



**SUSSEX ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION**  
President: Martin Etchells

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 17<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2015**  
**AT WITHEAN LEISURE CENTRE**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

M. Etchells, R. Hook, M. Anning, J. Gill, J. Luxford, J. Linfield, R. Penfold, N. Sutherland, L. Tullett, G. Stephens, S. May, K. May, G. Ashdown.

**15-15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

P. Masters, R. Garrad, M. Collison, V. Clark, P. Baker, G. Jessop.

**15-16 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes signed and accepted with minor amendments including Linda Tullett's omission from the apologies for absence at the last meeting.

**15-17 MATTERS ARISING**

**1) OFFICIALS KIT** - Sue May asked for clarification re. T-shirt distribution for officials at the upcoming Sussex Championships. All qualified officials will be eligible to receive a top once they have completed four meetings and received their licence.

**2) TRIAL MONITORING of Officials AT THE U13/15 LEAGUE MATCHES** - Keith May asked who would monitor whether clubs provided officials at the U15 league. He stated that signing in sheets were not used in the West Division, even if present. Melanie Anning will do a generic signing in sheet and send this out to host clubs. There was a general discussion around the issue. It was agreed that for the trial (which will not impact on league points this season) one point would be added for each qualified official.

**3) AFFILIATION FEES** - Thirty-two clubs have now affiliated. Six to seven have not. The committee agreed that the Administrator would send a final request for payment and any clubs who had not affiliated by 1<sup>st</sup> May would be removed from the website and contacts lists, which will be eight months after payment was due.

**4) OFFICIALS** - England Athletics charged Sussex AA £300 for running the officials course for 17 people. Keith May asked how this cost was justified. John Gill explained that EA required a minimum number of participants and this course involved four tutors and the cost of the venue hire. However the exact breakdown was not clear.

**4) MANDY ROBERTSHAW** - Martin Etchells confirmed that that SCAA and Sussex Schools had both given gifts to Mandy to mark her departure from K2 - a voucher and a contribution to a charity walk, in which she was participating. Graham Ashdown reported that Tony Roberts had requested that Mandy be considered as an SCAA Vice President. Keith May stated that any nominations could only be considered in the September meeting before the AGM. The Administrator has noted this. Reg Hook confirmed that Mandy's successor had not yet been appointed.

**5) EDM** - The kit is presently stored at John Gill's house. It will move back to K2, however John intends to run an EDM refresher training session in the next month.

**6) COUNTY CHAIRPERSON'S MEETING** - Keith discussed the importance of circulating the minutes of these meetings, which involve only eight of the larger counties, including Kent and Surrey. John Linfield raised the issue of the unattached levies and the importance of getting input from other counties. Peter Masters has set up a meeting with Chris Jones of England Athletics to discuss unattached levies. This will take place during Sussex Athletics Network Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May. Martin Etchells suggested the county chairperson's meeting and minutes could also be raised at this time.

#### **15-18 CORRESPONDENCE & ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

1. The U15 Regional Sportshall final was successfully hosted by Sussex at The Triangle in February.
2. Track and Field and Endurance Squad: have both finished now. Fiona Newport felt the T&F had gone well and the administrator is waiting for a final overview from Alan Swetman.
3. There has been a change of Secretary for Heathfield Road Runners and Midhurst Milers
4. Website: The redesign of the website is on-going. It should be ready to show in the next couple of weeks and it is hoped that on-line payments will be set up for the U13 Championships in June.
5. Affiliations - as mentioned earlier.
6. The Prospectus and Entry Forms for the 2015 SEAA outdoor Track and Field Championships has been circulated and is on the website. There will also be RELAY Championships on Sunday 19th July.
7. The County 10K is taking place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August, not as initially confirmed as the previous day.
8. There had been an enquiry from Australia from an ex-resident of Crawley, Simon Hussey - who is returning to the UK on a family holiday in December and looking to see what opportunities exist for his son to compete in Cross-country and in the Championships. Phil Baker and Melanie Anning had been in touch and Phil had agreed the youngster could guest in the county championships in January.

The committee discussed this and the majority decided it would be unfair for a non-Sussex/ non-UK based athlete to guest and potentially win this event. They agreed that the youngster could guest in a league match, however it was likely that their holiday dates would preclude this. Melanie Anning and Phil Baker had sent Simon Hussey information about Park Runs and other local events. Melanie would contact Phil and Simon to communicate the committee's decision.

9. The administrator had received an email from a Phoenix athlete about the Masters age groups in road running and cross-country. The athlete said they would have a very competitive 70+ team next year and he wanted to ensure that athletes in this age group and over were also recognised.

The committee discussed this and agreed that a gold medal could be awarded to the winning athlete only in the Over 70 category, but over 70 athletes would generally team score as Over 60's.

10. Sarah Hewitt had sent an email responding to information sent out about track certification. She was enquiring about what the county did to ensure standards were upheld.

John Gill and Melanie Anning had raised concerns about Withdean Stadium and the state of the long and triple jump boards/pits. Reg Hook reported that the contractors had visited, along with the council and that repairs were due to take place, which would include replacing boards and improving the drainage, as well as sifting the sand, which contains stones. Gavin Stephens spoke about the situation at Worthing and said that he and other clubs would welcome the county's support when there were issues around maintenance and safety at tracks.

#### **15-19 TREASURER'S REPORT**

Martin had circulated the initial draft report but it is already out of date. He had received the England Athletics bill (for officials' course) for £300 that morning and received some money for the Road Relays. Discussions took place around some aspects of the report and the reduction in income from cross-country despite a larger turn out. Martin would look at the figures in detail and do a comparison and

circulate the information when all the figures were in. He concluded that the surplus would be much tighter than previously.

## **15-20 SUSSEX ATHLETICS NETWORK REPORT**

Peter Masters has organised a meeting with Chris Jones of England Athletics, who would attend the next Network meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May.

**Coaching** - Keith May spoke about the frustrations of two Horsham would be coaches who have signed up for courses twice, both of which have been cancelled. Gavin Stephens spoke about the possibility of bringing the courses in house and the committee discussed the feasibility of closed courses in the county. John Gill said this would be too expensive and the committee agreed that England Athletics should be subsidising such courses rather than cancelling them.

Melanie Anning raised the issue of the Daley Thompson Academy, which was circulated on behalf of England Athletics board member Wendy Sly. This is a one-day £59 course aimed at children. Melanie and Peter Masters had questioned the circulation of this information under the EA banner.

## **15-21 TRACK & FIELD EXECUTIVE PANEL REPORT**

Keith had received 37 entries to date for the county championships.

## **15-22 CROSS COUNTRY EXECUTIVE REPORT**

Nothing to report.

## **15-23 ROAD RUNNING EXECUTIVE PANEL REPORT**

Gavin Stephens reported that to date 80% of the 800 entries to the Worthing 10K on 7<sup>th</sup> June, which is also the county Championships, were from non-club runners. He wanted clubs to enter before they sold out (2000 maximum). Keith spoke about the importance of holding places for club runners and Melanie Anning agreed to circulate information again to all club secretaries.

Gavin confirmed that the 20-mile race this year was cancelled.

## **15-24 RACE WALKING REPORT**

Ron Penfold had circulated a written report before the meeting. At the beginning of March at the BMAF Indoor T&F Championships Ian Richards retained his M65 3K walk title winning in 14-41.27, David Sutcliffe who now lives in Hove and belongs to Steyning AC won the M80 age group in 23-59.11.

On 14<sup>th</sup> March we had the Sussex 10K Track Championships at Horsham, unfortunately due to holidays, illness and injuries, we only had 3 men finishers, luckily the race was held within the Slater/Bryce Memorial Races so there were other walkers to make up the field.

1. Ian Richards	Steyning AC	50-04.6
2. Richard Emsley	Steyning AC	61-39.8
3. Paul Gaston	Surrey WC	63-16.7

At the end of March Ian went off to Poland to defend his M65 European Indoor 3K Track & 5K Road Titles, which he did successfully winning the 3K in 14-39.33 and the 5K in 25-00.1.

Last Saturday we held the Development Races at Lewes, Peter Selby was pleased with the turn out, although most of the competitors in the 5K were old stagers there were a few newcomers who all walked well and a couple of the younger ones had PB's. Peter is hoping to put on another race later in the year. Peter continues to hold coaching sessions at Lewes Track.

**15-25 CROSS COUNTRY VENUES** - John Gill confirmed that Haywards Heath Harriers and Burgess Hill Runners were prepared to hold a league fixture in the New Year.

Reg Hook confirmed that Sussex Schools' would be looking for a venue to run the South East Inter-Counties next year.

#### **15-26 PROPOSED AGE GROUP CHANGES**

This had been discussed at the last Network meeting and the majority did not agree with the proposed changes especially as they understood the schools would not change. Keith May said this was not correct. The proposals were briefly discussed. Clubs and Individuals in Sussex are free to comment directly to UKA via their website. Reg Hook proposed that Sussex oppose the move unless the Schools adopt the changes (and the dates are unified). The committee voted and the majority backed Reg's proposal. Melanie Anning would communicate the county position.

#### **15-27 SUSSEX WEBSITE**

The redesign of the website is on-going. It should be ready to show in the next couple of weeks and it is hoped that on-line payments will be set up for the U13 Championships in June.

#### **15-28 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Reg Hook requested a list of qualified Sussex coaches and was directed to England Athletics, Elspeth Turner.

Graham Ashdown reported that Brighton & Hove City AC has dropped the City from its title and is now Brighton & Hove AC.

Sue May thanked Haywards Heath Harriers for providing refreshments at the Road Relays.

#### **15-29 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Executive will be on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2015** at the new venue of Withdean Leisure Centre, in the Activator room.

Future dates for the diary: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June, Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September, Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October AGM