



SUFFOLK COUNTY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING held at Stowmarket Leisure Centre following the AGM Friday 27 April 2012

Present: Richard Nash, Joe Mower, Tony Cheatham, Terry Back, Jean Cox, Bill Cox, Graham LeRoy, Tania Spurling, Jonathan Wilding, Roy Miller, Terry McEntee, Ron Wallwork, Mike Oakley, Karin Mead, Margaret Leek.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting having been circulated were taken as read and signed as a true record.

Matters arising: There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

Apologies for Absence: Jennie Grimwood.

Update on Network Merger: The Network had had a Members' meeting and they supported the merger. The Network needs to keep its identity but under the umbrella or ownership of the SCAAA and also need to recognise the Essex Clubs. There would be funding from England Athletics. A Committee needs to be formed and get the Essex Clubs involved. The Suffolk County AA Constitution needs to be looked at and we need to make sure there is nothing contained in it that would contravene the aims of the merger. If so an EGM would have to be called to amend/revise.

Outstanding issues are: staffing - can we afford this and do we need it. There is a need to identify what work has to be done and how to cover it. Maybe a staffing resource could be shared Norfolk or Essex or James Cudmore could be asked to do more in his role as Club & Coach Support Officer to resolve some of the staffing issues. Also need to look at the Suffolk AA website with the idea of just having one website and incorporating the Network site into it.

Need to form a Committee and look at the Constitution to go forward. There may be a need to revalue what the roles of the organisations mean. Also need to look at the Club affiliation fees. If staff are needed then these may have to be increased.

Terry McEntee gave an account of England Athletics ideas for the future.

Finance: Tony Cheatham reported that income so far is £2753 and expenditure of £1600 of which the majority relates to the cross country. £400 worth of tops have been purchased. Mike Oakley asked if all Club affiliations have been paid for 2012 - there are three outstanding which are being followed up. Karin Mead handed over bus money from Birmingham and Croydon and from the sale of county tops.

Track and Field: Tony Cheatham reported that entries for this year's championships are coming in but are down on last year. £1500 has been received so far. List of Officials have also come in but there are still some to "chase up" - there is a shortage of Officials for this year's championships.

There is a rumour that the date for the 2013 Track and Field Championships has been moved to the end of July. Joe Mower said that the Inter-counties has been moved to the August Bank Holiday weekend for the next three years. Two day of CAU championships and the third day for the UKA series final.

The Under 15 and Under 20 Inter-counties has been moved to Abingdon from Copthall - no teams from Suffolk would be going this year. Ron Wallwork asked if it had to be teams, could individuals go if they wished. A team fee has to be paid and an individual would be asked to pay this, if he/she wished to go. This meeting is only two weeks after the County Championships and is the least supported of the representative matches. The feeling was that it is a shame that Suffolk is not entering as there is little County competition as there is no Hibbard this year, so the only County representative match is for the Under-13s. Joe Mower has received an email from the CAU for both the Track & Field and Cross Country to be "guinea pigs" for a new entry system for County Championships. Suffolk does not wish to be part of this. Also Joe has received an email from Carol Jackson about the Big ICE Challenge. Invitations will be given out at the County Championships.

Cross Country: Review of the new course at Ickworth is ongoing for the County Championships. Bill Cox said he had been informed that the Suffolk Winter League Presentation evening was to be at Framlingham on Friday 04 May 2012 but he knew nothing about it and this needs to be checked. He also said that at the Framlingham event they hold an Under 11 race which is well supported and parents would like to see this at the other venues. However this is for the Suffolk Winter League Committee to decide and Joe Mower will deal with this.

Road Running: Several Clubs are interested in a Junior Grand Prix series but this has not as yet been advertised. Framlingham, Bungay and one other Club already have fun runs as does the Friday 5 series.

Terry Back's report says that the majority of Suffolk road races have good size fields during the springs months. The only race that suffered with its entry was the Stowmarket Half Marathon in March, this was in the main due to the re-scheduling of the Great Bentley Half Marathon which was moved from February due to the snow.

The first running of the Tarpley 10 & 20 was blessed with fine sunny weather and a course record in the Ladies 10-mile (59.15) by Felicity Milton of Woodford Green. On the same day in Tunbridge Wells, Helen Davis (Ipswich JAFFA) broke the ladies half marathon course record (1hr.12.40).

The results of the first event in the Suffolk Grand Prix Series for 2012 are now available on the Association website, thanks to Richard Nash for his assistance in compiling them. The Junior Grand Prix which is being run at the same events will follow but he is lacking in certain information to compile them. He hopes to include all junior runners attached or unattached as he feels this will encourage young athletes to participate.

The Friday 5 series begins at the end of May and Club Officials and Race Directors need to pay particular attention to the revised medical advice as laid out by UKA. It has been seen as recent as this year's London Marathon the sad passing of a participating athlete of just 30 yrs old. We cannot stop this sad type of incident but we can be as best prepared as we can. The saving of a few pounds is not worth somebody's life.

As the main summer road race calendar is now moving into full swing, it is more and more apparent that the policing and traffic management of all races is causing concern. Some local clubs have started to assist each other with TMO assistance and he feels it may be worth the Association compiling a list, with given consent, of all local TMO Officials who may be willing to assist across the various Suffolk based events. This would be in the best interest of all Clubs.

Jean Cox said we need to encourage all Clubs to send people on Traffic Management courses.

Is the future of road running going to be replaced by Park Runs or "off road" races? Town races face difficulty as they are unique - regards numbers and then increase because of their popularity.

Traffic Management courses are on hold at the moment. TMOs have no authority on the road this is a police job.

Terry McEntee reported on the 'Beginning Running Project'. There is funding from England Athletics. Sport England want to promote this project through firms etc to get people to take up running.

Suffolk Show - there is an athletics area for both days. There will be a marked track for races, a high jump area encouraging all children to take part. It is a larger area than last year. Several local coaches have signed up already to assist but more are needed.

Joe Mower gave the results of the London Mini Marathon:

Under 13 - Sophie Tooley - 3rd - 1st Team

Under 15 - Megan Soanes - 60th - 8th Team

Under 17 - Susie Reid - 62nd - 1st Team

Under 13 - Alex Baxter - 46th - 2nd Team

Under 15 - Cameron Mckie - 51st - 8th Team

Under 17 - Macauley Delo - 42nd - 5th Team

Helen Davies recorded a personal best in the London Marathon.

Licensing - A Race Adjudicator list is on the Licence's Portal. Each Race Director needs to get their own Race Adjudicator. There are only three in our area (Terry Back, Paul Felton and Richard Farnsworth).

Race Walking: Ron Wallwork has written to a number of walkers in the County. The Moulton 5 is in June. Mike Oakley was thanked for the information that appears on the County website. Linda Spinks won a UKA medal at Enfield. Ron says that Road Walking is having the same experience as Road Running - being 'pushed off' the roads into parks etc.

Sports Hall Athletics: Tania reported that she and Jennie Grimwood had met with Adam Burgess to plan for next year. There had been a virtual competition this year. Next year Clubs will be invited to enter teams in the Under 11 and Under 13 age groups. The Sports Hall body is keen to support with equipment to enable clubs to host fixtures.

Coaching: There was no report.

Officials: (a) Track and Field - Tony said there was nothing to report since last meeting. Officials on field event judging need to attend a UKA Health & Safety course as they shouldn't be standing in front of the throwing areas - new rule in the UKA Handbook. This applies to existing Level 2 Officials; the new Level 2 Course includes Health & Safety in the generic module. There are only two Level 2 Officials in the County qualified to tutor the Health & Safety course.

(b) Endurance - Joe Mower held an Endurance Course and 7/8 attended and it went very well. A lot of Officials still need to do the course and it needs to be done by the end of 2012.

Joe informed the meeting that get upgraded the form on the website is the correct one - apparently there has been some confusion!

Correspondence: Research into the history had been made and Suffolk was combined with Norfolk from 1912 - 1926. In 1927 it was split into the two counties - Norfolk and Suffolk. The rest of the correspondence received was dealt with under the various agenda headings by Joe Mower.

Any other business: Bill Cox reported that Framlingham Flyers have UKA accreditation and Clubmark.

Ron Wallwork informed that Run the Walks is on 7 October 2012 and information will be out shortly.

Jonathan Wilding reported that the Felixstowe Half Marathon is cancelled again this year. Felixstowe Road Runners are looking at a Coastal 10 for 2013 and have a meeting with the police shortly.

Terry McEntee is still gathering information regarding help for hardship cases. The Suffolk Youth Games is Friday 6 July and the Olympic Torch will be appearing at the end of the games.

Richard Nash said the County Facebook site is set up and has 55 members.

Dates for the next meetings: 29 June 2012, 21 September 2012, 30 November 2012.

Meeting closed 9pm.