

# North Essex & South Suffolk Cross Country League (“NESS”)

## 2023 AGM

Held at Marks Tey Parish Hall, Old London Road, Marks Tey, CO6 1EJ on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7.30 pm.

### **Present:**

Peter Gooding (Chair)  
Elspeth Knott (Harwich Runners)  
Natalie Lilley (Secretary)  
Richard Pickering (Colchester Harriers)  
Mark Lawes (Tiptree RR)  
Kerry Marsh (Treasurer)  
Lorna Pettifer (Mid Essex Casuals)  
Samantha Cooper (Hadleigh Hares)  
Alan Palmer (Colchester & Tendering AC)  
Tallesin Stevenson (Colchester & Tendering AC)  
Annalise Tye (Witham RC)  
Perry James (Halstead RR)  
Paul Wain (Ipswich Jaffa)  
Allison Gillan (Springfield Striders)  
David Smith (Junior League)  
Vicky Presland (Great Bentley RC)

### **1. Minutes of the end of season meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023**

Minutes were accepted as a true record of that meeting by all those present.

### **2. Matters Arising/action points from last meeting**

- Enquiry from Boxted runners – we haven’t responded to this.
- All clubs to consider hosting so we can get back to 6 fixtures – see agenda point.
- Opening of a committee bank account:
  - Kerry Marsh has opened an account and prepared a budget for the season. Kerry explained to all how this would work going forward, i.e., income gets paid into the account, host club expenses are reimbursed, some of the profits are held back to next season for trophies etc.
  - Kerry has compiled a form to make it easy for clubs to calculate how much to pay for each race.
- Balancing P&L for last season and distribution between host clubs – done.
- Update junior rules to include junior runners on race permit applications – done.
- Update senior rules to include “courtesy & respect” language – done.

### **3. Election of officers for 2023/2024 season**

- Peter Gooding to remain as Chair
- Natalie Lilley to remain as Secretary
- Kerry Marsh to remain as Treasurer
- Dave Smith to remain as Junior Rep.

All were nominated and seconded and carried unanimously.

### **4. Dates and venues for 2023/2024 season**

Fixtures calendar/template was reviewed and known dates of popular/host club events noted.

Hadleigh would like 18<sup>th</sup> Feb if poss. Harwich need a date from late Jan onwards to use the existing venue due to harvesting. Great Bentley happy to host but would prefer not to be first. Witham have explored hosting at venues other than Notley park but without success, as have Tiptree.

Jaffa have been talking to the school where they hosted Ekiden, but this costs approx. £500 which they considered expensive. It was discussed and all agreed that 6 races was preferable, even if it meant less profit for the host clubs overall, so Jaffa should explore this as an option.

Kerry's budget is currently based on 6 races. PG reminded of the request that some host clubs consider more portaloos this year, which will increase some expenses.

***Currently planned dates (noting that some of these have changed since the meeting):***

- 1) 29<sup>th</sup> October – Ipswich Jaffa
- 2) 26<sup>th</sup> November – Halstead Road Runners
- 3) 10<sup>th</sup> December – Great Bentley Running Club
- 4) 21<sup>st</sup> January – Harwich Runners
- 5) 18<sup>th</sup> February – Hadleigh Hares
- 6) 25<sup>th</sup> February – Springfield Striders

Note the above currently dependent on: Jaffa confirmation of school availability, and Harwich confirmation re harvest impact.

### **5. Changes to the rules to be voted in**

As discussed and agreed, junior rules amended to include a paragraph instructing hosts to include junior runners when applying for permits, to ensure insurance cover. Senior rules to include paragraph about courtesy and respect.

All approved the proposed changes. NL to update and add to website. Small mistake also spotted in the senior rules regarding scoring (double negative). NL to correct. All agreed that language about advertising/sponsors should be left in, in case we ever have a sponsorship arrangement again.

## 6. Any other Business

- Paul Wain advised that their trophy provided is retiring next year. He has already put in an order for the coming season but we will need to find an alternative. Alan Palmer will provide details of their current trophy provider.
- Peter Gooding asked if clubs still wanted to announce the results at the end of fixtures, as it seems that hardly any runners or club reps stay on site to hear them nowadays. It was agreed to play it by ear on the day.  
It's still important to provide the results to other clubs asap, as several clubs use these in their own results postings at the start of each week. Team results should be sent out as soon as known, with some additional time (but still asap) for the full individual results.
- This led to a discussion about the move to not providing refreshments last season (as this was thought to be one of the reasons fewer people stick around). Clarified last season's decision that clubs are not obliged to provide/sell refreshments for other clubs, but they are still allowed to if they wish.

## 7. Date and venue of next meeting

Next meeting to be held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024, at the same venue if available. NL to contact Malcolm Bailey to arrange.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

Action points:

| Agenda item | Matter   | Action required  | By whom                   |
|-------------|--|--|---------------------------|
| 1           | Finalise updated rules<br>(done)                                       | Make agreed amendments and post to website   | Natalie Lilley            |
| 2           | Confirmation of full fixture list (done)                               | NL to keep track of email exchanges and send update to all                         | Natalie Lilley            |
| 3           | Possible Jaffa fixture<br>(done – not possible)                        | Jaffa to explore possibility of hosting – contact the venue to check availability. | Paul Wain                 |
| 4           | Need to source a new trophy provider (done – succession plan provided) | Alan to pass contact details to Paul.  | Alan Palmer/<br>Paul Wain |
| 5           | Booking venue for end of season meeting.                               | NL to contact Malcom Bailey for booking/payment.                                   | Natalie Lilley            |

