



HAMPSHIRE ATHLETICS - MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON FRIDAY 20th November 2020 at 7.00 pm

ACCESSED VIA ZOOM, DUE TO THE ONGOING CORONAVIRUS LOCKDOWN

**ACTION:
WHO?**

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), Steve Torrance (ST), Stuart Horsewood (SH)

1. Apologies received: NIL

2. Minutes of the last meeting of 16th OCTOBER 2020: Accepted as produced and previously circulated.

3. Matters arising from the previous minutes:

- PR updated the committee on Cross Country where all meetings, both the championships and the County League have been cancelled because of the ongoing pandemic concerns.

-TW re SETAFA. Contact made upwards. Problem is that we have nothing in writing, so we should put this to rest for now.

4. Secretary's Update:

- MW had one update from South of England who are hoping to stage some cross country and indoor T/F during the winter subject to government guidelines. Various other planned events have been similarly postponed until at least into the new year – February/March 2021. Spare weekends are going to be difficult to find. Road relays planned for 28th March. T/F indoors Covid games have been pencilled in for 16th /17th January and 6th/7th February. Due to possible numbers they may need to turn to more than one (so far unnamed) venue. The availability of officials is also doubtful. Any further updates will be on their website.

5. Treasurer's Update:

-RD advised that there was once again nothing of any significance to report. Some match fees from Sportshall have been received and the odd affiliation adjustments have been made.

5.a) Affiliation fees – RD is endeavouring to have all affiliation fee refunds made during this financial year.

-SH queried with RD re his separate email as to whether affiliation fees are customary or mandatory. This was partly because some clubs are sending athletes to our events whilst the clubs have not paid its affiliation fees. RD had suggested that as entries are now done online the role of the counties has been downplayed. Enquiries have been received from clubs asking whether they have to pay affiliation fees and what do they get out of the county for that. This had apparently been the subject of a special EGM several years ago on the question of affiliation fees where, even at that time, the question was

“what’s in it for us?”. In the days of the AAA it was a requirement of affiliation prior to attending any meeting run under the auspices of the county. MB commented that the clubs undoubtedly expect the county to put on various Championships. The suggestion is that if a club is not affiliated then the entry fees, charged to the individual athletes must be increased (which in fact is the national approach for athletes not affiliated rather than the clubs themselves).

-JT concurred with this approach.

-SH highlighted that if we do not get affiliation fees from all clubs, this would reduce the county’s revenue by around £3,000 a year.

-MB recalled that during his time as Treasurer we always had to chase payment of these fees.

-TW reminded that the organisation and availability of officials is essential for all meetings.

-PR suggested that we need a statement on the website for all clubs to see explaining what the affiliation fees are needed because of. There would be difficulty to separate affiliated and non-affiliated athletes. RD advised that he has put a list of affiliated clubs on the web site. If athletes have to pay the extra £2 because their club has not affiliated, they could then chase their own club as to why not.

-PN highlighted that for some of the road races Run Britain has been used as the means of entry and athletes have simply paid the small extra fee.

It was finally agreed that a message would be created for placing on the website explaining all of this. Clubs can then decide whether they want to be affiliated (by a determined date) or whether they have their own athletes pay the extra entry fee.

-RD and PR highlighted that for Hampshire the Cross Country and Road Race leagues are separate from the Athletics affiliation (unlike most other counties).

6. Officials:

-TW confirmed that a newsletter had been compiled and will be circulated.

-DBS – EW had been nominated as a verifier although there is confusion within EA, who have advised of an IT problem that automatically made people a Level 1 Official. The DBS contact is Laura Davies.

-PR queried whether a child protection course is needed to be completed by officials. EW confirmed NO.

7. Schools update:

-EW advised that we are no further on since the last meeting. No venues are available although a virtual meeting is being considered once the lockdown regulations permit. Venues are also going to be hard to tie down. English Schools are going to make a decision in January, although it is not looking too promising. The lockdown has not helped in terms of athletes being able to make a comparison against their peers. A suggestion had been made to have athletes run over a measured course, but the difference in terrain makes meaningful and fair comparison impossible.

-There are more and more non-binary or transgender students in school. EW was asked if they can compete for their school. David Brown of EA Welfare and English Schools produced a 40-page document. If they are competing in their school, it is up to the Head Teacher and staff. If the child then looks to

MW/RD

compete outside their own school i.e. in a club then a decision (pathway) will be needed. JT suggested that we need EA guidance which might be covered by the 40-page document. The EA Welfare contact is Laura Davies (dbs@uka.org.uk). The Welfare officers of our clubs need to be made aware to look out for the document.

MW

8. Cross Country – already covered.

9. Sportshall update by Steve Torrance:

-ST had nothing to report. 3 dates for the league 24th January, 21st February and 7th March have been booked at Eastleigh Places Leisure from 9am to 4pm just in case. It has the biggest space in the county and has good facilities, and can currently accommodate a maximum of 90 people at any time. No spectators will be allowed, but not clear how many can be officials and helpers. First half U11 girls then second half U11 boys. Team Managers meeting to be held in December to discuss how to divide spaces out to clubs. Regional Championships for 2020/21 have already been cancelled. A virtual event is also being planned.

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

-TW suggested that we cannot look to plan for the county if there are no regional plans.

-JT predicts that we are likely to come out of the lockdown next week but will go back in again in the new year.

-EW expects things to be speculative well into the new year.

-SH confirmed that any costs incurred in 2020 for the Track & Field Championships are being carried forward into 2021, with the agreement of the providers. EW suggested that we need contingency plans.

-RD confirmed that no costs have been committed for the Sportshall or the Cross Country.

-ST asked whether he should continue to plan. SH said it was agreed here that we should make plans but do not commit costs.

11. Any other business:

-TW proposed that we ask PN to continue to be President at the next AGM, due to the absence of any activity in 2020. This was agreed.

-RD asked for confirmation of the next AGM. SH stated it to be Friday 5th March 2021.

The main committee meeting was closed at 9.00pm.

Date of the next meeting – Friday 15th January 2021 commencing at 7pm, again via ZOOM – access details to be provided nearer to the date.

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