

Meeting Notes of England Athletics South West Region Council Meeting held Wednesday 4th July 2018 at Exeter Harriers Clubhouse at 19:00

In attendance:

Keith Reed (Chair), Tony Gale (Vice Chair), David Cooke, Mo Pearson, Graham Berry, Sonya Ellis, John Deaton (co-opted member), Richard Llewellyn-Eaton , Richard Ayling EA CSM; Chris Jones (EA CEO); Matt Birkett (EA)

Apologies Brian Baker

Agenda:

- Apologies
- Notes from last meeting
- EA Update
- Chair's Report
- Role of Council Review
- Portfolio Reports and Plans
- Update on 2018 Competitions
- SW Conference and Awards
- AOB
- Date of next meeting

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Brian Baker who was unable to make it but sent a report on recent activities in SW Schools. KR welcomed Chris Jones and Matt Birkett to the meeting

2. Actions from last meeting

KR had still to contact Martin Rush about combined event coach development.

3. EA Update

Richard gave his report to the meeting.

On facilities: Richard has been involved in meetings at Tavistock and Plymouth concerning possible asset transfers. Things look positive at Tavistock with a very positive meeting held with the college. At Plymouth a plan has been put together by interested parties including the athletics club, Plymouth Raiders basketball club, Plymouth Albion Rugby and the Universities. It would see a sporting hub set up at Brickfields. Discussions are being held with the Council. No further development at Bournemouth and progress at Salisbury is slow.

Richard also gave updates on the coaching workshops planned and clubs support. Applications have come in for Club Runs but Track night applications are less popular. Need to publicise offer. Richard looking to identify Focus clubs in the region. Some good Volunteer Champions courses have been put on as part of the Gamechangers project. Richard will be at the SW Track and Field Championships and will bring EA banners and flags.

Matt Birkett gave a brief resume on Run Together and Find a Guide plus other projects he is involved in. Matt showed how the England support model can help clubs.

Chris Jones gave an update on more strategic issues within England.

A summary is included here:

- Successful Commonwealth Games especially from young athletes who took part in Commonwealth Youth Games previously. Looking ahead to 2022 in Birmingham.
- Active Lives survey shows athletics is still growing, as is Parkrun
- New website under development
- Manchester International in 2019 may include Ashes event with Australian team in line with Nitro athletics format.
- EA continuing to support areas and officials conferences.
- Competition structure is still a concern. Need to liaise with UKA.
- Look at possible Road Race seminar in Cornwall.
- Gun to tape courses are available which is aimed at clubs who want to put on smaller events.
- Masters representative opportunities have proved popular and appreciated by road running clubs.
- Good links with DS active (Down's syndrome) to provide workshops.
- Volunteer support and recruitment a big issue.

4. Role of Council Review

KR gave an update on the progress of the group and the draft proposals sent to council. There will clearly be changes to the way the Council is set up in the future with greater county input. The election process needs to decide upon plus the Articles of Association which needs to be revised. One key area is to think of the way we can offer competition and the way we are set up as an organisation. This should be considered anyway. KR to set up a working group to look at this. This will be a major discussion point at the SW Conference when proposals are known and can be shared.

5. Portfolio Holders Reports:

Chair (Keith Reed)

We are now eagerly looking forward to the SW Track and Field Champs which will be held on 22nd July. Entries have reached 300 and we expect to get close to last year's entry figure before the closing date. We are still a bit short on officials so it is hoped we can recruit more before the day. We have been granted a Level 2 licence which is very rare in this part of the world.

Plans are now coming together for the SW Conference/Awards Presentation day for 2018 on 29th September at the Exeter Golf and Country club. The conference will take place in the afternoon with the awards taking place in the early evening. Please can all council members save the date? We should get our budgetary allowance from EA for 2018 any day now.

I have attended three meetings of the task and finish group looking at the role of Regional Councils and you have seen some draft proposals. I look forward to getting your feedback. As a result of this I have not done any further work on the Regional plan. I attended recent meeting at Tavistock to

support the club in a possible asset transfer of the track. There have been a number of new affiliated clubs in our area.

We have started provisional discussions about using Aldon Hill again for the 2019 Cross Country Championships. We have bought new lanyards for the medals for all the 2018/19 events.

Can I welcome Chris Jones and Matt Birkett to our meeting.

Road Running (Tony Gale)

Portfolio Holder's Report – Road Running

SW Inter-Counties Road Running Championship 2018

We have consulted with the County Road Running Reps across the region with a view to getting a good level of participation in the 2018 championship.

Six counties (Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire) have been actively engaged in the consultations. All of these have expressed interest in participating in the Championship.

The outcome of the consultations is that we have chosen to include two events in the 2018 Championship:-

Half Marathon – Great West Run, Exeter, 14th October

10k – City of Gloucester 10k, Gloucester, 28th October

One county expressed concerns about scheduling both races in the same month; but others see this as a positive.

We have confirmed with the organisers of both events that they will offer a 20% discount on entry fees to county runners entering via their County Team Managers. GWR have also offered elite facilities as in 2017 : Gloucs have yet to develop their detailed plans (this is essentially a new event).

We have drafted a press release for EA which includes some very positive comments about the Championship from county team managers.

Track and Field (David Cooke)

The 2018 SWIC T&F championships

The Exeter Arena track has been booked for Sunday July 22nd and I believe First Aid is booked

The championship will include results dating back to 2009. I have no access to previous championship best performances

The online form is considerably superior to that used in 2016 and 2017. There have been some minor problems which I will summarise in the Council meeting which follows the championship

We have 250+ athletes registered who have entered and paid. There are a further 50 in total who have registered only or entered events and not paid. I am in the process of E mailing these latter athletes to remind them of the closing date (July 15)

Graham Berry will inform us of the position of officials for this championship

We need volunteers to hand out bib numbers during the day

County team managers have been kept informed of matters re the championship

David circulated guidance notes and a list of entries by event

Coaching (Mo Pearson)

Mo wasn't able to get info from Tina. She did give more details on the coach workshops planned for the region.

Officials (Graham Berry)

Graham is still concerned about officials for the SWIC on 22nd July. It is better than it was but we are still short. Need to sort chief officials.

Clubs (Sonya Ellis).

Sonya was frustrated with the lack of info she gets from clubs. This portfolio is now working well nationally. The changes with the council will change this.

Sonya gave an update on the London Mini Marathon which went well from the SW perspective

Sonya is also still involved with the School Games but we are now part of the Midland region.

It was felt this competition had run its course.

Brian Baker (Schools)

Brian sent his apology for non-attendance. A report was submitted [available on request].

Cross Country (Richard L Eaton)

Brian Baker had made the first enquiries about the possibility of holding the 2019 SW Champs again at Aldon Hill. A decision should be known in weeks. It will certainly cost more this year. Matt B asked about difficulties with clubs getting venues and it was agreed it is getting harder and more expensive. Full on Sport will be the entry system used again.

6. Update 2018/19 Competitions

Track and Field

David gave an update in his report (see above)

- Agreed to print programme and sell for £2
- Entry to venue via outside gate controlled by our staff.
- Help needed from clubs agreed to donate to clubs who offer help.

- Medals all done with new lanyards
- Need to look at allowing athletes who are close to standard and representing counties to enter.
- Need to put up EA branding on day of event.
- Finances need to be reviewed.
- Still keen to be invited to events in Wales etc.

8. AOB.

None

9. SW Conference Update

We have booked the Exeter Golf Club for the event on 29th September with a 2pm start.
There will be a conference themed around the changes in the regions and opportunities for us.
The awards will take place after the conference and will include our own athlete ones.
A telephone meeting will take place with EA personnel to finalise programme.

10. Date of next meeting

Wed 19th September 2018 (TBC) [meeting eventually deferred until November]

The meeting closed at 2100.

K Reed
Chair
9th July 2019