

ESSEX COUNTY AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Draft minutes of the Committee Meeting which was held on Monday 6th October 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), L. Bates, R.Burrows, C.Dowsett, D.Ferguson, D.Green, S.Herbert, C.Hopkins, E.Jones, D. Keeley, K.Merrywest, P.Merrywest, D.Mullane, R. Pearce, C. Rolewicz, M. Seaman, D.Staines, R. Thompson, Tierney & W. Tydeman

1a) Apologies for Absence: R. Meadowcroft, J. Stow, & H. Williams.

2) Minutes of Last Meeting - 1st September 2008 were approved, subject to the following agreed changes:

- Minute 6) h) 2nd Para. Last sentence to become: President R. Dawson to send a letter of congratulations on them becoming Olympians.
- Minute 9) c) Correct spelling for Braintree Chair is C. Rolewicz not H. Rolewicz
- Minute 16) a) Race Walking distance to be 1 mile not 1500M..

3a) Matters Arising:

a) Results of the recent Eastern Region Awards Dinner. Essex winners:

- Club of the Year = Braintree & District A.C.
- Volunteer of the Year (Club Volunteer) = Suzanne Kuysler of Springfield Striders.
- Coach of the Year (Performance) = Ken Hills of Braintree & District A.C.
- Services to Athletics = Olive Megit of Essex County A.A.A.

b) Results of the London Region Awards Dinner. Essex winners:

- Club of the Year = Newham & Essex Beagles A.C.
- Coach of the year = Paul Head of Newham & Essex Beagles A.C.
- Specialised Disability Coaching = Steve Peaty of Newham & Essex Beagles A.C.

c) Letter of thanks from Orion Harriers for the petition we sent onto them. With the possibility of a new site offered they are in need of advice on sources of capital funding grants. P. Sketchley to reply.

d) Newham & Essex Beagles A.C. Secretary has advised that the likely date is now in January for their awards dinner and Christine Ohuruogu presentation.

4A) Correspondence: From P. Cassidy & P.Sketchley

a) Chairman P. Cassidy has received an invitation from Essex C.C. Cllr S. Castle to attend the G.B. Olympians Parade on 16th October.

b) Chairman P. Cassidy informs those present of the recent SEAA Election results.

c) Received from the SEAA an information update on:

- Long Service Awards for those with + 20 years service; Clubs or the Essex County AAA can nominate individuals to the SEAA. For county nominations contact P. Sketchley.
- Availability of Finish Lynx software at no charge. P. Sketchley has already contacted the SEAA requesting a copy.
- SEAA 2009 Indoor Championship events at Lee Valley; 11th Jan. for U.15 & U.17 Pentathlon, 10th & 11th Jan. for U.20 & Senior Pentathlon & Heptathlon, 17th & 18th Jan. for indiv. all age groups,
- SEAA 2009 C. C. Championship events; 24th Jan. at Hillingdon House Farm, Uxbridge for all ages. 31st Jan. Inter County C.C. Champs at Old Warden, Biggleswade for all ages/groups except sen. men.

d) Letter from Olive Megit thanking us for her Eastern Region Awards Dinner nomination.

e) All other correspondence read out at the meeting was dealt with in subsequent sections.

4B) Recent Club & Committee Register Changes:

a) Nothing to report.

4C) Treasurers (J. Weir) Report on the 2007 / 08 Year.

- Provisional accounts up to the end of year - 30th Sept. Whilst still waiting on a number income and expenditure sources. Last years deficit was £1471. At the current time, this years deficit is £2653 and it is likely to increase after all financial details are in. This increased shortfall is primarily linked to a decrease in athletes attending the general development workshops, lower road racing levy income and an increase in charges / lower income from Days 2 & 3 of our championships.
- There is an increased need for the county's clubs to support our championship events and the development workshops to help the county association address the current financial shortfall. No increase in entry fees is planned for the coming year.

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

a) The next EADG meeting is scheduled to take place on 13th October 2008. Venue needs to be agreed. Planned meeting with C. Rolewicz & N. Deans of the Eastern Region should clarify situation.

6) Track & Field: From P. Sketchley

a) Results from the recent Eastern-Counties match at Stevenage on 7th September:

- U.17 Men = 1st Essex, Senior Women = 1st Essex, Senior Men = 1st Essex.

b) Notes and proposals from the Track & Field Sub Committee which met on the 29th September 2008 were agreed, together with subsequent matters discussed today:

- Review of Day 4: The number of athletes / teams that attended these championships at Southend was similar to last year. There was a shortage of track officials after a number withdrew at the last moment.
- Future Indoor Track & Field Champs. at Lee Valley on 14th & 15th February: Kent will once again be having their champs. at the same time. Agreed closing date is 16th Jan. for Essex entries. Agreed we should offer an Open category for athletes not linked to Essex or Kent, charge to be £5 per athlete. Meeting sought with Kent prior to the championships. C. Dowsett happy to be Officials Organiser. Need for Auxiliary help highlighted - C. Rolewicz offered her services. P. Sketchley has completed draft event timetables to be circulated to appropriate Essex members.
- Indoor Inter-County competition at Lee Valley: It is looking unlikely that this will take place in 2009 due to a lack of counties prepared to attend.
- 2009 Track & Field Championships:
 - Day 1 = Ilford AC declined invite to host day due to a lack of volunteers. W. Tydeman indicated at 6th October meeting that they could now be host. Agreed that Quotes be obtained from the Basildon club and the Chelmsford centre to be presented at the November committee meeting.
 - Days 2 and 3 to be at Chelmsford on 9th & 10th May.
 - Day 4: Southend AC have indicated that they are prepared to host this event. It is planned to hold the Relays as an evening "floodlight" event, subject to the individual championship track events been rearranged to take place during the Combined Event championships at Woodford Green. A letter has been sent to that clubs Secretary asking whether this change could be accommodated / acceptable.
- Combined Events: to take place at Woodford Green on 16th and 17th May.
 - Agreed that the county should seek assistance from clubs or outside volunteer groups to help with some functions at the Chelmsford championships, with a payment been made in return. Officials lunches and selling programmes were considered appropriate. J. Weir to investigate further. Braintree AC indicated that they may be prepared to help, C. Rolewicz to report back at next meeting.
 - K & P Merrywest have agreed for a trial one year to collate the championship programmes and arrange printing. Provisional printing quote for the 3 days of around £1500 is substantially less than this years cost. Someone to undertake provision of "grade" certificates still required. J. Weir to seek whether a volunteer group would be interested in helping us with this requirement.

- Days 1, 2 & 3 have been updated by R. Burrows and it has been agreed that a few more changes need to be accommodated.
- 2 EDM's need to be booked for all three championship days and the seniors Inter-county match. The photo finish equipment also needs to be booked for these 4 days.
- Agreed that we stay with the past size of athletes numbers, numbered 1 to 1000.
- Further to the letter from G. Foy a young athletes team manager with Woodford Green, requesting that all young athletes events currently on Day 1 be transferred to the other days, due to a regular clash with that league. It was agreed that to achieve such a wide range of changes was not possible at this time. P. Sketchley to inform G. Foy.

Seniors Inter-Counties match at Chelmsford on 9th August:

- Sports centre booked between 08.00 & 18.00 hours together with athletes use of the indoor track.
 - Need for C. Dowsett to appoint a Meeting Manager. P. Sketchley to book St John Ambulance, etc.
- Tug of War competition planned for 9th August.
- The Tug of Was Association has declined this second application due to another clash of dates. This leaves the county association with no alternative, but to cancel all the planned tug of war competitions due to be held in Chelmsford.
 - It has recently come to the Secretary's notice that the SEAA, UK Athletics and England Athletics no longer include Tug of War in their Constitutions.

7) Cross Country: From H. William's

- a) Nothing to report.

8) Road Running: From D. Staines

- a) Eastern Region are planning to enter teams in London's Mini Marathon next year. Not all members were happy with this proposal as it clashed with current arrangements. D. Staines to clarify and report back at the next meeting

- b) A 10 Mile Grand Prix race to be held in Essex is proposed for next year.

9) Trophies: From P. Sketchley a) & b) + D. Mullane c)

- a) Reference the proposed trophy cabinet; Essex County Council have indicated that the only advertising permitted on the cabinet would be from a charitable organisation.

- b) Letter from H. Williams seeking clarification on purchasing county medals. Agreed that D. Mullane to for Track & Field, H. Williams for Cross Country & Road Running & R. Pearce for Walking.

c) Results of the track & field points scoring trophies to be awarded at the Decembers AGM:

- Anna Neagle trophy for Senior & U.20 Women = Colchester Harriers .
- Joe King trophy for U17 Women = Southend A.C.
- Pat Mills trophy for U.15 Girls = Thurrock Harriers.
- George Holroyd trophy for U.13 Girls = Basildon A.C.
- Arthur Turk Trophy for Senior Men = Woodford Green with Essex Ladies
- Herbert Pash trophy for U.20, U.17 Men & U.15 & U.13 Boys = Woodford Green with E.L.
- Sidney Taylor trophy for Relays (All ages / Groups) = Southend A.C.
- George Deer trophy for U.15 Girls = Southend High School.

10) Walking: From R. Pearce

- a) No report.

11) Coaching: From P. Sketchley

- a) Coaching Secretary J. Stow is concerned that some athletic clubs have not passed onto their young athletes details about this coming Winter's General Development Workshops. Details and application forms sent to PDM's in Essex (Eastern Region).

b) Hertfordshire AAA will be making their own coaching arrangements for next Winter, this will potentially result in a shortfall of 20 places at the workshops to be filled by Essex athletes.

12) Officials: From C. Dowsett

a) Meeting of senior track & field officials took place a few weeks ago to agree their placements at coming championships.

b) A Level 2 course is scheduled to take on 7 December at Chelmsford. Any one interested to complete application form and send to the Newmarket Eastern Region offices with fee.

c) An up to date Officials register had been received from the Eastern Region. The number on this listing was less than the previous one and is due to some officials not taking the required CRB check. They will be contacted shortly and reminded of this requirement. Those officials who have not taken a UK Athletics approved course and the CRB check will not be invited to future championships.

13) Sports Hall Athletics: From P. Sketchley

a) No replies to date from any club indicating that they will definitely host a indoor event this coming Winter.

b) Recent meeting with the manager of Sportshall Associate highlighted that the Eastern Region inter county match at Norwich, clashed with the indoor track & field championships at Lee Valley. The alternative London Region match no longer existed as it had been amalgamated with a 8 county match in Sussex. It is unlikely that Essex will be competing next year in any U.13 & U15 competitions.

14) School Liaison: From P. Sketchley

a) Results of English Schools at Gateshead in July:

Junior Boys = 1st Essex, Inter Boys = 3rd Essex, Senior Boys = 2nd Essex.

Junior Girls = 1st Essex, Inter Girls = 1st Essex, Senior Girls 10th Essex. Overall Comb. = 1st Essex

b) Results of English Schools Cup at Hull in July, Main Essex Schools placing:

Junior Boys = 2nd Southend High School for Boys, Inter Boys = 1st Southend High School for Boys.

Junior Girls = 1st Southend High School for Girls, Inter Girls = 1st Southend High School for Girls.

c) English Schools Combined Events at Birmingham in September. Main Essex Schools placing:

Junior Boys = 3rd Essex, Inter Boys = 6th Essex, Inter Girls = 1st Essex.

d) Secretary to contact Essex Schools Secretary to request that we be informed of the above.

15) Tug of War: From P. Sketchley

a) Letter from Tug of War Association Secretary stated that due to another clash of competition dates, the requested 9th August would go to another T. O. W. club. To hold the planned Southern and Essex competitions on another date would be un-viable and as such there was no alternative but to cancel.

16) Any Other Business:

a) P. Sketchley stated that details about the December AGM would be enclosed with these minutes.

b) From J. Weir; Chelmsford Open to take place on Easter Saturday and there would be indoor and outdoor Minithons early next year.

c) M. Seamon requested that the seating be more suitably arranged at the next committee meeting.

d) C. Rolewicz indicated that grants were available from the Eastern Region. Contact her for more info

e) D. Ferguson suggested that the current £10 club affiliation fee should be reviewed.

a) Date of next meeting

3rd November 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 21.40 hours.