

## ESSEX COUNTY AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Draft minutes of the Committee Meeting which was held on Monday 3rd November 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, E. Jones, D. Keeley, A. Maycraft, R. Meadowcroft, G. Mountstevens, D. Mullane, R. Pearce, C. Rolewicz, M. Seaman, D. Staines, J. Tierney & W. Tydeman.

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

**2) Minutes of the Last Meeting - 6th October 2008** were approved.  
Proposed by C. Dowsett and seconded by R. Pearce.

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

a) All matters dealt with in subsequent sections except for 4A)a), where the chairman reported that the Olympians Parade planned for 16th October was eventually cancelled due to a lack of Olympic athletes.

### **3b) Constitution Update**

a) It was agreed that the proposed Constitution be amended so that the word "Laws" be replaced with Rules or Constitution as appropriate.

b) The proposal to delete the word "Amateur" be amended to also include from Constitution content.

c) Paragraph 7)iv) be deleted. (Removal of Tug of War).

### **4A) Correspondence:** From P. Sketchley

a) Letter from England Athletics about their planned Reorganisation.

b) Letter from EADG Chair outlining probable effects and ceasing of our grants from the regions due to the above England Athletics Reorganisation.

c) Letter from Kent County A.A. informing Essex that they are happy to once again join us at the Lee Valley Athletics Centre on 14 / 15th February 2009 for our joint Indoor Track & Field Championships

d) Letters from the Lee Valley Athletics Centre informing Essex of their charges for the coming indoor championships, plus details about the planned Indoor Inter-Counties match and confirmation that they are happy to mark out a start line for a 1 mile walking race..

e) Letter from the manager at the Chelmsford Sport & Athletics Centre giving hire cost details for hosting Day 1 of our championships at their centre.

f) Letter from the Secretary of the Woodford Green club on matters relating to agreed use of their Photo Finish equipment in 2009, plus Combined Events and other matters.

g) Letter from Braintree A.C. Chair offering volunteer assistance at Days 2 & 3 of our championships, plus an offer to host Day 4 of our championships in 2009.

h) Letters of acceptance from counties Hampshire and Sussex to attend the Senior Inter-Counties match Essex are hosting in 2009.

i) Invitation to the Secretary to attend the Essex Schools A.A. AGM in November which has been accepted.

j) Eastern A.A. championship dates and venues for 2009.

k) SEAA indoor championship dates and venues for 2009.

l) Letter from H. William's on Cross Country and Fell Running.

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

a) Grange Farm & Dunmow Runners: Change of address for Secretary Sandra Smith; Felsted Fitness, Stebbing Road, Felsted, nr Dunmow, Essex, CM6 3LL

**5) Essex Athletics Development Group (EADG) Matters: From C. Rolewicz (EADG Chair)**

a) Impact of England Athletics reorganisation will result in the London & Eastern Regions ceasing to exist. This in turn will end the grant support Essex has benefited from in recent years. There is also no place for the EADG in the proposed structure.

b) P. Sketchley to write to England Athletics seeking clarification, etc on their proposals and its impact on county associations, etc.

**6) Track & Field: From P. Sketchley**

a) Indoor Track & Field Championships at Lee Valley; Kent have suggested that we meet with their representatives on 12th November at Dartford Harriers club house. Agreed the K. Merrywest, P. Merrywest, R. Burrows and P. Sketchley should attend on behalf of Essex.

b) The Lee Valley Athletics Centre intend to host a Indoor Track & Field Inter-Counties match on 15th March for U.17 and Seniors (can include U.20's). Counties participating; Middlesex, Hertfordshire and Kent. The centre has a sponsor for the event so there will be no charges to the counties. It was agreed that Essex should compete in this new competition.

c) Day 1 on 4th May in 2009; Whist a quotation had been received to hire the Chelmsford track no quote had been received on hiring the Basildon track. It was agreed that Basildon be given extended time until 7th November to offer a quotation. (As no reply received from the Basildon club by the 10th November, letter to be sent to the Chelmsford Sport & Athletics centre accepting their quote).

d) Combined Events (Excluding Pentathlons); Championships to take place at the Woodford Green track on 16 / 17th May in 2009. The Woodford Green club have also indicated that they are happy to include our individual track events from Day 4 in their two day programme. P. Sketchley to pass on track event details to Woodford Green club.

e) Day 4 in 2009; Southend and Braintree clubs had indicated that they were prepared to be hosts for the Relays Championships. Agreed that on this occasion Braintree would be the venue for an evening competition on a date to be agreed. Views would be welcome from clubs at the next meeting as to which evening in the week is considered most suitable.

f) R. Burrows indicated that he would be evaluating further possible changes to Days 1, 2 & 3 timetables to see if some young athletes events, especially long distance, can be transferred from Day 1 to Days 2 or 3. It was agreed that if any changes are made the resultant impact should be evaluated to establish if there is a resultant reduction in athletes competing, loss of income, etc.

**g) Eastern A.A. Championship meetings in 2009:**

- Sunday 1st March = Indoor Track & Field at Chelmsford.

- Sunday 5th July = Outdoor Track & Field at Cambridge.

- Sunday 23rd August = Outdoor Hibbard Trophy Inter - Counties at Ipswich

Note: Combined Events not agreed at this time.

**h) SEAA Indoor Championship meetings in 2009:**

- Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th January = Pentathlons (U.20SW & SW) + Heptathlons (U.20M & SM) at Sheffield.
- Sunday 11th January = Pentathlons ((U.15 & U.17 age groups) at Lee Valley.
- Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th January = Track & Field (all age groups) at Lee Valley.

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

a) Reminder to clubs that the Veterans Cross Country Championships are taking place at Claybury on 6th December. All entries to H. William's.

b) Any senior athlete / club interested in representing Essex in the Inter-Counties Fell Championships taking place near Kirkby, Cumbria on 23rd May 2009 to contact H. William's.

**8) Road Running:**

a) No report.

**9) Trophies:** From (a) P. Sketchley & b) / c) D. Mullane)

a) A further letter has been sent to E.C.C. relating to a trophy cabinet, but no reply has been received indicating a lack of interest from County Hall.

b) All trophy holders had either been contacted or were in the process of been contacted with regard to the return of trophies for the AGM in December.

c) Agreed that D. Mullane would be the sole purchaser of county medals for indoor and outdoor track & field championships.

**10) Walking:** From P. Sketchley

a) Indoor Track & Field Championships at Lee Valley on 14 / 15th February 2009. The centre has agreed to mark out a temporary start line for the requested 1 mile race. The provisional timetable has this event scheduled for Day 2 with start time just after 13.00 hours.

**11) Coaching:** From P. Sketchley

a) Coaching Secretary J. Stow had indicated that the number of athletes applying for the General Development Workshops was still lower than hoped for. He is happy to take late applications.

b) A level 1 Coaching course is taking place at Braintree on 30th November. Any interested applicants to contact the Eastern Region offices at Newmarket.

**12) Officials:** From Chris Dowsett

a) England Athletics will be contacting all Officials who have failed to complete a CRB check inviting them to do so, if they wish to remain on the approved register.

b) The latest register listed around 200 Essex Officials.

c) On 7th December a Level 2 Officials course is taking place at Chelmsford. Any one interested in attending to either contact Chris or the Eastern Region offices at Newmarket.

**13) Sports Hall Athletics:** From P. Sketchley

a) Sadly, only two Essex clubs were prepared to host an indoor event for youngsters this coming Winter. These will take place on 23rd November at Chelmsford and on 18th January at Newham. Details circulated to athletic club members at the meeting, plus circulation with the minutes.

**14) School Liaison:** From P. Sketchley

a) P. Sketchley to attend the Essex County Schools AA AGM on 10th November. Concerns raised earlier by R. Burrows relating to a need for closer liaison on producing an improved Essex Schools Championship programme to be passed on.

**15) Tug of War:** From E. Jones

a) Three Essex clubs competed at the TOWC at Haden Hill near Birmingham on 19th October. The following weekend's competition at the Harry Mitchell centre in the West Midlands saw the following Essex teams competing; Essex Police, Met. Police (North East), Gt. Totham Bull and Hadleigh.

**16) Any Other Business:**

a) P. Sketchley requested that in order to achieve reduced costs at inter-counties competitions. Athletes travelling expenses to only be paid at the Seniors UK match at Bedford. All other requests to be made in writing to the Hon. Secretary a minimum of two months beforehand for a decision to be made by the executive committee. P. Sketchley to inform all team managers.

b) M. Seaman enquired as to what the current Affiliation payment was ? Treasurer J. Weir stated that the current fee was £10 and clubs were asked to promptly make arrangements for this to be paid.

**Date of next meeting including A.G.M.**

1st December 2008 in the Chelmsford A.C. club house. The AGM to commence at 19.30 hours with the Executive Committee meeting following on as soon as possible after the AGM is completed.

**Next Committee 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.

Meeting closed at 21.30 hours.