

Mid Essex Casuals Running Club

MINUTES FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MID ESSEX CASUALS RUNNING CLUB HELD ON THURSDAY THE 19TH NOVEMBER 2020 USING 'ZOOM'.

Meeting opened at 7pm

IN THE CHAIR: JOHN CLARKE (Club Secretary.)

COMMITTEE PRESENT: JOHN PETTIFER (Chairman)
LORNA PETTIFER (XC Manager & Essex Way.)
YAN STILE (Membership Secretary.)
JOHN HOOD (Treasurer.)
CLARE PHILLIPS (Committee Member.)
KATY REHAL (Committee Member.)
IAN FOSKEW (Committee Member.)
DAVE GAME (Committee Member.)
SUE CLARKE (Committee Member.)

OBSERVERS: JACKIE SIBTHORP
CHARLIE STANNETT
BEN LEEDS
MALCOLM BAILEY (no video)
SIMON BAKER
LORRAINE BAKER

APOLOGIES: WENDY SMALLEY (Kit Officer.)
PAUL SCRIVENER (Trail & XC Championships.)
LUCY FERGUSON (Committee Member.)
SIMON FERGUSON (Mid Essex XC race.)

(The Chair announced that for the purposes of pragmatism the committee would continue in its present form & explained how voting would be 'counted' on Zoom.)

2. THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MID ESSEX CASUALS RUNNING CLUB HELD ON SUNDAY THE 8TH SEPTEMBER 2019 AT THE WESTERN ARMS PUBLIC HOUSE, WESTERN ROAD, SILVER END, WITHAM, CM8 3SD.

Proposed - Dave G. Seconded – Yan S. Vote – unanimous.
(The minutes were formally accepted as a true & fair reflection of the 2019 AGM.)

3. ACTION POINTS/MATTERS ARISING

3.1...Point 8 of 2019 minutes: Concerning the Essex Cross Country Relays championship 2019. John C. stated that both a Mens & a Ladies Team had eventually entered the event on 14.09.19.

3.2...Point 10a of 2019 minutes: Yan S. acknowledged that he had informed Ian Foskew concerning the decision on his Life Membership of MEC.

3.3...Point 10c of 2019 minutes: the chair congratulated & thanked Katy R. on the organisation of the 2019 Christmas meal, plus all others who had helped.

3.4...Point 10d of 2019 minutes: the chair congratulated & thanked Katy R. on the organisation of the guaranteed 2020 London marathon place. The chair expressed regret at the cancellation of the event.

3.5...Point 10e of 2019 minutes: the chair congratulated & thanked Katy R. along with Sharon S. & any others who had helped, on the organisation of the 2019 festive trail.

3.6...Point 10f of 2019 minutes: the chair had been in discussion with Lucy F. into looking at the possibility of the club having a new website. Lucy F. had asked for someone to take this responsibility from her. (The chair then moved *continued discussion* to AoB.)

3.7...Point 10g of 2019 minutes: the chair couldn't recall the exact sequence of events around the organisation of the MEC home race in the Mid Essex League on 5th January 2020. However it went well & he thanked Dave G. & Simon F. for the smooth running of the event.

3.8...There were no other Matters Arising.

(Original item 1.) CORRESPONDENCE

The chair announced he had an email from John P. offering his resignation as Chairman of the club. The chair formally thanked John P. during his role as Chairman. The chair then suggested that, given the timing & the current Covid restrictions, any formal election of a new Chairman be postponed until a time when the committee can meet face to face. There were no objections.

4. REPORT FROM CROSS COUNTRY MANAGER & ESSEX WAY MANAGER.

>Essex Way: 4 Mid Essex Casuals Teams, containing 39 club members, took part in the Virtual Essex Way Relays during September 2020. An excellent event which created lots of good Facebook posts and with the 'Green Option' it was great to see people making their way to and from their 'legs' by various methods of green transport.

Of 16 Teams ours came 2nd, 5th, 13th and 15th. The Vets A team were second overall and 1st in the Vets category. Our 'Open Team' came 5th overall and 3rd in the Open category.

>Cross Country: A good Cross Country season saw increased participation and the teams were gathering momentum when the season came to an abrupt end.

NESS – we finished 2nd in Pool B (up from 4th position in 2018/19). With the exception of the final race in March we fielded full teams. Will Ferguson finished 2nd in the U17s.

The Mid Essex League – Had a new format of Open & Vets scores pulled from the 1 race (similar to the Essex League). Unfortunately the season ended abruptly with the outbreak of Covid but with 1 race to go: in the Open category our men were 5th (no change from 2018/19) and our Ladies 2nd (4th in 2018/19) of 5 teams. In the new Vets category our men were 4 (& likely to end 3rd) & our ladies 2nd (just one point away from an achievable tie with GFDR). We had fielded full teams in every race of this league. In the Essex League our men came 9th (7th in 2018/19) & 14th in the Vets (19th in 2018/19) and our ladies came 10th (8th in 2018/19) and 16th in the Vets (18th in 2018/19)

Overall 19 Ladies (up from 14 in 2018/19), 39 Men (up from 33 in 2018/19) & 3 juniors (stationary at 3) took part in at least one race during the season.

>The Chair formally thanked Lorna for all her work for the Club this year.

5. REPORT FROM KIT OFFICER.

>Wendy Smalley was not present at the Zoom meeting however she had previously expressed a need for a stock list. Thanks to the Treasurer there is now a stock list on the shared drive.

>The Chair formally thanked Wendy for all her work for the Club this year.

6. REPORT FROM CLUB TREASURER.

>Overall, the finances of the club have remained stable during the pandemic this year due to the many events put on by Dave G. & others. A couple of changes have been put in place this year:

>Firstly, the addition of a third bank account, which has been added to accept advance race entries and this has been used successfully already. This is in addition to the core bank account and reserve accounts already in existence.

>Secondly the accounts have been slightly extended to incorporate an income statement, and balance sheet as well as booking of club kit stock in and out to maintain expected levels of stock. The main assets of the club remain in cash and club kit stock.

>An outstanding task from last years meeting, was for a review of older kit stock and their values, since purchases are made most years meaning that there is older stock which cannot easily be sold at original prices, considering that the latest kit stock is of very similar value. An exercise has therefore been carried out this year with the help of Wendy S. & Lorna P. so that older stock values have been adjusted down to assist with achieving sales of this kit stock; this has been effected in the club accounts this year. (A copy is available on the shared drive.)

>The Treasurer split his report into two areas: Core Activities & Other Activities.

>6.1 Core Activities: Our membership fees pay only for the core activities of the club: Club Affiliations, membership expenses (including maintaining our website), membership and participation in our 3 local cross country leagues (this was the prime reason for the formation of the club) and holding the AGM (this is a requirement of England Athletics to ensure that we are a democratically run club).

Our core activities so far this year have made a surplus of £486:

Income Expenditure

Membership Income: £1290 and costs of: £75

Affiliations. £229

Mid Essex League costs. £145

NESS League costs. £252

Essex League costs. £103

Total costs: £804

So far this year, overall our core activities have an AGM balance of £767.

This is more favourable that would normally be expected, due to the reduced costs of cross country entry fees and other related costs due to the pandemic.

>6.2 Other Activities: We are registered with HMRC as a "Community Amateur Sports Club" which gives the club tax free status, however it also means members are NOT allowed to personally profit from any club activities. All income from our trail races (apart from the organisers expenses incurred in putting on the event) is used primarily to subsidise the core activities of the club (cross country and relay entries) and a float for kit purchases and secondarily for charitable donations as selected by the event organisers. We do ask that race profits are paid initially to the club which will then make the payment on behalf of the organiser to the selected charity.

>Our 'other activities' to date this year had a deficit of £110. (This is due to the writing down of older kit stock valuations as mentioned previously.)

>Income and Expenditure

Trail races Income: £4153 with costs of £1124

Charity donations have been £2453 (which excludes one outstanding donation)

Kit Sales have been £636 sold at cost price

Relays net costs has amounted to £99

In total, income has been £4789 and costs of £4900, so a deficit overall of £110.

Overall our other activities have an end of year balance of £1635 (split between Trail, Kit and Relays will be finalised at year end).

>In total we have a balance of £2403 in our main account & £1000 in our savings account. However, there is an outstanding donation to Centrepont due for £422 as requested by the organiser of the Step Back in Time Trail which will be made shortly.

>The Chair formally thanked John H. for all his work for the Club this year.

7. REPORT FROM MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.

>Yan suggested that the membership fee remain at £10 per annum. There were no objections.

>Yan started a discussion on extending the 2019/2020 membership year to the end of 2020 due to the Covid situation; basically allowing 16 months membership for the price of 12. The treasurer confirmed that the club was on a good financial footing to do this.

>For clarification the Chair confirmed that the membership secretary was proposing a formal alteration to Rule 7.0 of Mid Essex Casuals Rules; altering the wording "1st of September" to "1st of January".

Proposed - Yan S.

Seconded – John H.

Vote – unanimous

>The Chair formally thanked Yan for all his work for the Club this year.

(Action Point: Yan S. to alter Rule 7.0 on the shared drive.)

8. REPORT FROM CLUB SECRETARY

>John C. apologised for the late AGM & for not giving a full 21 days notice; he offered the current Coronavirus situation as his excuse.

>John C. wanted to place two items on the agenda for the next AGM.

8.1: to alter club rule 4.0 to include a position of Vice Chair.

8.2: to alter club rule 5.1 to comply with current data protection legislation.

>In December 2019 a number of MEC members entered the Essex County Vets Cross Country Championships. Mid Essex Casuals had two medalists: Sue Clarke was 1st F60-64 & Brian Butcher was 2nd M70-74.

>MEC Currently has 10 Members who are registered with England Athletics. Five entered the England Athletics Virtual 5k National Championship in July 2020; Sue Clarke came 5th in the country in her AG & the men's team of Ben Leeds, Adam Hunter, John Clarke & David Leeds came 197th in the country.

>MEC had a small number of entries in the Essex 3000m Senior Track Championships for November 2020; however the event was cancelled.

>John C. mentioned that the 2020 virtual Huffer Puffer had raised £326.25 for G.O.S.H.

(Action Point: Secretary to ensure 8.1 & 8.2 placed on AGM Agenda for 2021)

9. REPORT FROM CHAMPIONSHIP SECRETARY

Paul S. was not present at the Zoom meeting so the chair read out his report.

>Cross Country Championships: the job entails compiling a results table & publishing it to our website from results forwarded to me via Lorna P.

>The Championship Sec. apologised for his infrequent updates this year. (He is assuming, due to the ongoing pandemic & ensuing cancellation of races that there won't be a Cross Country Championship this winter.)

>The Championship Sec. felt Lorna P. deserved a special mention as not only is she ladies champion (yet again!) but she handles most of the organisation for our cross-country teams.

>Trail Championships: These also have obviously been severely affected by the pandemic but are still 'ongoing' this year. To keep their integrity only 'normal' trail results will count towards the championships; DIY or "virtual" events will not be included.

>Potentially there will be one or two more trails in December, however Ben & Lynn are odds on to retain their titles, Justin & Yan are the only others who have amassed in excess of 200 points. Along with these four, Dave G, Lorna, Sarah, John P, Dave H and Wendy, have taken part (or organised) in more than ten races. In total, 85 club members have participated in at least one trail event to date.

>The Championship Sec. suggested that the rules for the 2021 Trail Championship remain the same as this year and to this end provided a copy of the current rules for inclusion in the Shared Drive.

>Laura P. queried the rule about recceing a trail run for trail organisers & then not being able to then run the race together with John P. She didn't think the recce gave her an advantage in that situation. There was some discussion. No decision was taken concerning changing any rules however it was agreed the rules may need clarifying to establish that nobody gains a competitive advantage in competition or loses out by recceing.

(Action Point: Paul S. to review rules to see if further clarification is needed.)

>The Chair formally thanked Paul for all his work for the Club this year.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESSES

>The 40 minutes maximum of Zoom time was reached; however an extension was somehow *granted*.

>Roger Duffield was proposed as a life member by Ian Foskew. The chair suggested that going forward we, as a committee, needed a separate face to face meeting to discuss "Life Membership" & incorporate a formal procedure within the rules of the club before making further individual decisions on any proposal. There were no objections to the suggestion.

(Action Point: Secretary to arrange a face to face committee meeting to discuss "Life Membership" when possible & then ask for suggestions from the membership.)

>The discussion into looking at the possibility of the club having a new website continued from 'Matters Arising'. Dave G. reported that the old, page driven, HTML built website is still holding up, he keeps the events calendar, trail results & news stories pages up to date; basically these are word documents, or spreadsheets, converted to HTML format and uploaded as required. Dave G. also maintains the page linkages in the main pages with photos, when appropriate. Paul S. keeps the championships page up to date. Dave G. explained that any new website would need to have as simple an update procedure as possible to ensure it was kept up to date. It was noted during discussion that the current MEC Website was the "go to" page for many Cross Country & Trail Runners. The discussion moved on to Facebook, where MEC have a 'private group'. A decision was reached to keep the website as it is & to keep the FB private group as it is; however to explore the use of a 'Facebook Page' in promoting the club. Clare P. offered her help to Dave G. to keep the website up-to-date & also offered to run a FB Page.

(Action Point: Clare P. set up a MEC, FB Page.)

>A brief discussion took place concerning the vacant position of Chairman of the club. John C. had been made aware of one member who wished to apply for the post. John

P. offered to continue formally as Chairman of the club until the next AGM. There were no objections.

11. DATE OF THE NEXT AGM

To be decided at a later date.

(ACTION POINT: John C. in consultation with other committee members).

The Club Secretary formally thanked all committee members for all their work on behalf of the Club this year.

Meeting close at 7.50pm.

CHAIR..... DATE

(To be signed by the Chair at the next AGM when the minutes are formally accepted.)
