

## ESSEX COUNTY AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting which was held on Monday 2nd June 2008 which took place in the club house of Chelmsford Athletic Club, Melbourne Park, Chelmsford.

**Present:** P. Cassidy (Chairman), R. Dawson (President), J. Weir (Treasurer), P. Sketchley (Secretary), R. Burrows, C. Dowsett, D. Green, S. Herbert, D. Keeley, E. Jones, A. Maycraft, R. Meadowcroft, G. Mountstevens, D. Mullane, R. Pearce, M. Seaman, D. Staines, J. Tierney

**1) Apologies for Absence:** L. Bates, D. Ferguson, K. Merrywest, P. Merrywest, H. Williams, J. Stow & R. Thompson.

**2) Minutes of the Last Meeting** - 7th April 2008 were approved, subject to a change in Minute 1b) for the correct spelling of Ken Owles.

### **3) Matters Arising:**

- All matters dealt with in subsequent sections.

### **4A) Correspondence**

a) Letter from Buckingham A.A. declining our invitation to attend the U.17 Inter-Counties at Basildon. They don't have a Team Manager.

b) E-mail from Springfield Striders Secretary enquiring about the Essex team selection criterion for Cross Country. Reply sent referring matter to our representative H. William's.

c) Letters from SEAA and England Athletics about new "club affiliation payments. Details passed to Treasurer J. Weir.

d) Letter Sport Essex / EADG Chairman agreeing to the re-allocation of £1000 grant to potentially fund Essex Schools Coaching & Officials at Eastern Region organised training courses.

e) Letter from UK Counties Athletic Union Secretary informing us of the May AGM. Former Essex President and Treasurer B. Hart is standing down at their Treasurer to become Vice president.

f) Letter from Senior Women's athlete H. Sims requesting that changes be made to the programming of the 400 metres event on Day 3 of the championships, to give a greater rest period between the heats and final of that event. Matter referred to the next Track & Field Sub. Committee on 30th June 2008.

g) Letter from the Lee Valley Athletics Centre confirming the dates of next years Indoor Track & Field Championships - 14th / 15th February.

h) Letter from Sport Essex requesting that "monitoring" forms be completed for recently received grants. See 5) below.

i) Letter from Springfield Striders Secretary requesting that the Essex County A.A.A. reverts back to the original Minutes distribution procedure to clubs. Agreed that matter be considered at the July committee meeting.

j) Letter from former President Olive Megit was read out, thanking us for her gift and recent presentation which took place on Day 3 of the May Championships.

### **4B) Club / Committee Register Changes**

a) Witham Running Club has a new Secretary - Brigid Wallen, 1 Gainsborough Road, Black Notley, Braintree, CM77 8DU. Tel: 01376 340272. E.mail = tony@thewallens.wanadoo.co.uk

### **5) Essex Athletics Development Group (EADG) Matters**

a) Following the introduction of evening Car Parking charges by Chelmsford Bor. Council, EADG quarterly meetings to be transferred from the Waterloo Lane Offices to Chelmsford A.C. club house. June meeting cancelled, it is anticipated that the next meeting will take place in July.

b) P. Sketchley made the committee aware of the difficulties that were been encountered in completing the recently introduced "grant monitoring" forms, when some of our volunteers fail to provide all of the required information. A problem which the Treasurer regularly encountered.

c) Outcome of the 18th May Essex Club Night resulted in a disappointingly low turn out from Essex clubs with only 2 athletic clubs and 3 running clubs represented. This in itself highlighted that information from the county association was often not reaching club members. Range of matters / problems discussed. In order to improve communications it was agreed that clubs be invited to nominate another two or three members to receive committee minutes by e-mail. E-mail or letter sent to all Club Secretary's requesting additional members e-mail addresses, replies sought by the end of June 2008.

### **6) Track & Field:**

a) Notes from the Track & Field Sub. Committee meeting which met on the 19th May 2008 were agreed. As this meeting took place immediately after Day 3 of the championships there was insufficient time for the "Officials" reports to be considered. This will be undertaken at the next Sub Committee meeting on the 30th June 2008. The prime matters raised at the meeting were;

- Athletes entered for the May champs. (Days 1,2 & 3) 34 down on last year, but actual entries up. School entries also increased.

- The new "photo finish service" provided by the Woodford Green club was successful.

- Both venues had equipment shortfalls and in some instances the quality was poor.

- The Use of Gazebo's for Registration was unacceptable as they fail to block of any wind. At Thurrock it was not fixed to the ground and there was a instance where it "took off", luckily no one was hurt, but such situations should be avoided in future. Purchase of a couple of suitable tents be obtained for Registration and Seeding use at some venues.

- Chairman to send letters of thanks to host clubs Thurrock and Basildon, plus recent Announcer R. Ruffell.

- At Thurrock the following problems were noted: Poor Car Parking arrangements, Presentation area needed improving, confusion as to who was undertaking Announcing duties and need for two way walkie-talkies.

- At Basildon the following problems were noted; Location of Registration was too far away from Seeding, spectators area in front of stand was regularly blocked making it difficult for "runners" to get information between the Seeders and Call Up, Presentation difficulties on Day 2 had been overcome by Day 3.

- Basildon's Announcing team was excellent. Should be encouraged to attend other championships venues.

- EDM equipment failed early on. Agreed we should hire a 2nd EDM for Days 2 & 3 in future.

- At Basildon the regular T-Shirt seller was denied access to the track / site as he failed to have 3rd Party Insurance as required by Basildon District Council. This was a loss to all parties and should be avoided in future years.

b) Day 4 of Track & Field Championships to take place at Southend on 20th September.

- Closing date for entries 5th September. Entry fees; £8 per team and £4 for individual athlete events.

- Registration to be 1 hour ahead of event commencement time (This to apply at all future track & field champs).

- U.13 & U.15 Pentathlons to be deleted from programme due to a lack of Field Judges. Reconsider for inclusion next year. Also delete U.17 3K Steeplechase and 10K race.

- Revised programme to include; Relays, 3K and 10K Walk.

c) Results of UK Inter Counties at Bedford on 25th & 26th May;  
- Senior Men = 1st Essex. Senior Women = Essex 2nd behind Surrey. Essex were overall winners of the Achilles Trophy. Congratulations to all those involved in this success for the county.

d) U.17 Inter-Counties match at Basildon on 3rd August  
- 7 counties to compete. All sent timetable letters and track location map.  
- St. John Amb. booked. Need to identify Meeting Manager and Announcer, plus Official's Lunch's.  
- P. Sketchley to obtain county "letters" and other competition requirements.

e) Indoor Track & Field Championships at Lee Valley on 14th & 15th February 2009  
- P. Sketchley to inform Kent and seek confirmation that they will again be sharing venue with Essex.  
- Provisionally, a indoor inter-counties match is to take place at Lee Valley on 15th March for U.17 and Senior athletes.

f) 2009 Track & Field Championships  
- Agreed dates; Day 1 = 4th May (Bank Holiday Monday), Days 2 & 3 = 9th & 10th May.  
    Combined Events include with Woodford Green Open in May.  
    Day 4 = Seek suitable September date

- Agreed that we should seek host clubs for 2009 earlier this year. R. Burrows to identify suitable venues, P. Sketchley to then contact those clubs.  
- Ideally, Tug of War to be included in Day 1 programme. Colchester Harriers contacted to see if they are interested as host. Their Garrison track / venue is potentially suitable for this event. Potential car parking restrictions may rule out this venue.

**7) Cross Country:** From H. William's

a) Next Winters programme of events and venues circulated to all clubs.

**8) Road Running:** From H. William's (a) & D. Staines (b & c)

a) Next Winters programme of events and venues circulated to all clubs.

b) Results of the Essex County 10 Miles at Gt. Baddow on 18th May:

Men: 1st = P. Molyneux - Springfield Striders, 2nd = D. Dickinson - Havering 90 Joggers,  
    3rd = C. Bloomfield - Billericay Striders. 1st Team = Springfield Striders.

Women: 1st = M. Deasy - Colchester Harriers, 2nd = E. Hall - Mid Essex Casuals,  
    3rd = T. Ranson - Springfield Striders. 1st Team = Benfleet R.C.

c) D. Staines felt that at some time in the future the Road Running group should be split off from Cross Country as the workload has increased considerably over the years.

**9) Trophies:** From D. Mullane

a) Some trophies failed to be returned at the recent Track & Field Champs. Need to chase up and probably instigate a procedure next year whereby all trophy holders are contacted prior to the championships.

b) Still waiting to hear from H. William's on whereabouts of some Cross Country and Road Running trophies.

c) Agreed that ideally those trophies won in inter-counties competitions and some of our own trophies should be on public display in a secure location. P. Sketchley to contact Essex County Council on this matter.

**10) Walking:** From R. Pearce

a) Essex 20K due to take place at Basildon on 28th June will include the Southern R.W.A. Champs.

### **11) Coaching:**

Nothing to report.

### **12) Officials:** From Chris Dowsett

a) 26 Officials were awarded their Alan Jackson medals at the recent Track & Field Champs. by achieving their Level 3 and above upgrades. These new awards were deemed a great success.

### **13) Sports Hall Athletics:**

a) Results from the National Championships at the NEC on 12th April. Two Essex teams made the finals; U.13 Girls and U.15 Boys and both came 3rd. Major disappointment that all of the "track" events were cancelled early on, as the floor surface was deemed too dangerous for the athletes to compete on.

b) Sports Hall Athletics Co-ordinator vacancy still exists despite advertising at the recent May Champs.

c) J. Tierney informed those present that the Joe Richardson Community School from Dagenham recently won the London Region Schools Champs.

### **14) School Liaison:** From G. Mountstevens

a) Recent Schools Combined Events competition was deemed a success.

b) The forthcoming Schools Track & Field Champs at Chelmsford has a lengthy programme and a future review could be deemed necessary due to the Officials lengthy workload. Whilst helpers from Champion School is greatly appreciated, even more help may prove necessary in future years.

c) P. Sketchley enquired as to schools response to invitation offering substantial grant funding for PE Teachers and / or Senior pupils to attend Eastern Region courses for Coaching and Officials. No response to date, G. Mountstevens to contact Colleges who may have an interest.

### **15) Tug of War:** From E. Jones (a) & R. Burrows (b)

a) If a suitable venue can be found for a Essex Tug of War Championships by the end of September, there is a strong possibility that venue would also be used to incorporate the SEAA championships.

b) Police Tug of War Championships recently took place at the Colchester Garrison track.

### **16) Any Other Business:**

a) County Association Web Site:

- Agreed that the current county association contact e-mail address listed against the Secretary's name be removed because he has no home e-mail address to receive correspondence.

- All agreed that the new site format is excellent.

b) From R. Burrows; The Eastern Region has produced a "Business Plan" which was circulated to members at the meeting. Queries to be dealt with at the July meeting.

c) From M. Seaman; Suggested that the recently opened Gt. Leigh's Racecourse may be suitable for distance racing if the hire rate was acceptable. Proposal not accepted with any enthusiasm.

Meeting closed at 21.25 hours.

### **Date of next meeting**

7th July 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 4A) Correspondence 4B) Club / Committee Changes 5) EADG Matters 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) Tug of War 16) A.O.B.