



**SUSSEX ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION**  
**President: Martin Etchells**

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2015**  
**AT WITHEAN LEISURE CENTRE**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

J. Gill, P. Standen, T. Roberts, J. Hughes, B. Page, L. Tullett, P. Masters, R. Hook, N. Sutherland, G. Jessop, M. Anning.

**15-45 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

M. Etchells, S. May, K. May, R. Penfold, R. Garrad, J. Linfield, J. Luxford, G. Ashdown.

**15-46 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

John Gill chaired the meeting in the absence of Martin Etchells. The minutes were signed and accepted.

**15-47 MATTERS ARISING**

1) Tony Roberts mentioned the recent death of Long time Sussex Official Ken Best, MBE. The funeral details were shared.

2) John Gill asked if there had been any movement on road relays and levies. There was a brief discussion about the lack of resolution or a champion for this issue. Melanie Anning mentioned the ongoing discussions to raise the Sussex cross-country League fees.

3) John Gill thanked the officials who had attended the Combined Events Championships at Carshalton the previous weekend but said he was disappointed with the turn out.

Melanie Anning asked if officials were paid expenses to travel to meetings. John Gill said he was not aware that travel expenses were offered at Sutton. John said he believed expenses should be offered for fuel costs. Peter Standen said it was his hobby and that he was happy to pay towards his hobby. Melanie Anning said a hobby should not leave officials out of pocket. She felt they should be given the option to choose to claim expenses or not. Bob Page said as a road race adjudicator he receives fuel costs for travel, as do road referees.

**15-48 CORRESPONDENCE & ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

1. The Administrator spoke about the on-going difficulties finding enough officials for all of the inter-counties and county championships, which had taken place since the last meeting in June. Two courses one for track and field officials and one for Endurance officials had been confirmed, as had the Coaching Assistants course at Broadbridge Heath.
2. There had been problems with the floodlighting at Withdean Stadium during the U15 League final. Bob Willows and Roland Garrad had communicated the issues to Freedom Leisure, who promised to resolve them.

3. There had been a poor turn out at the Combined Events in the older age groups, however the administrator flagged up that four athletes who would have been certainties for medals were saving themselves for the English Schools CE finals the following weekend. Disappointingly there were no entries at all for the steeplechase events.
4. Vacancies and a distinct lack of interest in taking over the roles of Reg Hook and John Gill. Also the need to find a U13/15/17 Cross-Country Women's Team Manager. The Administrator had written to parents of children involved in the Endurance Squad in order to advertise the role more widely. *(Two team managers are now in place).*
5. Sussex Affiliation reminders were being sent out and clubs who have not paid will be removed from the website. A brief discussion ensued about whether the individual club members of a club who had not paid up could compete. They can but a team cannot compete in the Road Relays or in the Grand Prix.

#### **15-49 TREASURER'S REPORT**

1. Martin had submitted the following in his absence. There was no financial report. The accounts for 2014/15 have gone to the auditor but there are adjustments to be made and the report will be ready in time for the AGM.

#### **15-50 SUSSEX ATHLETICS NETWORK REPORT**

1. Peter Masters stated that the Website work is on going and should be ready shortly. Melanie Anning said that Netkandi had had problems obtaining the information they needed from the present hosts. Reg Hook said this should be actioned and that he would contact Charles Fogg directly to resolve access issues
2. **Squads** - The Endurance Squad invitations had already been sent out and the Track and Field squad would be separated into Under 13's - a development squad and U15/U17's and U20's who would be invited to Master classes.
3. **Run England** is still continuing and Marion Hemsworth is working closely with Active Sussex.
4. The **Wheelchair racing** club is continuing.
5. **Officials** - The take up for the course at K2 on 1st November was not yet high enough to make it feasible. Great interest had been shown but this had not yet translated into applications. *(November Update: This was eventually one of the best ever-attended course with 48 would be officials, the majority of whom were from Sussex).*
6. Graham Jessop had organised an Endurance Officials course on 10th/11th November at Steyning AC Clubhouse. Graham outlined the course content.
7. John Gill had approached two clubs about taking on a cross-country course. He was waiting to hear back.

#### **15-51 TRACK & FIELD EXECUTIVE PANEL REPORT**

1. Keith May sent a written report in his absence: The Combined Events Championships took place again in conjunction with Surrey at Sutton, and although entries were up this year it was the U13 & U15 age groups where the support was greatest. Surrey are happy to host again next year and I have agreed that we will join in with them again. Having joint Championships, although it may affect the numbers from the County travelling and competing it certainly makes sense re the organisation, cost and officials.

The Steeplechase championships were again held with this meeting and for the second year running there were no Sussex entries in any of the age groups. Surrey had only four entries and both Counties need to look at whether it is worth continuing with Steeplechase events at these Championships. For the first time the 3k Walk was held at

these Championships and four Sussex walkers contested the event, and with seven from Surrey it is proposed that this continues next year.

#### **15-52 CROSS COUNTRY EXECUTIVE REPORT**

Nothing submitted and no update regarding cross-country venues.

Peter Masters had spoken to Phil Baker about the need to consider increasing the fees. The Committee agreed that the fee should increase by £1 per runner. The Administrator was to communicate this information to Phil before the forms were sent out to the clubs.

The Committee discussed the involvement of Under 11 races in the county leagues. The committee overwhelmingly agreed that this was important for their development and involvement in the sport.

Peter Masters spoke about his attempts to get somebody to shadow him to eventually take over the Plumpton league race organisation. The course has to change this year and Peter is working out the logistics. John Gill was to speak with Stuart Condie at Burgess Hill about their involvement in the future organisation of the race.

John Gill stated that Haywards Heath Harriers had agreed to host the last meeting at Hickstead.

#### **15-53 ROAD RUNNING EXECUTIVE PANEL REPORT**

1. Bob Page is the only committee member left on the executive as Graham Ashdown has stepped down. Bob said that everything that roadrunners needed is provided in the county and this might feed into the lack of interest in joining the exec.
2. Next year's 10K will be hosted by Brighton Phoenix along the seafront and it will be a mid week evening event in July.
3. The Half Marathon will be Barns Green again in October 2016.

#### **15-54 RACE WALKING REPORT**

Ron Penfold submitted a written report: Despite our two top walkers Ian Richards and Trevor Jones carrying hamstring injuries for most of this year, we have had a reasonably good summer, with our newer walkers giving good accounts of themselves, especially Ollie Hopkins from Lewes, who improves with each race. Ian has had the most success, winning both the BMAF 3K and 5K. In Italy he won both the M65 10K and 30K Euro Non Stadia Championships, and has since competed in the WMA T&F Champs in Lyon, in hot conditions and stiff opposition from 2 Australians he won the 5K, but lack of training due to his injury finally caught up with him and he finished 4th in the 10K and did finish the 20K.

U17 Ollie has set P.B's in most of his races; he was 3rd in the RWA YAG 5K, and 2nd in the SoEAA 3K.

There were good turnouts in the S.E Counties I/C 3K at K2 with 22 walkers, and there were 20 at Tilgate Park for the Jack Fitzgerald Memorial races.

One of the highlights of the summer has been me getting teams for Sussex and Steyning to enter the UKA/RWA/CAU 10K Road Champs at Hillingdon, all of our walkers had good races and we came away with a bunch of unexpected medals with Steyning winning the UKA/RWA Team Race and Sussex taking second spot in The CAU Inter Counties Team

Race. Individually Ian won the UKA race and was 3rd in the RWA/CAU, Trevor was 3rd in the UKA race and with Paul Gaston closing the Sussex team and Ron Penfold closing the Steyning team, Anne Jones had a good race in the women's race but without a team around her.

Last Sunday we had the Sussex 3K track champs at Carshalton, Ollie had a very good race to win the U17 in a PB of 16-49 and Paul Gaston won the Men's race. We had four athletes competing from Sussex, I had hoped for more but until we have enough younger walkers to justify putting the walks back in the main championships I will try and get it better supported next year if it is held on the same basis. Unfortunately the senior Surrey walkers still want the race in with their main champs, so boycotted the race, which is a pity, I think this at the moment is their and our best option.

Anne Jones who is at the moment our only regular competitor has had some good races, but without any real rewards. Peter Selby continues to hold coaching sessions at Lewes Track, and is hoping to put on some more Development Races.

#### **15-56 PROPOSED MERGER OF COUNTY AA AND NETWORK**

Peter Masters outlined the proposals he had initially drawn up and the establishment of a trust with the potential for charitable status. This had been updated and circulated and Reg Hook had commented on it. Graham Jessop had not seen the proposals and mentioned that the sub committee to discuss the changes had not met. He also spoke about the size of the executive being too large.

It was agreed that the AGM should contain a motion for the approval of changes to the constitution, which the executive could formalise once they had been agreed.

#### **15-57 SUSSEX WEBSITE**

This had been discussed earlier.

#### **15-58 AGM**

To have a resolution to incorporate Sussex Schools as a formal member of the association. Judy Lasis to be invited.

John Gill proposed that officials should be made aware that they could claim expenses, if necessary, for county championships and leagues.

Graham Jessop suggested that Martin Etchells needed to analyse the possible figures to ensure that travel claims would not 'bankrupt' the county. John Gill was to speak with Martin.

#### **15-59 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

John Gill spoke about a rota system to get clubs more involved so that all the clubs were involved in putting on a county event. Peter Standen said that local clubs had the contacts and knowledge and John Gill suggested local clubs could work with the guest clubs.

John Gill gave his support to Elspeth Turner's request for clubs to support disability athletics and perhaps host an event or more than the odd wheelchair race.

John spoke about retiring from the official secretary's job and as Race director of the Road Relays. To date there had not been much interest in replacing him. John reiterated that without a race director the event would be at risk.

#### **15-60 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Executive will be on **Friday 20th November 2015** at Withdean Leisure Centre, in the Activator room.