

Bedfordshire Schools Athletics Association

Minutes of 2023 AGM held on 20.11.2023 via Google meets (16.30)

Present – Dennis Johnson - Chair, Treasurer & Team Manager; Gav Fordham Secretary - & KA: Allen Adamson - VP & Team Manager; Pippa Milton - Bedford Girls School; Craig Phillips - Castle Newham; Sophie Hilton – Etonbury; Dennie Coozee - Challney High School for Boys; Katy Kugeinueks - Robert Bloomfield; Michael Moodie – Vandyke; Jamie Mitchell – Biddenham; Tanya Golding - Goldington (Heads PA - Team manager/admin (XC)

1. **Apologies** – Vicky Dockerill - Champs Sec (T & F) & Luton SGO; Kelly Rolfe North Beds. SGO; Richard Edwards Champs Sec (XC), Lincroft; Hannah Douglas - TM & Cedars; Adam Higgins - BMS

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

2. **Minutes** – Shared with everyone previous to meeting – approved.
3. **Matters arising** – ESAA T&F Relays - proposal of relay running order (G/G/B/B) Passed at ESAA AGM
4. **Correspondence** – possible changes to age groupings – see Item 15
5. **Chairman’s report** –

Shared with everyone previous to meeting - those present grateful 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, ending with hosting the ESAA Combined events championships again at the end of the T&F year.

Dennis thanked those who assisted with events throughout the year, this included Teachers, District team managers, County team managers and ESAA team managers.

Dennis thanked Rob Heaney for his time and efforts with the XC management - Rob is stepping away due to family commitments. **Team managers are required to fill this gap.**

Additional competition for the diary - County Pentathlon @ Biggleswade (early season)

Track and Field Cup - needs more schools to enter, only 5 this year - had to merge with other counties.

6. **Treasurer's Report** – Shared with everyone previous to meeting

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

Association fee for 2024 - increase to £75 per school - all at the meeting understood and agreed on this figure. Fees for the 2023 year were reduced due to the previous years not having so many outgoings with less travel to championships for the association to pay for.

Some outgoing to consider

- Ampthill Park - being charged £2.00 per runner at the county championships.
- Toilets at the championships - £372

We will subsidise athletes whose parents are struggling to pay athlete contributions for ESAA Championships.

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** - GF to enquire with Kelly / Gill if the organisation of our championships could be added to their school games roles? (X Country / Combined events) they currently run the T&F champs

- 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** – Hosted by Bedfordshire Schools Athletics Association at Bedford International Stadium - a very successful championship and a huge well done to Dennis and his helpers for organising and allowing a smooth running of these championships. (see chairman's report).

10. **Election of officers** – Dennis has created an idiot's guide for each role he holds... new blood needed - Dennis is getting no younger (79) 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 Kelly / Gill Be Active school games organisers)*

X-C Schools Cup Organiser – Richard Edwards *(GF to contact Richard Edwards)*

Treasurer – Dennis Johnson

XC Team Managers – Craig Phillips to meet with DJ to go over role / Tanya + 2 more for the day...

T & F Champs Sec – Vicky Dockerill

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

CE Team Manager Dennis Johnson

11 County Championships 2024

- a) Cross Country - Wed 7th Feb. Ampthill
- b) Track & Field - Wed 12th June Bedford
- c) *Combined Events - anyone wishing to step into organise?*

13. ESAA Championships 2024

- a) Cross Country - Saturday 16th March @ Pontefract
- b) Track & Field - Friday 12th July & Saturday 13th July 2023 @Birmingham
- c) Combined Events -

Regional 22nd&23rd June 2024 @ Chelmsford

Final 21st & 22nd September 2024 @ Stoke

14. Hosting of ESAA Championships: none in 2024 but possibility of CE in 2025 or 2026

15. ESAA Proposals – Dennis took 2 to the ESAA AGM;

- That there should be no seeded finals in individual events - APPROVED
- A tie break rule to be used to decide international selection in Inter vertical jumps - APPROVED

16. Home Countries (England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales AA) proposals to change the current age groups

From	To
u15 (year 8&9)	u14 (year 7&8)
u17 (year 10&11)	u16 (year 9&10)
u19 (year 12&13)	u18 (year 11&12)

then in 2 year' s time to change the age groups dates to 31.12 from 31.08 this would mean for example a year 8 born before Christmas would be in a different age group to a year 8 born after Christmas... (could make it messy for teachers when selecting teams - also issues with implement weights and hurdle spacings/distances)

At present this is going to different organisations for approval but the following are against it;

Northern Athletics

English Schools Athletics Association

English Cross-Country Association

And a large majority of Clubs

In favour -

England Athletics and other home countries.

Note that the proposed date for changing the age group (if passed) has now been deferred to April 2026.

17. Succession planning -

Conversations held when looking into election of officers - more to follow at executive meeting / 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....

18. Next meeting – Executive meeting to be run virtually - January 15th 2024 (GF to send link out closer to the time of meeting)

19. AOB -

- *Safeguarding officer. – we still do not have one.*
- *Website - Vicky has now added to and updated the county website, address is;*
<https://www.beactivebeds.co.uk/athletics-association1>
- Association LOGO - to convert back to the Bedfordshire Schools logo - new banner not required - kit will be phased out and new logo introduced.