



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

HELD ON FRIDAY 16th OCTOBER 2020 at 6.00 pm

ACCESSED VIA ZOOM, DUE TO THE ONGOING CORONAVIRUS LOCKDOWN

Members present:

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

1. Apologies received: Carol Quinn (CQ), Steve Torrance (ST)

2. Minutes of the last meeting of 18th September 2020: Accepted as produced and previously circulated.

3. Matters arising from the previous minutes:

Regarding S.E.T.A.F.A. TW spoke again with John Temperton of UKA who confirmed that this entity is recognised as a race organiser. SH provided input received by a WADAC parent present at the entity's meeting the previous weekend where it was noticed that there were no signs of covid-19 checks. SH was asked to talk to EA, Moira Gallagher about this. PN referred to an event that took place on Sunday 11th October and mentioned of only two events running concurrently. The S.E.T.A.F.A. website indicated the duration of the whole meeting to be between 9am and 6pm despite UKA guidelines that any such event cannot last for longer than 8 hours in a day without a change of officials. The published timetable showed a duration of 8 hours, but this was not met.

4. Secretary's Update:

- MW advised having nothing to report or update.

5. Treasurer's Update:

-RD advised that there was nothing of any significance to report. Only the payment for ZOOM access for these committee meetings and refund of some affiliation fees for previous years (as already approved) had been processed.

6. Update on the collection of clubs' affiliation fees:

-SH confirmed having contacted the 10 main clubs who have yet to settle their affiliation fees. So far Southampton AC and Guernsey. RD now processing.

7. Schools update:

-EW advised that there has been no clear guidance of what might be organised in the near future. The Cross Country decision is not likely until late January/early February 2021. The majority of schools are indicating that no imminent activity is expected. Similarly there will be no U11 activities during the remainder of this year.

8. Cross Country Championships:

-PR mentioned that Ian Byett has confirmed a test event for next week.

**ACTION:
WHO?**

SH

-It was proposed that because of the current pandemic situation, the County Championships will not be held in January 2021. PR proposed 27th March 2021 – there are however separate bookings on that date for Southern Road Race Relays, as qualifiers for the Nationals. She was however aware that 27th February is currently free in the Endurance calendar and indicated that she would ring Fairthorne Manor to offer this date to them as an alternative option.

SUBSEQUENT TO OUR MEETING AND THE CALL TO FAIRTHORNE MANOR, PR HAS RECEIVED WORD THAT BECAUSE OF THE PANDEMIC THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONSIDER ANY BOOKINGS UNTIL EASTER 2021 AT THE EARLIEST. THIS MEANS THAT THERE CAN BE NO CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR THIS SEASON.

- It was mentioned that licences for this season's events will be available from Monday 19th October 2020.

-PR indicated that no trophies would be presented on the Championships day due to the pandemic restrictions. JT suggested that perhaps trophies could be presented during the Track & Field Championships, planned for May 2021.

Events will be held on a time trial basis, with athletes ranked by times.

9. Sportshall update by Steve Torrance:

-ST had sent his apologies with nothing specific to report.

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

-MN reported regional tightening around events, due to the ongoing pandemic.

- JT mentioned small Cross Country events for U15 and younger with a maximum of 25 or 30 runners to ensure covid compliance.

- MN mentioned that there had been a problem in Aldershot in that the Rugby Club had booked the same location and was not allowing anyone else to share the field.

The main committee meeting was closed at 7.00pm.

Date of the next meeting – Friday 20th November 2020 commencing at 7pm, again via ZOOM – access details to be provided nearer to the date.

Hampshire Cross Country League:

At PR's request the Zoom link was kept open for an additional discussion regarding the plans for the series of events during the cross country season. It was attended by MN, PR, RD and SH.

While it is acknowledged that the HCCL is separate from the Hampshire County Athletics Association, the relevance to earlier discussions has led to the following being recorded within this document.

-It was disclosed that a ZOOM meeting had taken place, chaired by Alan Ive of HCCL and the organisers of the first cross country meeting. Aldershot is to be the first location on Saturday 7th November for which the licence will be sought on Monday 19th October (the opening date).

-It was decided that another ZOOM meeting would be preferable, to include the HCCL executives and the organisers of all five meetings planned for the season so that everyone would be able to follow the same procedures.

-That meeting was called for Monday 19th October 2020.

- SH started this meeting by reporting the news received only that day that the land-owners of the Winchester event (Sparsholt College) had withdrawn the availability of their facilities. One of their main concerns was that they will still have students in residence and they could not risk the significant number of athletes creating an unsafe environment due to the pandemic. Winchester was to be the 2nd meeting of the season, scheduled for Saturday 5th December 2020.

-The Aldershot organisers proceeded to demonstrate the extent to which they had gone to set up their event, which the other organisers could latch onto.

-Their landowner had confirmed that he is ok to his property being used. The course will be changed from last year due to covid restrictions and will be a maximum of 5.4km in length. It is hoped to produce a video of the course to be available to all athletes, as no walking of the course on the day will be allowed because of the pandemic restrictions. There will not be a chip timing system in force and bib numbers will be allocated to all athletes. This will require the usual timing and recording teams. Races will be run in waves, with each athlete being given a wristband of a distinctive colour for the specific wave of their event. There will be no under 11 races due to the extra time needed to complete the other events in multiple waves which will start 5 minutes apart. After they finish, the athletes will not be allowed to stay around, but must leave the location to avoid crowds developing.

-Unknown at the time of this second call was the fact that the landowner in Aldershot, similar to Winchester, withdrew the availability of their grounds.

-It is not clear at this time whether any of the other meetings planned for during the HCCL season might similarly be impacted.

-RD has already posted an announcement regarding the two cancellations on the Hampshire Athletics website.

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