



**HAMPSHIRE ATHLETICS -
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

HELD ON FRIDAY 15th January 2021 at 7.00 pm

ACCESSED VIA ZOOM, DUE TO THE ONGOING CORONAVIRUS LOCKDOWN

Members present:

Mike Neighbour – Chair (MN), Eileen Williams (EW), Mike Barratt (MB), Terry Williams (TW), Richard Dean (RD), Peter Newton (PN), Mike Williams (MW), Jackie Tobin (JT), Dave Churcher (DC), Pam Rogers (PR), Carol Quinn (CQ), Stuart Horsewood (SH)

1. Apologies received: Colin Goater (CG)

2. Minutes of the last meeting of 20th November 2020: Accepted as produced and previously circulated.

3. Matters arising from the previous minutes:

None.

4. Secretary's Update:

- Advice received that David Vosser is standing down as the Team Manager for the U17 Men & Women and U15 Boys and Girls Cross Country. No urgency at the moment to identify a successor as there is no competition.

- Inter-counties Track & Field. Query started by Camilla Thrush of Surrey. All wide responses received so far are that no competition is expected to be possible during the coming season.

TW agreed that at this point in time, it would be difficult to book a venue and pull everything else together.

RD queried whether this relates to all Inter-County matches or only the ones that the respondents would be organising themselves. He queried whether it also applies to SEAA U15, U20 and UKCAU Inter-Counties where the bodies organise them on behalf of the Counties. MW confirmed that the feedback relates to all forms of competition, rather than the organisers.

5. Treasurer's Update:

- RD had circulated his report, that is intended for the AGM with nothing new of any consequence expected.

- MB queried the audit of the accounts prior to the AGM because of the need to sight all relevant papers. RD responded that the required documents are far fewer this year because of the lockdown and that he can easily have them delivered to MB in good time for review. MB agreed, following general agreement that audited accounts are preferred for the AGM.

6. Affiliation fees:

- RD had made a suggestion that while we list all clubs on the website, we should differentiate by separate lists between those clubs who have paid their affiliation fees and those who have not, rather than not including the latter at

**ACTION:
WHO?**

MB

<p>all. No objection was raised to this approach.</p> <p>It was discussed and agreed that those clubs who paid for 2020 would have their affiliation fees carried through to 2021 due to total inactivity during 2020 because of the lockdown.</p>	<p>RD</p>
<p>However those clubs who have still not paid for 2020 would be chased to bring themselves up to date at the 2021 agreed fee of £50.</p> <p>If no payment is received by the time of the first competition then athletes representing those clubs would be required to pay the usual additional £2 fee because their club is not affiliated to the county. It was agreed that a note to this effect would be added to this new section on our web-site.</p>	<p>RD</p>
<p>7. Officials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TW started by reiterating what had already been mentioned so far during this meeting, that there has been no activity for almost a year, with no positive end in sight. He advised that his committee agreed that he should send out a note to all Track & Field Officials, giving them the dates for their diaries of any possible future meetings, leaving to one side the County Championships as any such dates will be in the hands of UKA. This is to ensure that officials are reminded that we should be ready to start at the first possible opportunity, although firm indications of availability will only be sought on month-by-month basis, 4-6 weeks prior to a confirmed event. - There is a concern that of all the courses on offer, all currently online, there has been minimal takeup, with feedback not positive. The main input had been from Guernsey who were trying to get officials onboard prior to the Island Games due later in the year. The likely fate of these Games is however not positive. Subsequent to the meeting, TW confirmed that the World Island Games have been postponed until 2023, again to be in Guernsey 	<p>TW</p>
<p>8. Schools update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EW echoed the messages so far that nothing has happened nor is likely to happen in the season, with the English Schools Cross Country having been reluctantly cancelled. RD was asked to place this note on the relevant web page suggesting that interested persons follow the ESA web page, especially as a virtual event is being considered. - HSCC meeting to be held 28th January to see if anything can be organised for this summer. ESAA Track & Field is hopefully going to run in July, which means that there will need to be a County Schools event in early June. There is a possibility of having the schools inter-county competition. EW mentioned that HSAA are still looking at holding the combined events competition at the end of May. This would then lead into the Regional combined events and Race Walking. Re the ESAA Track & Field Cup, this is still hopeful although many schools have already indicated that they will not participate as there would have been little or no intra schools athletics before that time. The early rounds are done during school time, which means that with so much schooling having been lost in the last year, it is unlikely that schools will prioritise sport over academic pursuits. Entry dates have been pushed back to the beginning of March to allow schools time to make up their mind on attending or otherwise. The availability of officials for any such meetings will also become a priority. 	<p>RD</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RD to place a list of contacts, as provided by EW on the website for the schools' information. 	<p>RD</p>

9. Cross Country:

- PR once more advised that there is nothing to report.
- Recently a document has been sent by UKA to clubs, parents, athletes and officials on a consultation on equalising distances across the board for cross country events. This could have implications for us as a County because historically different age groups and sexes have had their own agreed distance competitions. If it becomes a rule then it will have an impact on race timetables and other structural aspects of County Championships and also for the league. TW asked whether running men and women the same race is allowed. MN advised yes, but this would then depend on such as the total number of entrants. MB queried whether we have any say in the composition of races or will it become mandatory.
- TW raised a concern of combining boys and girls in the respective U13 and U15 events, with parents likely to have concerns. PR indicated that these age groups do not now appear in the rule book.
- EW sees an anomaly in schools. There would be a greater impact on younger athletes. **SUBSEQUENT TO THIS MEETING A COPY OF A DISCUSSION DOCUMENT WAS RECEIVED AND IS ATTACHED TO THESE MINUTES FOR THE INFORMATION OF ALL**

10. Sportshall:

- In the absence of Steve Torrance (ST) at this meeting RD reported that ST had previously provisionally booked three dates in early 2021. However ST has apparently decided that the 2020/2021 season should be abandoned, especially as no Regional or National events are similarly expected.

11. General discussion on the current situation re the Covid-19 lockdown:

- Everything remains locked down.
- EW & TW had prepared a paper, already circulated. MB agreed that until Donna Fraser of UKA determines at a National level, any 2021 date the Track & Field meetings calendar is on hold.
- TW wanted to put out feelers for the Multi-event meetings which are in the individual counties' hands to make athletes, coaches etc aware, as these dates are not fixed nationally.
- SH asked TW whether there will be available officials to officiate later in the year. EW predicted that some may decide not to continue, or still feel uncomfortable as long as the lockdown is still with us. There will be a lot to arrange if meetings are allowed.
- TW sought and obtained approval to seek officials' provisional support given the right climate. The aim is to give athletes something to work towards.
- Everyone's input was sought on the proposal. PR agreed with Multi-Events meeting being in September with a May Day meeting very unlikely. On the Track & Field, the juggling of age-groups is a good idea.
- CQ mentioned that two leagues are already promoting dates in September – Wessex League 19th September and SAL 11th September– we might need to work around those dates. She queried the financial viability of restructuring of age groups, but all agreed that as a county we can subsidise this as being a "rainy day".
- MN supported the whole paper.

SH

- SH offered to put a paper together to advise clubs, coaches and athletes of what is being considered re Multi-Events (separate from the Track & Field Championships) so that they have some date to work towards. MB supported this - there are so many unknowns at the moment that the onus is on us as a county to offer competition as soon as is possible during this summer. SH will share this with all of the committee. EW hoped that if any responses are received by that time then this topic might be raised at the AGM (albeit not as a formal agenda item, but these are not normal times). We could even move some of the younger athletes' events into any approved Championships meeting, while truncating elsewhere.

SH

11. Any other business:

- SH raised a query as to how many can join Zoom calls, as we are unaware as to how many of those permitted to attend the AGM might want to join, seeing as they do not have to travel. SH proposed sending out the notice of the AGM asking those who would like to attend to pre-register with SH and for him to then give the ZOOM contact details. This would also allow us to be certain that we have a quorum for that meeting.

SH

- TW extended the earlier discussion that we do not want to risk losing a tranche of young athletes who would normally come into the sport. There were several observations of new members joining during this last year, despite there being nothing to offer them.

- On new officials attending online courses EW suggested that we perhaps get them to attend a meeting regarding the specific disciplines they are interested in, followed by first-hand exposure at a live competition. There was general agreement to this idea. TW mentioned an "Introduction to Officiating" induction session.

This committee meeting was closed at 8.20pm.

Date of the AGM meeting agreed as Friday 5th March 2021 commencing at 7pm, again via ZOOM.

Hampshire Athletics website: - www.hampshireathletics.org.uk