

ESSEX COUNTY AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Draft minutes of the Committee Meeting which was held on Monday 1st September 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), L. Bates, C. Dowsett, D. Ferguson, S. Herbert, E. Jones, K. Merrywest, P. Merrywest, D. Mullane, R. Pearce, C. Rolewicz, M. Seaman, D. Staines, J. Stow, R. Thompson & J. Tierney.

Note: New EADG Chair Claire Rolewicz replaced previous Chairman Chris Clark on the associations committee.

1) Apologies for Absence: R. Burrows, D. Green, D. Keeley & H. Williams.,

2) Minutes of the Last Meeting - 7th July 2008 were approved, subject to including the following changes:

Minute 8a) Road Running - 1st Women was K. Stunt not K. Stundt.

Minute 9c) Trophies - Senior Women 4 x 100M event is for the Bryan & Muriel trophy. Original spelling of Bryan was incorrect.

Minute 15b) Tug of War - Ground behind main Chelmsford football stand was deemed "unsuitable" not suitable for Tug of War competition.

Minute 16) Any Other Business - Original states Minute 6) for Any Other Business.

Proposed by R. Pearce and seconded by S. Herbert.

3) Matters Arising:

- All matters dealt with in subsequent sections.

4A) Correspondence: From P. Sketchley

a) Letter from H. Williams forwarding on the address of T-Shirt seller M. Cadwalder and other information.

b) Letter from R. Burrows on matters linked to tug of war, seniors inter-counties, details about proposed Level 1 Asst. courses for a grant request and details about suggested change to the county championship programme. Agreed the latter to be considered at the next Track & Field Sub Com. meeting on 29th September.

c) Letter from Essex County Council giving their quotation for installing a trophy cabinet in County Hall, Chelmsford. Matter dealt with in subsequent Trophies Section.

d) Certificate of Affiliation received from England Athletics.

e) Letter from Havering Mayesbrook A.C. informing us that they are unable to host either Days 1 or 4 due to possible changes to their field at that time.

f) Petition received via E. Jones on the eviction of Orion Harriers from their Royal Forest Hotel premises. Agreed that P. Sketchley should forward this petition onto the Harriers Secretary.

g) Letter from Woodford Green & Essex Ladies Young Athletes Secretary G. Foy requesting that the county revises its championship programme so that no young athletes events take place on Day 1 as that day / weekend currently clash's with a National Young Athletes League match. Agreed that the matter be referred to the next Track & Field Sub. Com meeting on 29th September.

h) Reply letter from EADG Chair C. Rolewicz to Secretary's enquiry linked to the role of PDM's in Essex, etc.

i) Letter from Chelmsford Sport & Athletics Centre informing us that they are happy to host Days 2 & 3 of our championships in 2009.

j) AGM voting details received from SEAA. Voting decisions made.

4B) Club / Committee Register Changes

a) Colchester & Tendring A.C. Club has a new Secretary - Sally Mays, 55 Alan Way, Colchester, CO3 4LB Tel: 07510241572. E.mail = info@cat-ac.co.uk

b) Roach Runners of Rochford; Secretary Marilyn Seear can now be contacted on the following E.mail address; marilyn.seear@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

5) Essex Athletics Development Group (EADG) Matters: From a) P. Sketchley, b) P. Cassidy

a) Prime matters from the EADG meeting on 21st July. Two of our grants linked to support for our inter-counties teams and Road Racing Levies shortfalls were declined.

b) The Chairman reminded those present that it was agreed some months ago that the EADG would become a sub committee of the county association, yet this was yet to be implemented together with a number of other changes which were considered necessary for this new structure to be successful. P. Cassidy and C. Rolewicz to undertake implementation.

6) Track & Field: From P. Sketchley

a) Results from recent inter-counties competitions;

- 27th July: U.13's at Kingston, Surrey. 1st Essex Boys, 5th Essex Girls.

- 3rd August: U17's at Basildon. 1st Essex Men, 1st Essex Women.

- 10th August: Senior's at Kingston, Surrey. 2nd Essex Men, 1st Essex Women.

- 24th August: U.15's & U.20's at Cophthall Barnet. 4th Essex U.15 combined boys & girls. 1st Essex U.20 combined men & women.

b) P. Cassidy reported that the recent U.20 inter-regional match at Abingdon was poorly supported with many events failing to have a full quota of athletes. The value of this competition was questioned.

c) Day 4 at Southend on 20th September. K. Merrywest stated that the processing of entries was underway and she would inform C. Dowsett of numbers as soon as possible.

d) Agreed that Days 2 & 3 (9th & 10th May) of the track & field championships would take place at Chelmsford in 2009. P. Sketchley to confirm booking for track and upstairs activity room.

e) To date no club had offered to host Days 1 or 4. R. Pearce indicated that Southend A.C. would probably be prepared to host Day 4 again on a suitable September date. It was also agreed that P. Sketchley should write to Ilford A.C. asking whether they are prepared to host Day 1.

f) Kent had confirmed that they would be joining us at the Lee Valley Indoor Centre in February for our respective indoor championships.

g) It was agreed that Essex should take its turn in 2009 at hosting a senior inter-counties match (8 counties) on 9th August. To take place at Chelmsford. P. Sketchley to confirm booking for track, upstairs activity room and indoor track (for athletes warm-up).

h) 2008 Beijing Olympics:

- Agreed that a suitably engraved award be made to Essex athlete Christine Ohuruogu for her "gold" winning achievement. It is known that her club Newham & Essex Beagles are planning to hold a club

dinner in October with Christine as "guest of honour". P. Sketchley to contact the Newham club to hopefully arrange for county President R. Dawson and his wife to attend and make the presentation. R. Dawson to purchase the award.

- The following Essex athletes competed in Beijing. Daniel Awde, Sarah Claxton, Tyrone Edgar, Jeanette Kwakye and Christine Ohuruogu President R. Dawson to send a letter of congratulations on them becoming an Olympian's.

- It was agreed that the G.B. haul of only 4 medals was a poor return on the millions invested in athletics. P. Sketchley to write to U.K. Athletics & U.K Sport to applaud the recent decision to remove the Performance Director from his post and hoped that there would be further changes in order to achieve greater success at the London Olympics.

i) Further to the recent report from the Governments Minister for Sport - Tessa Jowell that 130,000 volunteers had already signed up for the London Olympics. It transpires that anyone can enter their details on-line. Todate, no athletic clubs have been contacted.

7) Cross Country:

a) No report.

8) Road Running:

a) No report.

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

a) Specification and cost details given from the quotation received from Essex County Council. Concern expressed that the 1.15 metres length was ideally to short yet the cost was too high at a time when available funds was tight. Agreed that P. Sketchley to ask Essex County Council whether they would agree to a) Us making our own purchase if a lower cost model could be found, b) A sponsors details be permitted on the cabinet and c) Whether the E.C.C. would make a financial contribution towards the cost.

b) Still waiting to hear from H. William's on whereabouts of some Cross Country and Road Running trophies. Agreed that P. Cassidy to speak to H. William's on this outstanding matter.

c) The missing U.20's Octathlon trophy received from Braintree Chair H Rolewicz.

10) Walking: From P. Sketchley

a) Competing in the recent Seniors Inter-Counties 3K Walking race at Kingston was a competitor from Oxfordshire who in finishing last in a time which was over 11 minutes slower than the winner and around 2.5 minutes slower than the next to last competitor. This athletes performance gave a poor reflection on race walking at county level. It was agreed that P. Sketchley should write to the counties who compete in this match, as to what action they would agree to in order to avoid a similar situation occurring next year when Essex are the hosts.

11) Coaching: From J. Stow

a) Details given about the General and Elite Development Workshops which will be taking place this coming Winter at Chelmsford. It is planned to also include the Steeplechase and Distance Running events. Details about the General will shortly be sent to all athletic clubs.

b) It was hoped that Christine Ohuruogu would agree to attend one of the workshops to give an appropriate talk.

12) Officials: From Chris Dowsett

- a) A senior Officials meeting is scheduled to take place in late September to appoint the "chiefs" for the 2009 championships.
- b) It was planned to continue with the Alan Jackson awards in 2009 and it was hoped that more up to date badges be provided for 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. It is expected that a Level 2 Endurance course will soon be available.

13) Sports Hall Athletics: From P. Sketchley

- a) Letter to be sent to all athletics clubs inviting them to host an indoor event this coming Winter.

14) School Liaison:

- a) P. Sketchley requested to obtain a copy of the English Essex schools team results.

15) Tug of War: From a) E. Jones & b) P. Sketchley

- a) Proposal to hold Essex championships on 10th May (Day 3) at Chelmsford not accepted by the Tug of War Association as it clashed with another major event. There was also a possibility that a delayed football season could result in football match's having priority over tug of war on use of a pitch and changing rooms. Agreed to bid for a new date at Chelmsford - 9th August when the seniors inter-counties takes place. (Subsequent to the meeting it was agreed between P. Sketchley and E. Jones that the grass area (approx. 40M x 20M) adjacent to the football changing rooms and between the car park and the closest football pitch was suitable for the tug of war championships).
- b) The suggestion that a "open" tug of war competition be held solely for Essex affiliated athletic or running club members received a favourable response. The teams of 8 could be all male, all female or even mixed. There would be two total weight categories with each team weighing in on the day immediately prior to competition commencing. Further details will be sent to clubs.

16) Any Other Business:

- a) From R. Pearce: Requesting that a 1500M Walk be included in the Indoor Championships programme. This was agreed.
- b) From C. Rolewicz: Tickets are still available for the East Region awards dinner on 20th Sept. 2009.
- c) C. Dowsett: Requested the committee should consider nominating now our Presidents up to 2012.
- d) L. Bates: Employment retirement has created spare time to become more involved in "athletics".
- e) J. Tierney: Proposal accepted that the President sends a congratulations note to our successful track & field team managers.

Date of next meeting

6th October 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.

Meeting closed at 21.35 hours.