



SUFFOLK COUNTY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING held at Stowmarket Leisure Centre
on Friday 20 September 2013

Present: Karin Mead, Ron Wallwork, Terry McEntee, Lynn Walters, David Cripps, Tony Cheatham, Joe Mower, Paul Felton, Jennie Grimwood, Bill Cox, Jenny Cox, Roy Miller, Chris Starmer, Margaret Leek.

Apologies: Terry Back, Odile Wladon, Jonathan Wilding, Mike Oakley, Terry Bunch

Minutes: Karin Mead took the Chair. The minutes of 28 June were agreed and signed.

Matters arising: TC is waiting to see when the County Championship date is for 2014. OW and TMc are interested in sitting on a Track and Field sub-committee. TMc said that people should be made aware why there is a change of date if it happens. He said he taken the concerns to regional level and this will now be taken to National level. October 6 is the meeting to fix the date for 2014 County Championships. Apparently there is a 50/50 split on the opinions of counties - either the same weekend or different. Those counties who do not hold their championships on the recommended date are not issued with a permit and the results are not included on the Power10. This and other items are discussed at the Chair of Counties meetings and therefore it is imported that Suffolk is represented.

Nothing has been heard from Norfolk CAA about them joining Suffolk for the County Cross Country Championships. The unofficial opinion is that they will not.

Richard's resignation:

a) Thank you - It was agreed to send Richard Nash a card, signed by the Committee, wishing him well in his new job and thanking him for all he has done for the County.

b) Recruitment of new Chair - Role description for Chair was circulated to those present and the term "athletics" clarified as covering all disciplines.

TMc asked "does the Chair have to be someone on the Committee?" The Chair is usually elected at the AGM so in the interim an Acting Chair is needed. JM is prepared to stand as Acting Chair LW will draw up a sheet to be circulated to Clubs advising them a Chair is needed for the County Association for them to put out feelers within their Clubs. If anyone is interested they should contact JM or LW. It was agreed that KM would be a third person to deal with this. Information is also to be put on the County website.

KM proposed JM for the position of Acting Chair; LW seconded the nomination and all present were in favour.

c) KM made a presentation to CS as the outgoing President.

Track and Field. TC would shortly be having a meeting with OW and TMc to sort out next year's championships. He has made enquiries with other counties with regard to comparing our costs. Suffolk's entry fees are more costly but as Suffolk is not a large county it has to get income to cover expenses. TC informed the meeting that several counties are pricing themselves out. Bury track is cheaper than Ipswich but Ipswich provides more assistance. There is a grant of up to £750 available from England Athletics but TC has heard nothing further about his application so far.

KM reported that at the U13s championships on 28 July Gemma Ramsey (Ipswich Harriers) was 2nd in the javelin and was the most successful performance of the day.

At the Inter-counties at Copthall Sophie Tooley (West Suffolk) and Laura Graham were 1st in their respective events, 1500m and javelin. Michael Bartrum (West Suffolk) won the U20 steeplechase and Benson Craven (Ipswich Harriers) the U15 long jump.

At the Hibbard Trophy Meeting there were some good results. Evie and Debbie Castle (Chelmsford AC) were 1st and 2nd in the javelin. The U17M were third in the Peterhouse Trophy and Harry Hughes (West Suffolk) an U17 athlete competed for the Senior Men throwing 800grm javelin and beat all the other competitors!

RW reported that Suffolk were well represented in the International Schools at Dublin in the walking events.

In the National Championships Harry Hughes and Sophie Tooley both of West Suffolk AC won their respective events - javelin and 1500m.

At the CAU Championships Katy Sealy was the only Suffolk athlete and finished 8th in the high jump.

TMc asked if athletes are recognised by the County Association for their success - nothing at present. Coaches of successful athletes need to be recognised as well.

Bill Cox will put together some ideas as to how this can be done and bring to the next meeting. LW and JM to be kept informed. Ideas from anyone else would also be welcomed.

Race Walking: RW reported that Callum won the EA Unde17 championship. The English Schools walking championship takes place at Birmingham on 21 September 2013 and Callum will be taking part.

Cross Country: CS apologised for being 'out of the loop' for a while. He would like a meeting to arrange the County championships and more help is needed. These are to be held on 5 January 2014 at Ickworth Park.

DC referred to an article published in Athletics Weekly about the SEAA Cross Country Relays not being well supported and commented that not many Suffolk clubs take part.

Sports Hall: TMc has been working with JG to get this season's fixtures under way and all is going ok at the moment. The fixtures are 19 October (U11 and U13); 16 November (U11 and U13) and 23 November (U15). All to take place at Northgate Sports Centre, Ipswich. Officials are needed for these events. Information is available on website. If disabled athletes are to take part TMc and JG need to be aware before the day in order to accommodate them.

Road Running: TB sent his report via email and was read by LW. TB reported that there had been a good spell of weather during the main summer and many races have been well attended, although not always full, as in the past. Could this be down to the economic issues or cost of racing reaching its limit? Time will tell.

The SCAA grand Prix is now just one event from finishing this year with the 10 mile race at Haverhill to come. We had a number of complaints regarding the choice of Sudbury 5 earlier in the year filling too fast and put an extra race to try to improve this, The Scores at Lowestoft. Although well advertised and all clubs contacted prior to keep things moving less than 50 Suffolk club athletes entered the extra event. The results have been circulated thanks to Sarah Vick from Saxons for her assistance. A number of clubs have expressed interest in being an event for 2014. They are Stowmarket, Bury Pacers, Woodbridge, Lowestoft, Framlingham and Newmarket. This shows a growing interest from the clubs and if I plan it well I hope a better response from the runners. Continued thanks to "Runability of Bury St Edmunds" for their sponsorship of this series.

The Ekiden Relay organised by Ipswich Jaffa had again another impressive entry with a number of first time club entries in the 120 plus teams taking part. The race was of a good quality and being run all within the school grounds allowed for a safe event with a great atmosphere. The event aim is to raise money for a charity and this year EACH recently received a cheque for £1950.00.

The first county 10k road race champs were held at the recent Framlingham 10k , thanks to Ricky and his organising team, entries were very good and 3 new county records were set. Brad Jones (Jaffa) 33.54.7 MM40, Ron McColough (Jaffa) 44.10.1 MM65 and Odette Robson (pacers) 39.12.4 ML40 Congratulations to them and all the other runners. The winners medals will be circulated as soon as possible. It is hoped that later this year to announce county champs in a number of race distances for 2014.

Park runs continue to have good numbers with the Ipswich event have an anniversary run a few weeks ago. They continue to prove popular with all types of runners with there simple race entry, easy courses and minimal fuss approach.

During the next few weeks the county has a number of good races The Larking Gowen Ipswich Half marathon, Felixstowe Coastal 10, Martlesham 10k and Saxon 5 mile and I will report on these at the next meeting.

Finally thanks to Richard Nash for all his help and support during the last few years, a sad loss to the SCAA but I am sure we all wish him well in his new job.

JM reported that there had been a query on Elliott Palmer competing under 'Ipswich Harriers' in the Framlingham 10K. Apparently he had entered as Aldershot Farnham and District but the results system used recorded him as IH.

RM reported that St Edmunds Pacers won the Mixed Team in the Round Norfolk race.

DC reported that there is now a Park Run in Bury St Edmunds and in the Great North Run, Sara Bird, a Suffolk athlete, finished 15th and was the 5th GB female to finish.

BC said that events are losing runners due to the Park Runs and JC commented on the fact that Park Runs do not need a permit or first aid cover whereas Clubs who wish to put on events have to exorbitant costs for first aid. JM said this was now being looked into by the Athletics governing body.

Suffolk athletes successes, support, PR and development: Most of this item had been discussed under previous headings however there should be press releases after County events to promote them. It was pointed out that Carl Marston (EADT/Ipswich Star) covers both championship events but any other successes could be reported on by just contacting him.

Coach and Club development: TMc reported that SEAN was working closely with James Cudmore who in turn was working with Clubs. Janet Lomax from Fram Flyers has been appointed to with Clubs to develop their Juniors on behalf of SEAN. Zeta Wright has been appointed by SEAN to organise Track & Field support. Two sessions have already been organised for Ipswich Harriers and Orwell Panthers. She also does administration work for SEAN. There are two workshops at Bury St Edmunds in November.

Coach bursaries are also available to assist with the cost of Coaching Assistant and Coach courses for those Clubs affiliated to SEAN. Any Clubs not with SEAN but have people wishing to go on courses need to speak to TMc and Suffolk Sport has a fund for this. Regarding Club development James has sent out a questionnaire as to what Club's need. Everything from SEAN to be sent to LW to go out with these minutes

Officials: TC reported that Norfolk have people interested in Track & Field courses but do not have the required number so are looking for support from Suffolk AA. They are willing to come to Bury St Edmunds. On 3 November there is a course at Chelmsford. TC reported there are 'ways and means' of Suffolk AA putting on courses if there is only a small number and usually there is no or little finance involved. He just needs to be informed of Clubs' needs.

JM asked how many Clubs in the County have Clubmark status as this is not recorded anywhere. JC to compile a list.

JM informed the meeting that Endurance log sheets should be in. He has received 8 out of 65. JW has been upgraded and is now a 2B. Track & Field duty sheets should be sent in by 30 September 2013.

BC reported that two people from Framlingham have done the Traffic Management Course.

Communication:

LW handed round proposals as to how the County website could be improved. A discussion followed with several views being aired. It would cost in the region of £500 to reconstruct the site and all present agreed to pay this.

Finance: TC reported a balance of £15,248.28. This is up £2,300 for the same time last year. All bills have been paid except for the Hibbard Coach. An expected profit for the year is £1000.

There was a discussion as to whether there is a need for coaches to County events as many athletes make their own way. For the Hibbard Trophy 96 athletes in theory could have competed but only 20 went on the coach, the remainder of the teams went by car. It was suggested that a small committee be formed to "thrash out" the transport situation and this was agreed with Joe and Tony + anyone else. KM requested that there was still a coach for the U13 competition at Kingston to encourage this age group. Agreed.

Policy review: JM has found the Child Protection Policy and this needs to be updated.

Any other business: JM now has archived history of Suffolk County AA compiled by Reg Double (Ipswich Harriers) who died in 2012.

KM reported that there is a shortage of County vests particularly in the larger sizes. Various sample designs were circulated and it was agreed to go for "no seams vest".

DC reported that Suffolk Schools has its AGM this coming Thursday and Bruce Andrews has sent an email asking what are the benefits of Suffolk Schools and Suffolk County AA joining together. He needs an answer by their AGM if possible. It was agreed that this was not a decision that could be rushed into - need to talk about how the two associations could work together and what the benefits, if any, would be.

Date for the next meeting - Friday 6 December 2013.