

# Meeting Notes of the England Athletics South West Region Council Meeting held on Wednesday 5th August 2020 by Zoom at 19:00

Dear All,

Notes from August 5th.

1. EA updates...club support weekly from EA indicates that many of the clubs in the South West have affiliated to England Athletics but that County Secretaries should encourage some to do so, even if only for insurance cover. Full lists from EA have been circulated to contacts of RLLE in each county, via the Regional Council. One county has now found by using the list, that 4 clubs are affiliated to EA but not the county.
2. Guidance on return to competitions has been updated on the EA website as of Sat 8th August e.g. 6 in a race, all lanes occupied, middle distance events up to and including 3000m [and steeplechase]...starting on curved start lines, 12 in throwing events.
3. EA is undergoing more reorganisation which will involve the loss of 22 of 63 jobs. The staff know, and job interviews for the remaining roles are under way this week. RLLE has petitioned for the retention of Rich Ayling and Tina Beresford who help our vast region so much. [Rugby is losing all its community help so as to safeguard the large fees paid to the top players and clubs.]
4. The material on the UK COACH website is moving to [athleticshub.co.uk](http://athleticshub.co.uk)
5. Duty of care.....this term, and a 'standard business practice disclaimer', have been causing a lot of angst, particularly in the age of Covid, with Covid officers in the North of England [mainly the North West] pointing out that the guidelines could leave Covid officers open to legal action if something goes wrong because the legal basis of the guidelines are unsound and EA are putting all the responsibility back on to club, event organisers and Covid officers. The paper outlining the 'grievances' was written by Covid officers who are legally trained and/or do the job for companies. They also point out that the Celtic countries, under guidance from their governments, are far clearer in their guidance.
6. A long document on funding and fundraising has been compiled by EA and is currently being reviewed by Regions. The North East have written a sound, detailed, yet simple to follow response pointing out that some of the suggested funding streams no longer exist or do not apply to athletics in all its forms, particularly if charitable status is involved, and that hardship schemes or those funds in a local area are being restricted by the current problems with investment funds. Also, there are problems around Gift Aid. They also helpfully point out what sponsors are looking for....type of scheme, benefits to them etc, particularly now that money will be even tighter.
7. The UKA Safeguarding Review, in conjunction with EA and the other Home Countries, is underway and has been noted in the national press with a number of the salient points highlighted by the main 'inspector', who feels that there are no major problems in athletics but more a need to tackle each problem more swiftly and to give individuals and clubs more support. There is a deadline of 12 months for activating the suggestions: originally 6 months but stretched by the current problems and by the need for EA to restructure, as in point 3 above. Clubs will inevitably need to review their procedures to ensure that any new points are covered.....as with the reservations of the North West reference duty of care etc.
8. The Regional Plan for the South West is still doing the rounds: please could colleagues complete their section before the end of August.
9. TRNG representatives for the S.West are confirmed as:- Ian Humphreys - Som [timekeeping]; Linda Dawson - Glos [track]; John Pickles - Glos [starting]; Andy Dawson - Glos [photo-finish]; and the newly nominated Paul D'Arcy - Som [field]. Please forgive me if I have not remembered the name of the photo-finish gentleman: it is on the TRNG list. Our grateful thanks to Nick Higman, on his retirement, who has done so much to help the South West and to drive up standards in officiating.

10. Taunton are staging track & field meetings on Aug 4th/16th/27th; Yeovil on 29th Aug [field] and Sept 5th [track]; Devon Opens on Aug 16th at Tavistock and later at Braunton; Bournemouth = jumps meeting then track meeting before the track undergoes refurbishment. Yate did one in mid- July.

11. Full on Sports, the company for online entry systems, have pulled out of Track & Field but are still interested in off track running, though EA have not renewed their deal. Keith Reed will look at the costs and various merits of Full on Sports [off track], Link Together, Square, etc. drawing on the experience of Yeovil amongst others.

12. The national trend for tracks reopening is about 20/25%: in the S.West, Par, Tavistock, Braunton, Taunton, Yeovil, Yate, Bournemouth are known to be operating in some form.

13. RLLC to make contact with Wales to ascertain dates, if any, for indoors meetings in 2020/21. Holding off until the following winter for potential S.West indoors solo.

14. South West Conference: looking to go ahead on Zoom on Saturday 26th September at 1pm [subsequently re-arranged for Saturday 31st October], following on from SWA League [10am start]. Thoughts from council please, on topic areas, eg Safeguarding...with an EA staff member?

The South West volunteer awards for EA may also take place on Zoom on the same evening.

15. The South West cross country is still due to take place at Aldon Hill, Yeovil on Sunday 3rd January....guidelines permitting.

16. The date for the next South West Council Zoom = Wed 2nd September at 7pm

RLLC 10/08/2020