

**Meeting Notes of England Athletics South West Region Council Meeting held Wednesday 14th April via Zoom at 19:00**

**In attendance:**

**Richard Llewellyn-Eaton (Chair), David Cooke, John Deaton, Paul D'Arcy, Keith Reed (Competitions group admin), Richard Ayling, , Mike Hindle, Fiona Edington, Sonya Ellis, Dave Varney, Phil Lucker, Elliot Prince, Graham Berry**

**1. Apologies:**

**Brian Baker. David Little, Keith Brackstone**

**Welcome**

Richard welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Matters Arising**

Richard Ayling had followed up the query on Traffic Management. Currently this is being reviewed by EA with Run Britain. It would seem the EA are still doing refresher courses but new courses are being farmed out to external suppliers. Richard has agreed to have further discussion with EA and Run Britain staff.

**3. EA Update (including Strategy document & Regional Council Report)**

Richard Ayling gave an update on Club & Athlete affiliations to EA, so far club affiliations are at 80% when compared to the 2019 figures. Athlete registration are a bit slower partly due to the extended deadline of the end of August.

**EA Club grants**

The grants are still available until the 23rd April.  
These can be up to £500 for training (inc. courses) or staging competitions.  
This can also be for counties who are affiliated.

Details here:

<https://england-athletics-prod-assets-bucket.s3.amazonaws.com/2021/02/Club-Support-Fund-round-2-guidance.pdf>

In addition organisations can apply to the Facilities grant fund which is up to £5000. This can be done by the venue as well.

Details here:

<https://england-athletics-prod-assets-bucket.s3.amazonaws.com/2021/02/Club-Support-Fund-Facilities-Improvement-Fund-guidance.pdf>

The detailed EA strategy document was circulated. It is 42 pages long so it was agreed we would circulate the summary document. It is being sent out with the notes.

Richard Ayling also gave details of the EA Club Conference being held on Sat 15th May:

<https://www.englandathletics.org/clubs-and-facilities/our-programmes/club-conference/>

For those who did not see it live the Webinar on the new Club Secretaries Portal can be viewed here:

<https://www.englandathletics.org/resources/view/my-athletics-portal-club-management-training-webinar/?from=2>

There is a very useful EA Finance Guide which can be accessed here:

<https://www.englandathletics.org/resources/view/club-finance-and-fundraising-guide/?from=24>

The Regional report from the South West was circulated showing the status of clubs, athletes, coaches and officials in our region.

RLE explained the position in Wales relating to the easing of restrictions. They are somewhat behind England in this respect.

#### **4. Update on UKA Cross Country Survey**

UKA have published a statement regarding the recent cross country consultation. This includes a summary of key findings and next steps that will be covered in more detail in a webinar planned for April 22nd. We have supported the analysis process to ensure that the views of our members have been heard and acknowledged and that their engagement in the process will continue. The statement is on the EA website and they are advertising the webinar at the link below:

<https://www.englandathletics.org/athletics-and-running/news/joint-statement-on-cross-country-consultation-findings-and-next-steps/>

#### **5. Track and Field Licensing and Officials**

Sonya who is our licensing person for Track and Field in the SW gave an update on the applications received so far and the process. There are now quite a few applications coming in which are reviewed by Sonya and then approved by UKA (Jacky Brett). One of the issues seems to be the number of track officials required. In some cases there have been difficulties in meeting this and the key is that flexibility needs to be applied. Most meetings are Level 1 but some meetings will apply for level 2. There has been a suggestion that level 2 be split with a creation of a level 3 license for National events only.

One of the key issues is that we have lost a number of older officials and not been able to replace them. We need to find a way to help level 1 officials achieve level 2 and also to get more level 1 courses put on. There is a particular issue with this because of the lack of courses. This is because the course is currently virtual and demand is exceeding supply. Richard Ayling agreed to discuss with EA and UKA staff to find out if more courses can be put on especially in the SW. We also need to consider how clubs may be able to deliver flexible courses for parents.

#### **6. SW Track and Field Champs**

##### **South West Track Championships....Sun 18th July...Exeter**

David Cooke has circulated his thoughts.

It was agreed we would try and make the meeting as near to normal as possible. That is to keep the numbers the same but maintain entry standards and an inter- county element.

Progress so far

RLE has booked the track and first aid for Sunday July 18th

DC has enquired about a grant but EA this is only available to clubs at present

DC has not yet notified County team managers re the format of the championship

Assistance will be needed with the field programme we may have to delete some events in some age groups

It is suggested that we will allow each County one athlete per event for a limited period prior to the closing date and then open the entries to those with the standard, up to a maximum per event WE will need to limit entries in track events as follows.

16 in the 100,200,300 and 400. 10 in the 800 and 1500. 8 in the 3000 and steeplechase.

We should omit the 5000 from the programme.

After a further debate it was agreed we would set up a sub- committee to agree the format, pricing and entry conditions for the event. Paul D'Arcy confirmed that Yeovil would be willing to set up a Jotform to handle entries.

## **7. Road Running Championships**

Further details were provided by John Deaton on the 5km series. It would appear that there are four planned in Avon from June – September.

Some counties has expressed an interest in hosting an event as outlined before. We need now to put this together as a plan. John to speak to Mike Down.

It was agreed we would give medals and promote the Cleeve relays as the SW Road Relay Champs. This is for seniors only and is being held over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

The 10km Road Running event in Gloucester is still going ahead.

## **8. SW Cross Country Update**

As stated at the last meeting it was agreed to put this on the first Sunday in January 2022 event although it is the 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

Paul D'Arcy is working on using Merryfield. Decision to be made at future meetings.

## **9. AOB**

KR discussed the issue raised at the recent COFSEC meeting that we no longer used the portfolio system. This is a particular concern for the officials who feel that not having a post makes it much harder to co-ordinate officials in a region. Richard Ayling said that it was discussed at the National Council Conference and that it was felt that the allocation of roles should be an individual choice for each council

**It was agreed that RLE would discuss at a National Council meeting and feedback next time.**

Dave Varney asked about the selection for the SW London Mini Marathon team. Previously he and Sonya had used cross country results to select. As the season did not happen it was agreed to see if a trial race could be held. A sub-committee to meet and discuss. Apart from Dave Varney and Sonya Ellis, Elliot Price expressed an interest in getting involved.

Date to be agreed.

**Date of Next meeting - Wednesday 2nd June - 7pm by Zoom. Dan Isherwood from EA to be invited.**

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

RLE/KBR