

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

## 2024 AGM

Held at Marks Tey Parish Hall, Old London Road, Marks Tey, CO6 1EJ on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 7.30 pm.

[notes to minutes – Hadleigh decision to leave the league was communicated some time after the AGM]

### **Present:**

Peter Gooding (Chair)  
Kerry Marsh (Treasurer)  
Natalie Lilley (Secretary)  
Mark Lawes (Tiptree RR)  
Elsbeth Knott (Harwich Runners)  
Allison Gillan (Springfield Striders)  
Lorna Pettifer (Mid Essex Casuals)  
John Pettifer (Mid Essex Casuals)  
Victoria Tapp (Hadleigh Hares)  
Alan Palmer (Colchester & Tendering AC)  
Jodee Mayer (Witham RC)  
Andy Carter (Halstead RR)  
Paul Wain (Ipswich Jaffa)  
Paul Davison (Great Bentley RC)  
Dan Steptoe-Thompson (Colchester Harriers)

### **1. Apologies for absence – none**

### **2. Minutes of the end of season meeting 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

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

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

- The committee extended its thanks to Liz Stuckey for stepping in to take the minutes at the end of season meeting.
- Reminder to clubs to think about the provision of portable toilets where needed.
- Peter asked how any profits held in the league bank account would be split, if the host clubs had changed from last year to this. Kerry advised that we needed to hold onto the float we had for now, but we could always split the £386 from last year separately between the host clubs from 23/24 if needed.
- Hadleigh race equipment purchased last year - It was queried as to whether there was still an intent to share this at races, but it was determined that Hadleigh hadn't been reimbursed for this equipment, so this wasn't necessary.
- Reminder to clubs to stress to their junior runners to always follow the tape. Also to host clubs to ensure that the junior course is a minimum of 1 mile.
- Re the point raised at end of season that the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> (overall) male & female runners were quite far behind the winners, due to the small number of runners completing

all races: Peter suggested that clubs make members more aware of the possibility of finishing higher in the league if they attend more/all fixtures.

- The senior finisher discs were passed by Peter to Ipswich for the first race.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

No significant change from the end of season meeting. It was agreed that we don't need a treasurer's report at both meetings – this will be kept to the AGM in future years.

Kerry reminded that the league affiliation fee will need paying. Ipswich reminded that the costs paid to date for their race (which were required in advance) were just for the venue and there will still be other costs (portable toilets etc).

#### **5. 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

All were nominated and seconded and carried unanimously.

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

- Mark Lawes advised that he had approached Layer Marney tower to see if it was feasible for Tiptree to host a race there, but they had refused.
- Ipswich's date is already fixed and agreed from last meeting. Their race will be 2 laps, similar to the Ekiden route, but they will build in a couple of features.
- Halstead would like 8<sup>th</sup> December and this is the only date they could currently guarantee. GBRC have their awards event that weekend and asked if there was any way this date could be avoided. The general consensus was that we couldn't accommodate clubs' social events as well as races, or there would be insufficient weekends to choose from. WRC in a similar situation with a race abroad in November, but all accepted that these clubs would have to make do with as many runners as they could manage on those dates.
- Halstead mentioned that they could provide portable toilets if needed, but this would of course cost more. Kerry advised there would be room in the budget for portable toilets. There was a brief discussion about putting entry fees up, but it was agreed that we would prefer not to.
- Halstead also asked if it was felt that their course was too challenging. All agreed it was a good course.
- Harwich could currently do 12/1 or 26/1
- Great Bentley advised that they could put on a race, but cannot use the toilets (or building) at the school anymore. 24/11 is their preferred date [UPDATE this is now proposed as 9<sup>th</sup> March, as 24<sup>th</sup> Nov clashes with Hadleigh's main road race].
- Hadleigh would prefer Jan or Feb, preferably avoiding half term.
- Springfield fairly flexible – suggested 12<sup>th</sup> Jan and then Harwich will do 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### ***Currently planned dates:***

- 1) 27<sup>th</sup> October – Ipswich Jaffa

- 2) 24<sup>th</sup> November – Great Bentley Running Club\*
- 3) 8<sup>th</sup> December – Halstead Road Runners
- 4) 12<sup>th</sup> January – Springfield Striders
- 5) 26<sup>th</sup> January – Harwich Runners
- 6) 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Hadleigh Hares

The spare fixture is currently 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Noted that this is very late, and close to the end of season meeting. However, with a potential 6 fixtures again this year, and still a few clear weekends, it's hoped that the spare date won't be needed anyway.

### **7. Review of EA license application process**

The questions that the Harwich RD had raced from the EA post-race report were reviewed by Peter prior to the meeting, and he was happy that issues had been resolved.

It was also noted that the EA affiliation renewal needed to be completed. NL to complete this, as last year.

### **8. Junior Co-ordinator vacancy**

No clubs had been able to secure a volunteer to take over Dave Smith's role. Peter read out a description of the role (that Dave had provided), and it was largely agreed that a lot of the specific functions that had been listed were duplicating work already done by the host club's RD and marshals. This left the collection of runner data pre-season, which Natalie volunteered to add to her role, and the input of results to the junior spreadsheet. It was suggested that the current spreadsheet might need some review, and Alan Palmer and Kerry Marsh both volunteered to look at this if needed.

It wasn't clear who had the junior tokens, or if anyone would be able to get them from Dave Smith. (note, we later found the junior tokens in a bag at the meeting).

After some discussion, the previously considered options were boiled down to two: either the host clubs complete the junior results with the seniors, or the junior races become "non-competitive".

Peter made the point that hosts carrying out the role would delay the publication/circulation of results further. Andy Carter wanted to record that Halstead were not in favour of the host clubs carrying out this role.

Ultimately, there was a lack of agreement between clubs, having different vested interests in the situation: host clubs felt that they were already doing enough, clubs with few or no juniors felt that it was unfair to ask them (and that they would really have little comprehension of the current system). It was suggested that non-host clubs with larger junior cohorts might take the role on a rota basis, but these clubs still felt that they wouldn't be able to find anyone to do this.

Finally it was suggested that the junior races would continue, but on a "fun run" basis, with placings handed out by raffle tickets (separate for boys & girls). This was voted and passed with 8 votes for and 3 abstentions (from clubs with no juniors). There is still hope that once members hear about this decision, there may yet be a volunteer, and if this is the case then we will resurrect the previous arrangements.

## 9. Any other Business

None.

## 10. Date and venue of next meeting

Next meeting to be held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025, at the same venue if available. NL to book.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Action points:

Agenda item	Matter	Action required	By whom
1	Next meeting	Book venue	Natalie Lilley
2	Confirmation of full fixture list	NL to keep track of email exchanges and send updates to all	Natalie Lilley
3	EA affiliation renewal	Needs to be completed via EA portal and passed to Kerry for payment.	Natalie Lilley/Kerry Marsh
4	Junior spreadsheet review	Spreadsheet to be reviewed and cleaned up/possibly simplified – IF a volunteer comes forward.	Natalie to send to Alan Palmer & Kerry Marsh