

**Meeting Notes of England Athletics South West Region Council Meeting held Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>  
January 2019 at Exeter Harriers Clubhouse at 19:00**

**In attendance:**

**Keith Reed (Chair), Tony Gale (Vice Chair), David Cooke, , Graham Berry, Sonya Ellis, John Deaton (co-opted member), Richard Llewellyn-Eaton , Brian Baker (co-opted member)**

**Apologies: Mo Pearson, Richard Ayling EA CSM**

Agenda:

- Apologies
- Notes from last meeting
- EA Update
- Chairs Report
- Update on 2018/19 Competitions
- Future of Regional Council
- AOB
- Date of next meeting

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies were received as listed above

### **2. Actions from last meeting**

None

### **3. EA Update**

As Richard was currently away on Paternity Leave no update was available.

### **4. Chairs Report (Keith Reed)**

No formal report was written as it had been not long since the last meeting. The council members were thanked for all their efforts with competitions held recently. Particular thanks to Richard L-E and Brian Baker for the cross country and to David and Sonya for their work with the Indoor Championships. The recent proposed changes to the Regional Council structure has occupied a large amount of time and effort. Keith thanked all the councillors for their help in this matter.

### **5. Update on 2018/19 Competitions**

#### **Cross Country**

It was a fantastic event with entries slightly down on 2018. The feedback has been very good and the course is enjoyed by all. Medals presentations went well and results were very efficient.

Online entry system worked well once again. Thanks to Taunton AC and Yeovil OAC for providing marshals. A donation has been given to both clubs. Also thanks to our officials who did such a great job.

The future of the course is still uncertain but it would be good to use it again. KR to circulate Counties to get their feedback on future venues.

## **Indoor Track and Field**

Both junior events have been held and entries have been good. Senior event on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Medal presenter needed. Standard of entries was also good with many SW athletes finishing overall winners of the events. Thanks to Welsh Athletics and Cardiff met for hosting the events. We also provided help with registration. We need to chase James Williams about SW team representations in the International match on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **The 2019 SWIC T&F championships (David Cooke)**

The Exeter Arena is booked for Sunday July 21<sup>st</sup>

Still required:-

First Aid

Notification to Officials

Appointment of Online entry administrator

Confirmation of photofinish

Design of 'flier'

Decision re entry fees

Decision re entry standards

## **6. Future of Regional Council**

The bulk of the meeting was given over to the discussions relating to the future.

England Athletics have announced the date of the EGM as 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019 in London.

This meeting will decide if the changes to the Article of Association will be made.

These have been circulated to clubs/councillors together with FAQ's and an explanatory letter.

it has also been concerns that if the changes are now adopted that the existing structure would remain with elections held as before in March.

Some concerns have been raised about the timing and date of the meeting. It is not ideal for clubs in our area but proxy votes can be done.

The other concern was the introduction of the Fit and Proper person test. KR has obtained clarification on this and it will comprise of a simple DBS check.

The EGM had to be held by the end of January because of timescale on holding elections for the new body. It was felt however that things were being rushed.

Overall the feeling was that some changes needed to be made to the Regional Council structure as a clubs do not feel engaged with the process. This has also come out of our survey. The idea of taking meetings around is good as it will help.

Tony Gale felt that a glowing omission to the new structure was ensuring all disciplines were covered on a regional forum. This was a strength of our Regional Council and must be maintained.

The involvement of Counties is less prescriptive but should be encouraged.

The other main concern is who will come forward to sit on the new Regional Forum (or Council).

From the SW perspective we will only have one member remaining (GB) with 4 others eligible for re-election (TG,RLE, DC and SE). MP and KR have reached the end of their 8 year tenure and must stand down. BB and JD could stand or be co-opted.

In summary we feel that we give a caution welcome to the new proposals. It was agreed that we should update the clubs on the process and encourage them to use their vote at the EGM. KR will send out a communication to this affect after circulating a draft to all councillors.

The next part of the discussions was related to the formation of an organisation to run the SW Competitions on behalf of the new Regional body. It was felt that this body should be a Social Enterprise of some sort in order to protect the officers from personal liability. This body should be non-profit making and have at least two members who are on the new Regional body.

KR to write up a constitution and seek professional advice. The plan is to ratify this group at the final meeting of the current council with members of the new body involved. It is very important to be transparent with this. This proposal will also be shared with the clubs.

The survey undertaken by SW clubs felt on the whole that our competitions were good and offered value for money. There was very little appetite for an affiliation fee (similar to the North) and it was felt the entry fees should be the main source of income. It is also hoed the EA will continue their support to the SW.

Overall it was a satisfactory discussion and a way forward for our region.

#### **8. AOB.**

None raised

#### **10. Date of next meeting -Wed 27th March 2019**

The meeting closed at 2105.

K Reed Chair

12 January 2019