



SUFFOLK COUNTY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING held at Stowmarket Leisure Centre on Friday 28 June 2013

Present: Karin Mead (Chairing the meeting) Ron Wallwork, Jonathan Wilding, Terry McEntee, Terry Back, Lynn Walters, Mike Oakley, Odile Wladon, David Cripps, Tony Cheatham, Margaret Leek.

Apologies: Terry Bunch, Jean Cox, Bill Cox, Joe Mower, Roy Miller, Richard Nash.

Minutes: The minutes of 10 May 2013 were agreed and signed.

Review Track and Field County Champs 2013: TC reported that entries were down 30%. This was mainly due to the change in date (schools on half term). Some counties' entries were up but most were down and the University entries (Cambridge) were down due to the date being in the middle of their final exams. The question was raised as to whether the closing date could be nearer to the championships to encourage more people to complete - now closes a week before so cannot really be any closer. There was a suggestion that a list of entrants be put on the County website (not their events) so Clubs could see who had entered and who needed to be "chased" up.

DC asked the question "what is the point of County Championships in 2013?" It was stated that at the last County Meeting part of the criteria of Suffolk County AA is to provide competition and encourage athletes therefore to provide county championships fulfils this. Another reason is that athletes cannot enter some of the other championships as they had not reached the entry standard. County Championships also gives non club members (school pupils) the opportunity to participate. County team selection is taken from the results of the County Championships, therefore it was suggested that the County selection criteria should be on the website so that athletes knew and this might encourage more to compete.

It was also suggested that perhaps the County and Suffolk Schools could have a joint championship.

UKA/EA have not yet confirmed the date for the 2014 Championships but rumour has it that it may return to its original date.

We agreed to set up a sub-committee to come up with a strategy to improve the championships in future. **Anyone wishing to be part of this sub committee should contact LW by 1st August.**

DC feels there should be much better links between clubs and schools.

TC has not had time to compare with other counties the cost of the entry fee as this was another reason given for the decline in entries. To give an accurate financial statement on this year's championships was not possible at this meeting as not all the bills have been received. TC will provide this for the next meeting.

It was agreed to write to UKA/EA to request a change in the date for next year and TMc will follow this up through "his channels" and Suffolk will write officially to UKA.

LW passed on thanks on behalf of SCAA to all the volunteers and Officials that worked on the championships.

Review of 5k County Championship: TB gave a vote of thanks to JAFFA for putting this race on. Men's attendance was good but the Ladies' entries were low. However the race itself was

competitive. There is a need to get the information out sooner and publicises the event more effectively to enable more entries. There was a 1500m race for juniors and there were about 30 girls and 30 boys.

Next year it is Bury's turn to host so will contact them to get a date early.

Update on Suffolk Schools selection for 5-6 July: OW reported that it was disappointing that there was no Anglian Schools competition this year due to England Athletics clash of fixtures. Usually the Anglian Schools give the athletes a last chance to qualify for the English Schools Championships. Despite this, the team selection had been very difficult this year (in a good way) as more athletes than before have reached English Schools qualifying times or times which are close to it. 10 of the athletes representing Suffolk Schools are ranked in the top 20 in their respective events. There is a team of 35 going to the English Schools with 3 reserves. RW reported that the English Schools Walking Championships was in September but Callum Wilkinson had already been selected to represent English Schools in the Schools International.

Cross Country: No report. LW confirmed that the date for the 2014 Championships is 5 January 2014 at Ickworth Park. The course and parking arrangements are still to be organised. There has been no further communication from Norfolk about them joining the Suffolk event.

Road Running: TB reported that most races are well attended but it is noted that some of the Friday 5 events have not been full and entries were available on the night. Is this because of the economic climate? Cost of events? Or the fact of 4 races in 4 weeks? This is something the organising clubs should be looking at when they meet later this year.

TB's report:

The County 5 mile championship did not take place as advertised. This was due in the main to a "tick box" not being available on the Kirton entry form which was an oversight. I felt I was a little to blame as had not checked well in advance of the event to make certain things were in place. I will try to see if a suitable 5 mile is available later in the year. He confirmed that the Framlingham 10k in September does have this in place on their entry.

Runability SCAA Grand Prix is now 4 events in and thanks to Sarah Vick of Saxons for her assistance in producing the results. The next event is the Newmarket 10k and I will send out a reminder to SCAA members over the weekend. We also have asked for events to offer themselves forward for the 2014 series and so far Framlingham and Woodbridge have replied. Slight concern is that the Clubs are not giving due recognition of Runabilities sponsorship of the series, just calling it the SCAA Suffolk Grand Prix. Again I will send out a reminder for the series clubs to give a bit more PR to Runability for their support.

Felixstowe have finally managed to arrange a new event to replace the Felixstowe Half which vanished 2 years ago. Their new 10mile is in September and will be a welcome addition to the local race scene.

Park Runs continue to grow and Bury have recently had a test event. During July the Park Run in Ipswich is having a Club day and all the local clubs have been invited to attend. This is a good step in creating a connection between Clubs and unattached runners. I did note at the recent BARR AGM that there are ongoing talks between UKA and Park Run regarding permits etc. and the outcome could be quite interesting.

Thanks should be noted for the assistance given to all the Clubs by Paul Felton who has decided to retire from course measurement etc. for all his work over many years to the SCAA members and other events.

Race Walking: RW reported that the Moulton 5 was in June and Callum Wilkinson won.

Race Walk Report

The Moulton Five on 1st June once again proved popular with walkers travelling from as far north as Doncaster and south as Brighton.

The winners were Fransisco Reis 39.01 (Ilford AC - former Portuguese international) and Cath Duhig 49.12 (Ryston). The Suffolk titles were won by an unwell Callum Wilkinson 49.14 (EHAC) and Valerie Nutley (St.Eds.Pacers) 56.40.

At the Suffolk track and field championships at Ipswich on 26th May, Callum Wilkinson sliced over five minutes off the u17 3km walk championship best he set last year with a time of 13.43 and in the process almost a minute from the senior figures.

RW discovered that the CAU Inter-counties had dropped the 3km walk. LW wrote to the race organiser, requesting that they reconsider. We were told no, but they would put the race back on the agenda for next year.

Sports Hall Athletics: JG reported that she is starting to collect names and groups together to organise events. Athletes at West Suffolk, Ipswich Harriers and Orwell Panthers need to be aware of the dates of these fixtures so that they can get involved.

Communication:

a) LW said the Association needs to get the message to athletes, parents and schools as to the purpose of the SCAA. Also with the schools, this information needs to go to the right person who will promote it to the athletes.

MO reported that he had officiated at a schools event at Northgate where the pupils were operating the EDM machines and now the school wants some instruction for its pupils on how to use this type of equipment. MO and Paul Rutter are going in to instruct.

KM said that it has always been difficult to get Officials and volunteers and we need to do something to improve this.

There was a discussion on how we may be able to get UCS students involved.

b) LW proposed that we investigate a new County website with easier, clearer navigation. LW will investigate costs and propose a new format and present back at the next meeting. We agreed that it would be designed to enable 2-3 administrators to post information onto the site which would reduce reliance on any one person. It was agreed that the website should be sustainable and that **anyone with knowledge of IT/ website development should contact LW**. It was suggested that the Volunteers Association should be tried. After all this discussion MO was happy to hand over "the reins" to someone else, although is happy to continue to be involved.

Support and encouragement of Officials and volunteers.

a) JM deals with this and in his absence no comments were made.

b) TC said that more people need to be encouraged which would make things better for the County and Clubs. Courses can be put on if Clubs inform him of their needs.

Finance: TC reported a balance of £17,187.31. This is up £4,500 for the same time last year. However there will be 3 coaches to be paid for various County events and there is the track and First Aid to pay for the County Championships.

The Hibberd Trophy meeting is on 7 September at Sandy, Beds.

KM asked if it was possible to have a smaller bus for Copthall. The main reason being that the event is in the school holidays and some athletes make their own way. It is basically the driver's time we pay for not the size of the coach so a smaller one would make very little if any difference to the cost. It may be worth looking at paying expenses to athletes in future to make their own way rather than the cost of a coach.

Feedback from SEAN committee meeting: TB reported disappointment in the attendance at this meeting. Only 10 people attended when it is open to all Clubs. A plan has been put together for courses and events. More support and involvement from SCAA would be appreciated, more interaction between the two organisations.

OW voiced her concern having been told that there is a vote taking place about the Norfolk Network taking over the Norfolk County AA. T MC was also aware of some of the comments being made. Concern was shown as to how this could affect some athletes who are members of Suffolk Clubs but have a Norfolk qualification for championships etc. Await the outcome.

Any other business: Date for the next two meetings - Friday 20 September 2013 TB apologised
Friday 29 November 2013 MO apologised