement on the proposed £1 payment for Essex championship entries linked to their event. D. Staines to continue discussions and to obtain agreements in writing.

b) Results of the recent Essex Marathon held at Halstead on 10th May:
 1st Senior Men = G. Chandler of Springfield Striders. 1st Senior Women = K. Masson of Cambridge & Col.

c) The following proposed championship events for the coming Winter were agreed:

- 11th October 2009 = 10 miles at Tiptree.
- 18th October 2009 = Veterans and Youngsters Relays at Colchester.
- 7th February 2010 = Great Bentley Half Marathon at Great Bentley.
- 7th March 2010 = 20 miles at Great Bromley.
- 20th March = Seniors Road Relays at Chelmsford.

d) D. Mullane indicated that the entry fee for many Essex road races was low compared with similar events held elsewhere in the UK. Need for host clubs to review their charges.

9) Trophies: From D. Mullane

a) At the recent May championships, Woodford Green club declined to receive the Arthur Turk trophy they had won in 2008. Trophy will continue to be held by D. Mullane.

b) J. Cooke of Brunwin Engraving failed to pass his stock of medals to D. Mullane as requested. They went to H. Williams instead.

10) Walking

a) Results of the recent Essex 10000 metres held at Woodford: 1st Senior men = S. Crane of Ilford.

b) Next Essex championship race is the 20K at Basildon on 1st August, which also includes the Southern championships.

11) Coaching

a) No report

12) Officials: From R. Burrows

a) The Level 1 courses for young Officials was been well attended.

13) Sports Hall Athletics

a) No report.

14) School Liason

a) No report.

15) Any Other Business

a) P. Sketchley: Retirement of J. Weir as Treasurer. Anyone interested in taking up the position of the county association Treasurer to contact P. Sketchley.

b) P. Sketchley: Former Team Manager S. Orton failed to turn up on Day 3 to return county vests, inter-county trophies, etc.. P. Sketchley to contact him about returning these items at the Schools Champs. on 13th June.

c) C. Rolewicz: More Standard Certificates requested from the SEAA. Will hopefully be completed by end of June.

d) K. Merrywest: Thanks expressed to President E. Jones and Presentation Coordinator J. Tierney for their excellent work at the recent championships.

e) D. Keeley: Need for a Newsletter to publicise e the county's achievements. Lack of volunteers is a ongoing problem.

f) J. Tierney: Reported that an athlete from Havering Maysbrook club won the recent London Mini-Marathon.

g) J. Tierney: Agreed that a letter of thanks be sent by our President to Starter D. Searle who has recently retired.

Meeting concluded at 21.10 hours

Date of next meeting

6th July 2009 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 / Club & Committee Changes, 5) Networking 6) Track & Field, 7) Cross Country, 8) Road Running, 9) Trophies, 10) Walking, 11) Coaching, 12) Officials, 13) Sports Hall Athletics, 14) School Liaison, 15) A.O.B.