



SUFFOLK COUNTY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING held at Stowmarket Leisure Centre
on Friday 06 December 2013

Prior to the main meeting, a meeting was held to "iron out" a few problems concerning the team selection process for County events.

Present: Joe Mower, Lynn Walters, Karin Mead, David Cripps, Tony Cheatham, Margaret Leek. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that male and female Team Managers should work closer together and the letter inviting athletes to represent the County should be the same for male and female and should state clearly what the athlete needs to do to warrant selection.

Present: Joe Mower, Lynn Walters, Tony Cheatham, Karin Mead, David Cripps, Jean Cox, Terry Back, Mike Oakley, Odile Wladon, Roy Miller, Jonathan Wilding, James Cudmore, Terry McEntee, Bill Cox, Chris Starmer, Margaret Leek

Apologies: Jennie Grimwood, Ron Wallwork

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2013, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a true record.

Matters arising: A card and a bottle of champagne had been sent to Richard Nash and a "thank you" had been received.

Child Protection Policy - LW has copy of EA policy and will look at West Suffolk's Policy to draw up one for the County. There is a need for "grievance procedure" to be included.

The date for the County track and field championships 2014 is 25 May 2014.

The £700 from EA has not to date been received. TC is following this up.

Finance Update: TC handed out copies of the balance sheet. The current balance is £14,804.92. The surplus for the year so far is £1900. TB asked if the income from the Road Running Clubs for the Grand Prix had come in. Not yet, TC will follow this up.

Delivery Plan for Suffolk from England Athletics: James Cudmore from EA gave an update on England Athletics strategy for 2013 - 2014.

Cross Country:

a) Update on progress for Suffolk Country Champs on 5th January 2014 - CS said the course would be similar to 2011 but he had had no replies to date to any of his emails or phone messages sent to Ickworth. First Aid has been booked. DC offered to contact a member of West Suffolk who lives next door to one of the people concerned (worker at Ickworth) to get things moving. CS gave phone numbers on which he can be contacted. As soon as contact is made a site meeting needs to be arranged to sort out the course and order of races etc. LW will distribute some flyers at the RHS race tomorrow to encourage schools to enter.

b) Update on upcoming County represented events - DC reported that several athletes selected do not have EA numbers (school athletes). Athletes can run for one year without a number and then must join a club to get an EA number. National Body needs copy of entries to see the EA members and then will contact those who don't have numbers to join a Club. James Cudmore will speak to the person concerned to find out why this is. LW will organise the press for reports of the SEAA champs and other races to help improve the County's profile.

Track and Field.

a) Dates for 2014 Champs - These will be on 25 May 2014. As Bury St Edmunds track has no pole vault at the moment these may have to be held at Ipswich. A decision needs to be made by 01 January 2014 as to whether the Pole Vault will be repaired by 25 May or not.

b) Feedback from T&F sub committee on any changes for 2014 - There has been no meeting.

Road Running Update: TB reported that the area has had a good strong race calendar for the last quarter of the year with events across the region enjoying continued good support.

The Ipswich half marathon on a new 2 lap course had excellent reviews and feedback, the addition of the Felixstowe coastal 10 added to the calendar this year giving Felixstowe an event to at last replace the loss of their $\frac{1}{2}$ marathon a few years ago. Felixstowe also organised, just a few weeks later, the Martlesham 10k that would have been lost this year without their input, thank you to them.

The Saxons, Haverhill, Bungay, Stowmarket, Southwold and Hadleigh have all produced well organised and supported races of which the County should be proud. As a local Race Adjudicator I would like to add here that, in the main, events in Suffolk tend to be better organised and run than our neighbouring counties.

The Suffolk Grand Prix has finished for 2013 with a very close team result of just 150 points between the winners, Pacers, and defending champions Stowmarket. There have been some well documented issues around some of the events this year. I hope that the 2014 series will be better and gain in support from clubs and runners alike.

The events for 2014 are: Stowmarket $\frac{1}{2}$ marathon (March), Bungay $\frac{1}{2}$ and full marathon (April), Pacers Friday 5 (June). Framlingham 10k (Sept), Saxons 5 (Oct) and Hadleigh 10 & 5 (Nov). This will give the series 8 races of which 5 will count for individuals and all for the teams. I feel this is spread throughout the year, giving short, middle and long races. Runability at the time of writing have not yet confirmed sponsorship for 2014, but I will advise in due time of their response.

The 2013 year saw the first County Road Race for a few years at the Framlingham 10k. During 2014 I would like to add to this. The planned events for County Road Championships are as follows: 5k at the Pacers v JAFFA track event (Bury) on 2 June, Kirton Friday 5 (6 June), Newmarket 10k (6 July), Tapley 10mile (23 Feb) and Ipswich $\frac{1}{2}$ marathon (Sept). I have yet to confirm all of these but hope that the Clubs will support the County in its efforts to bring back these championships.

The cost to host Clubs is £30 payable to the County and Tony will arrange invoices for the Clubs.

The Friday 5 series is taking shape but at this time there has been no meeting between the organising Clubs about the 2014 series. I hope that shortly they will get together as was minutes should happen each year to go over 2013 and officially set up the 2014 organising Club. Along with any race rules that need changing etc etc. I have today (6 Dec) emailed Rob of Bury Pacers to try and push this along as 2013 organising Club it fell to them to call the meeting. I look forward to 2014 being an improvement on 2013 with the aim of making Suffolk the best County in East England for road running.

Race Walking: RW sent a report that Callum won the English Schools championship. At this event he was given the Goodwill Trophy for Intermediate Boys which Suffolk Schools had won at the July Championships.

Sports Hall: TMc reported that 3 events had taken place and three Clubs had taken part. There was no shortage of help. He is waiting for Clubs' feedback and will then get dates out for 2014. OW had a question from Norfolk Sports Hall. There are two Suffolk Clubs (close to the Norfolk/Suffolk border) competing in the Norfolk League and are therefore choosing Suffolk athletes to represent Norfolk. Is this ok?

18 January 2014 is an U11 competition and an U13 competition in February. JG is selecting the teams. The Schools Sporthall finals are to be held in Suffolk.

Website Update: This is "on hold" until January 2014.

Recognition of Suffolk athletes: BC read his ideas for recognition of athletes, officials etc. LW to email to Committee and ask for comments for the next meeting.

Update on Chairman recruitment: Nothing to report.

New Suffolk vests update: KM has ordered the vests and had been able to negotiate a better price with Fast Track - £18. It was agreed to make the vests available for purchase at a cost of £18.

Coach and Club development: TMc reported that seven flying coach visits had been arranged with Clubs. There is to be a seated throws session at Orwell Panthers and an endurance session at JAFFA in May.

There has also been 9 coaching bursaries issued. Regarding the Junior Development there have been courses at various Clubs. There does not appear to be much interest in Satellite Clubs but one school (Northgate) has shown interest with Ipswich Harriers.

04 July 2014 is the School Games at Bury St Edmunds and need someone to organise this.

Demonstrations will again be given at the Suffolk Show.

There needs to be a meeting between representatives of SCAA and SEAN to see how they can work together.

Officials: JM had been called to a conference in Birmingham for Endurance and TC for Track and Field.

There is a Field course on 26 January 2014. West Suffolk have several interested in Track and suggested that those people attended on 26 January to do the Health & Safety part and then he would go to Bury to do the Track side.

TMc said that SEAN has money to put towards officials training.

Correspondence: Waveney AC have a change of their Committee Officials and also queried payment of affiliation fees.

Any other business: The date of the AGM was set for 28 February 2014.

A vote of thanks was given to James Cudmore who is leaving England Athletics and has helped many Clubs in Suffolk.