



**Newham and Essex Beagles Athletic Club**  
**Minutes from Executive Management & General Committee Members**  
**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021**  
Via MS Teams

**Chair:** Tony Shiret (TS)

**Attendees:** A Stach-Kevitz (AS-K), C Rabess (CR), N Hepburn (NH), B Wilson (BW), E Shitta-Bey (ESB), M Sulu (MS), R Griffiths (RG), T Mundle (TM), W Bell (WB)

**Apologies:** M Brissett-Bailey

### **Subs Update**

- EA raising their affiliation fee for next year, club to review subscription fees.
- Lack of space and coaches is preventing NEB-AC from being able to have the maximum number of athletes training.
- **ACTION:** Compare and benchmark NEB-AC subscription fees with other clubs such as Victoria Park, Woodford, Guildford and Be Fit Academy.
- NEBAC needs to draw more people to events, open meets are successful but famous NEB-AC athletes are choosing to attend other events and not NEB-AC ones.
- Wait until next year when things return to normal to reassess NEB-AC events and meets.

### **Safeguarding Update**

- We need more formal safeguarding reviews in place at NEB-AC, do we have the correct processes in place to spot things when they go wrong, to allow athletes to talk if need to?
- There have been a few disciplinares that have taken place resulting in athletes and their fathers being asked to leave the club.
- We have refused to take admission for one athlete whose mother wanted them to train with an unqualified Coach at Lea Valley.
- NH has completed the formal EA safeguarding course and BW and Sarah Alexander have welfare backgrounds so collectively work together to ensure the club is following the correct procedures.
- We have been approached by a Coach who would like to bring their training group to the stadium to train. They are unqualified and not DBS checked so we won't be taking this further.
- Athletes and parents tend to go straight to Coaches to discuss any problems, they need to know the process and who to speak to in case the Coach is the problem. The Welfare Officer would be the person they need to speak to. **ACTION:** NH to send WhatsApp messages to all groups informing them of who they need to speak to but send messaging to everyone to review before sending. Clear signposting of the



process and who is responsible for safeguarding at NEB-AC to be highlighted at the track.

- More frequent welfare/safeguarding reviews are needed.
- How do we escalate situations where someone is not following best practice? We could possibly set up a safeguarding inbox and **ACTION:** AS-K to investigate whistleblowing policy for NEB-AC.

### **Summer Review**

- Not many summer events took place, but we need to put a plan in place for 2022. We might want to consider doing taster sessions before the next season starts.
- More PR and press are needed for NEB-AC.
- Idea to run open meetings in June, July, August, and September in 2022 but make them bigger events with music, food etc but more volunteers are needed.
- When parents are completing a membership form could we potentially add something on the form asking parents if they would like to volunteer?

### **Winter Review**

- Struggling with winter teams, with no women's winter team and the men's team needs to be refilled due to prior team members having since retired.
- We will be able to get a team together for the National 6 stage and will have a men's cross country relay team in November.
- It will be a couple of years before we are fully up and running and competitive in men's distance events.
- Woodford 1st met league can be used as a training session for the club's young endurance runners to practice.

### **Finances**

- The club is in a reasonable position financially
- Jack Petchey has paid the next instalment **ACTION:** NH to check and let ESB know.
- Next year 2022 will be the last year we will receive a grant from Newham, so we need to think of a long-term strategy going forward.
- Finance report will be presented at the AGM.
- Looking to have 3 Indoor winter meets this year.

### **AOB**

- TM- We need an area at the stadium where throws can take place which is needed for YDL-LAG. Also would like another pathway for athletes to join the club
- The issue with throws is that we don't have the correct tools such as flags and upgraded equipment and the stadium won't mark the lines on the pitch. We need to



look into this further. NH is currently working on a risk assessment to enable throws to take place.

- Possible opportunity for UCL athletics club working with the club, the campus is expanding to the Olympic Park so it would be good for East London athletes to train in East London. **ACTION:** Mike to get in touch with NH.
- **ACTION:** TS to let everyone know about AGM.
- Kit- 200 New Balance vests currently available, we hope to have packages for team's next season.