



SUSSEX ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION
President: Martin Etchells

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 19th JUNE 2015
AT WITHDEAN LEISURE CENTRE

MEMBERS PRESENT:

M.Etchells, D.Etchells, S.May, K.May, M.Stephens, P.Masters, B.Page, J.Linfield, N.Sutherland, G.Stephens, G.Ashdown, G.Jessop, M.Anning.

15-30 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

R.Hook, R.Garrad, M.Collison, V.Clark, P.Baker, J.Gill, R.Penfold, P.Standen, J.Luxford, T. Roberts, L Tullett.

15-31 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes were signed and accepted.

15-32 MATTERS ARISING

1) CHRIS JONES MEETING AT LEWES - Peter Masters spoke briefly about the visit to Lewes and Chris Jones promise to look into the transparency and representativeness of the County Chairperson's group. Martin Etchells stated need to keep an eye on the situation. Chris Minn is due to write a piece about the club for the EA website.

2) OFFICIALS KIT - Graham Jessop asked for clarification regarding officials' kit. Sue May explained that all officials at the county meeting who required polo shirts received them free of charge and fleeces are available to buy at a discounted £10.

3) PROPOSED AGE GROUP CHANGES - The administrator had represented the county and network viewpoint around the proposed age group changes.

15-33 CORRESPONDENCE & ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. Correspondence received around the U13 Championships, all minor queries.
2. Receipt of England Athletics new affiliation pack personalised for each county.

15-34 TREASURER'S REPORT

1. Martin Etchells had circulated the income and expenditure information since 1st April. He updated the committee about issues, which still needed resolving before the accounts would be finalised. Martin thanked Keith May for the success of the County Championships in May.
2. Martin Etchells outlined a £5000 grant request from Lewes AC to support their track resurfacing. Peter Masters explained the background to the request and how and from whom funds had been raised. The committee agreed to the funding.

3. Maureen Stephens shared the problems Worthing had faced including the recent vandalism of equipment at the track. Martin Etchells stated that the WDH committee should send a proposal to the county if they wanted to request support. Keith May and Martin Etchells added that supporting clubs financially, where possible was an important role of the county.

15-35 SUSSEX ATHLETICS NETWORK REPORT

1. Peter Masters spoke about the Network coming to an end. The majority of the Network's funding had been spent on the Club/School Links project and Run England. Elspeth Turner would now be overseeing the former and Marion Hemsworth would be working with the county Sports Partnership on future Run England Projects.
2. **Road Running** - Peter Masters spoke about the growth of road running in the county and how much money would have been raised if the £2 levy had still been in place. His estimate was that £45,000 in the last year generated and a percentage of that would have come to the county AA. Peter had raised this in his meeting with Chris Jones. Keith May said some of the county's larger clubs had been asked to add on an additional £1 levy for unattached runners two years ago, but they had rejected the suggestion. Graham Jessop said without an individual championing the cause at a national level, nothing would happen.

Melanie Anning said the county needed to discuss ways of raising income and that a modest increase in entry costs to all events might be a way forward.

3. **Coaching courses** - Keith May had requested information regionally about how many courses had been cancelled. The issue had been raised with Chris Jones at the Lewes meeting.
4. **Officials** - Melanie Anning outlined the problems getting officials for both the inter-counties, which Sussex are hosting and the upcoming U13 Championships, in a packed summer schedule. John Gill is resigning his post and a new officials secretary is needed. Information has been sent out.

15-36 TRACK & FIELD EXECUTIVE PANEL REPORT

1. Keith May summarised the success of the County Championships with entries up by more than 100, to 543 this year. Only in the senior age groups were athlete numbers down. The event made a profit of £5,900 including £2000 on the t-shirts and sweatshirts. Keith thanked everybody for their help over the weekend. Keith also announced that he and Sue would be standing down from the event management after the 2016 Championships.
2. The committee discussed the U13 championships, which were taking place the following weekend.

15-37 CROSS COUNTRY EXECUTIVE REPORT

Nothing submitted and no update regarding cross-country venues.

15-38 ROAD RUNNING EXECUTIVE PANEL REPORT

1. Bob Page thanked the Worthing organisers of the Sussex 10K Championships and stated it was the best organisation he had experienced. Bob spoke about a couple of potential

issues to consider in the future - water provision and continuous first aid cover. Bob also spoke welcomed the software used, which identified runner's photos by numbers.

2. Graham Jessop asked for the county to identify whether there was enough interest in Sussex to run a Level 2 officials endurance course. The administrator agreed to send out an email.

15-39 RACE WALKING REPORT

No Race walking report submitted.

15-40 SUSSEX WEBSITE

The redesign of the website is on-going.

15-41 PROPOSED MERGER OF COUNTY AA AND NETWORK

Peter Masters gave an overview of the history and what had been achieved e.g. executive panels, reorganisations, and establishment of the network etc. Peter had already circulated his analysis of what was needed and spoke about the importance of a clear division within the umbrella organisation of governance and delivery. Peter outlined his strategy and an overview of how the constitution could look encompassing both governance and delivery. Peter has proposed a company limited by guarantee. He acknowledged that Reg Hook was not in total agreement with the proposed changes as he (RH) felt there was an imbalance in the distribution of duties.

Graham Jessop spoke about a lack of clarity about who would be in charge - the reporting and responsibility chain.

Peter had done much of the work alone and stated this was a starting point for the discussions. Martin Etchells suggested expanding the group before the next meeting. (Stuart Condie, John Linfield, Graham Jessop - sub committee).

15-42 N/A

15-43 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Martin Etchells shared that Tony Miller a well-known official and announcer had suffered a heart attack but was now out of hospital.

15-44 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Executive will be on **Friday 18th September 2015** at the new venue of Withdean Leisure Centre, in the Activator room.

Future dates for the diary: AGM - Friday 16th October.