



SUFFOLK COUNTY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING held at Stowmarket Leisure Centre on Friday 10 May 2013

**Present:** Richard Nash, Joe Mower, Tony Cheatham, Jean Cox, Bill Cox, Jonathan Wilding, Roy Miller, Terry McEntee, Karin Mead, David Cripps, Odile Wladon, Trevor Bunch, Paul Felton, Ron Wallwork, Jennie Grimwood, Lynn Walters, Margaret Leek.

Before the meeting commenced Richard Nash welcomed Lynn Walters to the Committee. She had offered to take on the role of Honorary Secretary. She was proposed by Joe Mower and seconded by Odile Wladon. All were in favour. JM agreed to be available for advice as and when needed.

**Minutes:** The minutes of 23 November 2012 and 15 February 2013 were agreed and signed.

**Matters Arising:** Most of the items were on the agenda. PF will bring up the County Clock under AOB.

**Apologies:** Received from Mike Oakley and Terry Back.

**SEAN & Suffolk AA Merger Update:** RN explained the situation for the benefit of LW and anyone else who was not sure. As a result of RN's email and subsequent comments from Clubs was a 50/50 split so the merger could not go ahead.

TM said that SEAN had been successful with its funding application and when notified officially Clubs would be informed and free to comment and the SEAN will move forward. TB is now chair for the next year. Clubs need to respond to enable the Network to move forward. As there is no paid post communication is not as regular as it was when Tania was there. James Cudmore can now help SEAN more as his County responsibilities have been reduced. Clubs have been notified how they have benefited from SEAN over the last three years. Wednesday 19 June is the next meeting of SEAN. It is an open meeting so anyone from Clubs can attend. RN asked what were the plans over the next 12 months - Club bursaries for coaching courses taken, Officials courses, coaching workshops, Road Running Clubs with Juniors to be give help with Jumps training.

RW said that we need to encourage walking as a sport.

BC said that if there was a vote of confidence taken now in England Athletics administration then Framlingham Flyers would be a 'nil' vote as courses have been cancelled when people are desperate to do them. Never see anyone from England Athletics but have seen Tania and James who have got things done.

The Regional Council is to write to Clubs and Counties to try and get them to engage more in the events that are put on.

JC commented that she (and others) are getting frustrated with all the changes in coaching levels as to what standard a coach is. (Level 1, 2, 3 etc gone and now just Assistant Coach and Coach). It has been recognised that governing body has not always done things in the right way and coaching structure may change yet again!

It was pointed out that SEAN and SCAA seem to be both doing the same thing - developing and promoting athletics - and therefore applying for the same pot of money. The Committee was asked "where do they see SCAA in three years time?" Answer - SCAA as the athletics provider and SEAN as the development provider which is not in our (SCAA) constitution.

TC asked if SEAN would be in existence in three years time if funding was not available. Tmc said there was funding until 2017.

The outcome of the discussion was that SEAN would continue in the same vane for the time being and SCAA will also continue as it is at present.

**Finance:** TC reported £15,794 in the bank and this is up on the year at present. Track championship fees at present are around £1670 which £400/£500 down which is due to the new date being on the Bank Holiday and school holidays. TC said that First Aid costs had increased although he had been able to negotiate a more reasonable price and there would also be about £1000 in expenses. There was comment that the cost of the entry fee may be putting some athletes off entering but the fee had not increased from last year. Also need to cover expenses such as track hire, First Aid, awards. TC to provide a profit/loss statement for the next meeting. There followed a discussion on what the profit from these championships cover - sending teams to area championships, Hibberd Trophy, CAU etc.

TC reported that England Athletics had decided, after the new date had been fixed, to give Counties grants. He had filled in the questionnaire and received £750.

**Track and Field:** TC reported that the closing date was today. The entries received are covering most events. He put out a plea for more Officials.

JM gave the following dates: SEAA Under 13 inter-counties 28 July at Kingston and the Inter-counties is 11 August at Copthall. JM gave KM the details for both.

TC said the SEAA track and field championship forms are out.

**Cross Country:** No report. JM has had a request from Thetford AC asking if the Norfolk/Suffolk championships could combine and alternate between Norfolk and Suffolk venues. There was discussion about this and it was decided to invite Norfolk to join Suffolk for the 2014 championships and see how it goes.

SEAA have sent out Cross Country relay and individual championships forms.

Macquay Delo had represented SEAA.

**Road Running:** In TB's absence RN read the report. The 2013 Suffolk Grand Prix is under way and results have been circulated by Sarah Vick. Unfortunately the Sudbury Five entries were very low and therefore not a good event choice. The Lowestoft event scores have been added to try and give runners a better chance to compete in the series, but 5 out of 7 events will still be used for the results. The first reminder has been sent out for events to feed in for the 2014 series and hope to have that all in place by the finish of 2013 series.

The first of the revised county road champs is now on the horizon, which is the Kirton Friday 5. Hoping using a well attended event like this that entries will be good.

Following a meeting with the Lions, Felixstowe RR and Ipswich Jaffa the Martlesham 10k is going to continue. FRR have agreed to organise on behalf of the Lions, who will still play a large part in bringing the event on. With the finances being used to fund the race and give FRR a small financial gain but the majority of the money raised still being given to the Lions for their charity efforts.

The Stowmarket half marathon was back on two weeks after being cancelled due to snow and was blessed with nice warm weather. The club should receive high praise for moving so quickly and achieving another good class race.

Bungay Black Dog marathon and half marathon, just a week before London, again had another excellent day even though the weather was too warm for some. The club had provided more

than enough water stations and first aid points which kept problems to a minimum, again another well run event.

Bury St Edmunds have now started a park run and this should grow, as has the Ipswich event, over time. Care should be taken not to have too many park runs around Suffolk as this may devalue their worth.

The County's clubs had good numbers competing in the London Marathon and the SCAA pass its congratulations to everyone who took part, helping to show how the running fans will not be forced out of doing their sport by the said events at the Boston Marathon.

A final word of encouragement for all road race directors in the area, when even the best events can make errors. With the wheelchair and elite women coming together at a water station in a televised event for the world to see. The message we should all take is that anything can happen during a race, so check, re-check and check again and , yes, get a second opinion. Visit your Risk Assessment and be open to change, just because it worked last year does not mean it will always work.

TrB queried the Grand Prix scoring. The rules are on the website or contact Sarah Vick. JM said Run Britain has a new website but there are some problems!

**Race Walking:** Callum Wilkinson is in top 3 in the country and has had international call-ups. Suggested that all clubs should have a 'come and try day' for walking.

**Sports Hall Athletics:** No report.

#### **Officials:**

**a) Track and Field:** TC asked that if anyone needed a Health & Safety course to let him know. The date had been extended to the end of June 2013. TMc needs one.

**b) Endurance:** JM says there is to be a new annual record form but it has not been agreed yet. There is no need to get Chiefs to sign the form only put in their name and then forward to JM. JC has had Adjudicator put on her licence but this could be a mistake! JM confirmed she was not on his list of Adjudicators. JC also asked for clarification as to whether road races still required an Adjudicator and a referee - yes.

**Correspondence:** JM had dealt with all correspondence during the meeting.

#### **Any other business:**

- ✦ At the AGM presentation to the outgoing President had been overlooked, agreed that this should be done, possibly at the County Championships.
- ✦ Date for the track 5k championships still to be agreed. LW to contact TB and then let TC know.
- ✦ KM CAU championships - JM will have details at the County Championships. KM will not be there. KM handed bus money from Birmingham and County sweatshirt money to TC.
- ✦ PF said that the County now has a second clock by a generous donation. This one is ideal to go on the lead vehicle. Clocks could also be rented out. Suggested £75 for one clock and £100 for the two. The cost of the new clock is around £700 and there was a question about insurance. TC will look into this.
- ✦ OW reported that the Suffolk Schools Track & Field championships on 9 May at Bury St Edmunds had been well attended. There is no Anglian Schools this year, so any athlete who attains the English Schools qualifying standard needs to complete the selection

letter (to be found on the Suffolk Schools website) and forward it to either herself or Michael Fuller.

- ⤴ DC suggested that athletes selected to represent the County could buy a county vest. This is something to think about for the future.

**Date of next meeting:** Friday 28 June 2013.