

SUSSEX AA

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 20th FEBRUARY 2015 AT WITHDEAN LEISURE CENTRE

MEMBERS PRESENT:

M. Etchells, P. Masters, R. Hook, M. Anning, J. Gill, J. Luxford, J. Linfield, R. Penfold, T. Roberts.

15-01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

K.May, S. May, T, Notman, M. Notman, G. Ashdown, B.Page, R.Garrad, M. Collison.

15-02 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes accepted with amendment that Keith May was the acting chairman, in Martin Etchell's absence, and he agreed and signed the minutes.

15-03 MATTERS ARISING

1) **OFFICIALS KIT** - John Gill spoke about options including all weather clipboards and Sussex AA white t-shirts on qualification (and for those officials who do not have them already). Qualification would mean attendance at four meetings minimum, including the county championships. He said it was important that officials are easily identifiable at events. The committee agreed to the t-shirts and John Gill is to contact Keith and Sue May, who hold the stock, to ensure it is in place for this summer season.

2) **PENALISING CLUBS WHO DO NOT PROVIDE OFFICIALS** - This issue was discussed again. John Gill reiterated that there is not one club in the county that has a full complement of officials. John and Melanie Anning were in favour of adding on points to clubs who had supplied officials. However Reg Hook raised the issue of clubs providing unqualified and inexperienced 'officials' who do not fulfil their roles adequately.

Martin Etchells asked if the committee could look into a way to support the addition of points for qualified officials only. John Gill suggested that officials would have to show their licence at events for this system to work.

Martin Etchells represented Keith May's views against any form of penalty system. Peter Masters suggested a trial system this season. There would be no penalisation but an overview - a 'what if' at the end of the season of how the U13 and U15 tables would appear, if a system had been in place. Martin Etchells asked about administration and Peter Masters suggested it should be tasked to the host club. The committee agreed to this. John Linfield pointed out that Horsham was hosting all of the U15 (west) matches.

3) **ROAD RUNNING** - It was confirmed that Graham Ashdown and Bob Page - the only remaining members of the executive panel are able to co-opt.

4) **YDL CHANGES** - The proposed changes did not go through. Peter Masters discussed some of the issues around the Lower Age Group, venues have not been agreed and there have been changes to the groupings.

15-04 CORRESPONDENCE & ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. All the major county events at Withdean and K2 have been booked and the licences obtained. Craig Cox and Chris Minn are the meeting managers for the Senior Inter Counties, which Sussex is hosting at K2. Photo Finish has been booked for this and for the U13 and Quad Kids Championships on Saturday 27th June - a change of month and day at Withdean Stadium. There is still a vacancy for the U15 Inter-county event on 23rd August. Sarah Hewitt will confirm if she is able to resume this role.
2. The U11 Regional Sportshall Festival was successfully hosted by Sussex at the Triangle in January and the U15 equivalent takes place on 22nd February.
3. The next track and field squad day on 28th February involves an Athletics Leadership course for athletes who are 14 or over.
4. Change of Club Secretaries for Brighton Phoenix, Steyning and Henfield Joggers and a renewal of an expired affiliation of Crawley Saints and Sinners.
5. Keith May ordered logo'd jackets for all Sussex team Managers. These have been very well received. Some are still to be distributed.
6. A Photo montage in which one U15 athlete helped another who had fallen in the County Cross-Country Championships was picked up by both the England Athletics website and Athletics Weekly.
7. The Brighton Marathon club place entry information (£72.50 places) was sent to all Sussex affiliated clubs.
8. Since the November meeting Reg Hook had won the Sussex Sports 'Unsung Hero award', Chris Marsden Coach of the Year, a category in which Andy Neal was also shortlisted. Graham Jessop was shortlisted in the Outstanding Contribution to Sport category and Jordan Okonta won the disabled sports personality of the year.
9. The administrator had circulated information about the Eastbourne Half Marathon erroneously.
10. Eastbourne College had requested information about training teachers to deliver athletics. Relevant information forwarded to them from the EA website and they were put in contact with Elspeth Turner and Eastbourne AC.
11. Andy Day of England Athletics sent an email about helping to promote the Championship 10K, which will take place once more during the Brighton Open (now confirmed as Thursday August 13th).

15-05 TREASURER'S REPORT

Martin presented the report and discussions took place around various aspects of it:

AFFILIATION FEES - Martin Etchells reported that only 26 clubs had paid their affiliation fee to the county to date. It was agreed that Melanie Anning would send a reminder to those who had not.

Peter Masters said that the West Sussex Fun Run League have their own insurance and would save themselves 2K annually by coming under the UKA banner. Peter agreed to contact them to discuss.

ADMIN INCOME - Martin reported that £166 interest had been earned in the bank account.

MONEY OWED - There is an outstanding sum of £77 owed by a club for hire of the EDM last summer. Martin is to follow up.

John Gill queried the road Running figures and Martin clarified the year end/ start of tax year overlap.

Martin stated that in last year's audited accounts there was a surplus of approx. £5000. Between February meeting 2014 and the end of the year the balance went down by about £1300 and he anticipates the same happening this year, due to expenses, which will come in late. The indoor Championships figures show income from entry fees only. Sussex will pay one third of the overall cost - a split with Surrey.

Martin reported that money had been spent on new equipment, such as the new laptops that would be used at the road relays.

John Gill spoke about the possibility of an increase in the entry fee for the increasingly popular cross-country league.

15-06 SUSSEX ATHLETICS NETWORK REPORT

1. Peter Masters spoke about the loss of England Athletics funding for the networks and the need to merge back with SCAA. He suggested bringing all the athletics activities together but to separate them from the governance issues of athletics in the county.
2. He and Martin have looked at what would happen if the expenditures were merged. This document was circulated.
3. Peter spoke about the need to look at increasing affiliation fees from clubs and the fees for athletics events.

Projects:

4. **Run England** - Marion Hemsworth continued to be very effective and Peter Masters said they were presently looking into funding options for the future which may involve the County Sports Partnership
5. **Website** - progress has been slower than anticipated.
6. **Squads** are going well, though there have been some difficulties for Fiona Newport who organises the track and field in getting coaches for the different events.

7. **U17/U20 Squad** - Trevor Simcox has not come forwards with any more proposals. Peter to chase.
8. **Elite Throws Squad** - This is up and running and focussing on the top end of throwers.
9. **School/Club Links** - Those established would continue however there will be no new ones.
10. The **Wheelchair Racing Group** is going well and training equipment has recently been purchased.
11. No Sponsorship update.
12. **Officials** - John Gill spoke about the Level 2 Officials course set up at Haywards Heath on 1st March. Fifteen signed up to date - a disappointing figure. Melanie Anning to send out information and to put something on the website. Sussex AA had to subsidise this course as EA wanted to cancel it. John Gill had also done a taster session at Lewes AC to encourage would be officials.
13. **Mandy Robertshaw** is leaving K2 after 20+ years. The committee acknowledged the excellent support Mandy had given to athletics both in her professional role and as an official and discussed how to thank her.
14. **EDM** - John Gill spoke about the future storage of the EDM at K2. John suggested organising an informal meeting with the new regime at K2.

15-07 TRACK & FIELD EXECUTIVE PANEL REPORT

- 1) John Linfield had posted the provisional fixture list onto the county website. There were a few dates still outstanding to be confirmed and added.
- 2) Melanie Anning spoke of the need to meet with Craig Cox and Chris Minn, who will be managing the Senior Inter-Counties event. John Linfield agreed to produce some information about the organisation. John also clarified that Chris and Craig would be responsible for allocating officials and the county would appoint referees.
- 3) Martin Etchells reported that the Indoor Championships in February involved 133 Sussex competitors, seven fewer than last year, competing in 27 less events than last year. There were very few Seniors and many more under 13's/15's and 17's than in previous years. The Championships ran very smoothly. The entry fee to the indoors had increased by £1 from £4 to £5 to match Surrey's fees.

15-08 CROSS COUNTRY EXECUTIVE REPORT

- 1) Issues around the cross-country venues were raised. Reg Hook requested that it be discussed at the April meeting and the committee agreed. Peter Masters suggested that clubs who have not hosted league or county cross-country should be asked to investigate

suitable alternative venues in their locality that could accommodate all age groups. John Gill said Haywards Heath Harriers and Burgess Hill Runners had already discussed co-hosting an event next season, preferably after Christmas.

15-09 ROAD RUNNING EXECUTIVE PANEL REPORT

No update from Bob Page.

Peter Masters had sent an Email to England Athletics after seeing that they had appointed a Road Running Co-ordinator, after stopping funding to the Networks. He had specific questions about the loss of the unattached levy (approx. £7000 p.a. to the county) and wanted to know how this new appointment would support grass roots athletics. Martin Rush responded but had no answers to Peter's queries.

15-10 ROAD RELAY ENTRY FEES 2015

John Gill reported that the entry fee had been increased as previously discussed.

15-11 RACE WALKING REPORT

1. Peter Selby had circulated a list of up and coming race walking events.

Date	Race Cat.	Dist.	Ages	Event	Venue	Time
22/02/15			All	Coaching at Lewes Track	Lewes	10.00
14/03/15	A+B	10K+YA G	All	Slater/Bryce Memorial Races Inc. Sussex AAA 10K Track Champs	Broadbridge Heath Horsham	11.00
11/04/15	B	5K + YAG	All	From Lewes Track	Lewes	14.00

2. Peter Masters asked the Network committee members present to cover Peter Selby's costs (including track hire and sundries), as he is presently covering the costs himself. This was unanimously agreed.
3. Ron Penfold spoke about the walking events that would be taking place in open events and championships this summer season.

15-12 SUSSEX WEBSITE

No update.

15-13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. A young athlete who is fund raising for disabled athletes had contacted Reg Hook. The committee discussed whether charity fundraising information specifically regarding athletics should be put on the county website and decided that on this occasion this item could be considered for the Schools section but not on the homepage.
2. John Gill said Shoreham College and CCB had requested an officials course. John would update at the next meeting.

3. John Gill had also been asked for clarification about the cross-country age group veteran categories, as the form has conflicting information. John will ask Phil Baker to correct the information.

4. Martin Etchells and Keith May had recently found out about a County AA Chairpersons meeting which representatives from eight counties attend, including Surrey. They are looking to open the meetings up and the committee briefly discussed whether Sussex would be interested in attending.

15-14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Executive will be on Friday 17th 2015 at the **new venue of Withdean Leisure Centre, in the Crèche room.**