

Bedfordshire and Luton Schools - VIRTUAL

Minutes of 2024 AGM held on 09.12.2023 via Google meets (16.30)

Present – Dennis Johnson - Chair, Treasurer & Team Manager

Gav Fordham Secretary - & Kempston Academy

Allen Adamson - VP & Team Manager

Sophie Hilton - Etonbury

Matt Dawson- Pixbrook

Becca - Stratton

Daniel Day - Redbourne

Adam Payne - Harlington

1. Apologies –

Vicky Dockerill - Champs Sec (T & F) & Luton SGO

Tanya Golding - Goldington (Heads PA - Team manager/admin (XC)

Kelly Rolfe North Beds. SGO

Richard Edwards Champs Sec (XC), TM & Lincroft

Hannah Douglas - TM & Cedars

Adam Higgens - BMS

Stuart Seymore Leighton Linslade SGO

Thank you everyone for attending. We will continue to hold AGMs virtually in the future.

2. Minutes –

Shared with everyone previous to meeting - no one questioned the minutes.

DJ thanked Craig Phillips and Tanya for their help organising the cross country team.

3. **Matters arising** – ESAA AGM 2023: DJ had proposed Jump off for international places - passed by ESAA, but not implemented by the officials on the day!

4. **Correspondence** – Nicky Dunning raised the cost of affiliations and hosting of county schools Track and Field in Bedford - very late finish to the event - could this take place at a weekend or events be rescheduled? Discussed at length with those present at the meeting - due to huge changes on the horizon (age groupings) thought it best to leave the schedule the same for one more year and then discuss this further before the new age group changes come into play in 2026.

5. Chairman's report –

Shared with everyone previous to meeting - those present thankful for receiving the documents prior to the meeting taking place, it allowed the meeting to flow. Dennis gave a brief overview/summary of his report. In general it has been a positive year for the association.

Dennis thanked those who assisted with events throughout the year, this included Teachers, District team managers, organisers of county Events, County team managers and ESAA team managers. Dennis especially thanked Craig and Tanya for taking over the XC management.

6. Treasurer's Report –

Shared with everyone previous to meeting

Accounts remain in a healthy way with a large reserve. We also have a large stock of kit but will need to buy more in some sizes.

One school did pay £3800 instead of the set fee but DJ reimbursed.

Association fee for 2025 - increase to £80 per school - all at the meeting understood and agreed on this figure.

Although the account is currently healthy, it does require a cash flow of £3/4000 to be able to pay the ESAA T&F entry fees before contributions are received from schools and parents. Some schools and parents are not paying a contribution. This results in a loss on the event in addition to the planned subsidy, and is a considerable drain on our finances, which is unsustainable in the future.

It was agreed that we will subsidise athletes whose parents are struggling to pay athlete contributions.

7. Motion – all present agreed with this motion

'That athletes from schools or colleges which do not affiliate, will not be eligible to participate in events organised by or on behalf of the county schools AA, nor represent the County in Inter County or English Schools Competitions; neither will athletes from schools or colleges which do not pay the contribution requested from them towards the cost of taking their athletes'

8. County championships - DJ thanked those who helped and assisted in these championships.

- a. **X-Country** – report shared prior to meeting - thank you to Richard Edwards for organising
- b. **Track and Field** – report shared prior to meeting - thank you to Vicky Dockerill for organising
- c. **Combined events** – no championships held

9. ESAA championships - *report previously shared within the chairman's report*

- a. **X-Country** – report shared prior to meeting
- b. **Track and Field** – report shared prior to meeting
- c. **Combined events** – report shared prior to meeting

10. **Election of officers** – Dennis has created an idiots guide for each role he holds... new blood needed - Dennis is getting no younger (80) and would love some support to take on some of his roles.

Chairman – Dennis Johnson

Secretary – Gavin Fordham

Treasurer - Dennis Johnson

T&F Schools Cup Organiser – RBA (*GF to contact RBA*)

X-C Schools Cup Organiser – Kelly Rolfe to step in for Rich alongside Allen

T & F Champs Sec – Vicky Dockerill

T&F Managers – Gav Fordham / Hannah Douglas (??) / Allen Adamson / ?? (1+female) admin Dennis

CE Team Manager Dennis Johnson

X-C Team Managers – Craig Phillips / Tanya

11 County Championships 2024

- a) Cross Country - Wed 5th Feb. Ampthill
- b) Track & Field - Wed 10th June. Bedford
- c) *Combined Events - anyone wishing to step into organise?*

12. ESAA Championships 2024

- a) Cross Country - Sat 15th March @ Ardingly, West Sussex
- b) T&F - Fri 11th & Sat 12th July 202@Birmingham
- c) Combined Events -
Regional Final. 28th&29th June 2025 @ Corby
National Final 20th & 21st September 2025 @ Chelmsford

13. ESAA AGM

There was a presentation from England Athletics regarding their proposal (almost certainly to be implemented from April 2026) to change the competition age groups to U14 (Y 7 & 8) U16 (Y9 & 10) U18 (Y11&12) with consequent changes to events and specifications. EA had previously said that ESAA did not have to follow suit, but it now appears that EA might refuse a licence if ESAA do not do so. A lively discussion followed! ESAA are now considering their options (see below)

14. Financing county schools - lots of discussion...

Some schools are saying that they are unable to pay a contribution towards the costs of their student(s) attending ESAA Championships. It was agreed that we should not load the whole cost (up to £200 per athlete for T&F) onto the parents and that we should continue to ask schools for a contribution. It was also agreed that we should not penalise an athlete by not selecting them if their school or parent does not contribute. However, if there is a repeated shortfall over a number of years the funds will be depleted to such an extent that we would be unable to continue, eventually becoming bankrupt. Teachers in attendance suggested that schools might be in a better position to pay in September when budgets are reset. It was agreed that schools be asked for their contribution at the time, but given the option to pay in September.

15. Succession planning -

Conversations held when looking into election of officers - more to follow at executive meetings / waiting to see if anyone steps forward? Although Dennis is very happy in post and continues to do a fantastic job he has said he is getting older and that new blood is required as he will not be available forever....

16. Hosting of ESAA events - Potential host for the ESAA combined events championships in 2026 (not 2025 due to possible relaying of the track)

17. Age group changes - (See also 13 above) Projected to start in April 2026. We will need to consider what change we need to make for our District and County Championships. Perhaps our own county Championships will have only U14 (Y7&8) and U16 (Y9&10) with also U18 (Y11&12) for XC. We have reservations on taking year 7 athletes to the ESAA champs and even Y8. .We sometimes feel they are not ready to be away from home for the 3 days / 2 nights, as well as finding the size and scope of the ESAA Championships overwhelming.

18. Next meeting – Executive meeting to be run virtually - **January 20th 2025** (GF to send link out closer to the time of meeting)

19. AOB -

- *Safeguarding officer. - no one actively in post*