

Meeting Notes of England Athletics South West Region Council Meeting held on Wednesday 30th March via Zoom at 19.00

In attendance:

Richard Llewellyn-Eaton (Chair), John Deaton, Paul D’Arcy, Keith Reed (Competitions group admin), Richard Ayling (EA) Phil Lucker, David Cooke, Brian Baker, Fiona Edington

1. Apologies:

David Little, Sonya Ellis; Elliot Prince,

Welcome

Richard welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Matters Arising

In relation to the item about difficulties in officials getting upgrading raised by JD last time, considerable discussion arose and it would seem there is problem especially with Field officials in the Midland & SW TRNG relating to the lack of Self Reflection on RoE forms. This does need to be addressed as we must ensure that we do all we can to recruit and retain officials.

We did present medals for the SW Indoor Championships to the juniors on the postponed second day. Thanks to John for doing that. The senior medals were not passed out because the event [January 23rd] was heavily restricted on entries. It was agreed we would order generic lanyards for medals with South West Region only on them.

3. EA update (and National Council)

Richard L-E gave an update on the recent National Council which focussed on discussions about recruiting and training of officials. It is now widely accepted that there is a national shortage of officials and this will cause problems this season. Richard had suggested that we make it easier to train officials using club night short sessions and local tutors. This needs to be looked at by the newly recruited Technical Officials Manager and UKA Technical Committee. John Deaton pointed out there were very few Level 1 courses at the moment but this is being addressed with the appointment of the new person responsible.

Richard Ayling gave a further update on Club standards

The Club Hub <https://www.englandathletics.org/clubhub/> has been further improved to offer clubs an easy access to resources including Webinars, Templates and other guidance. When clubs affiliate for the new year (from April) they will have to upload the new documents. The intention is to help clubs introduce the standards in a way that is not over demanding on time.

There would be no sanctions against clubs who did not comply.

Richard Ayling gave an update on his recent work activity and he has engaged with a high number of clubs. There have been funds allocated to Cotswold Runners, North Somerset, Bournemouth, Devon County AA and the track facility at Par.

He is also taking on a additional job role looking after Volunteer Development including the annual awards. He has also been taking the lead on Run Leader development. Richard would welcome input from us on the Volunteer awards and also would like to hear from anyone who used incentives well to recruit new volunteers.

Going forward Richard’s key priorities will be to service the membership in the SW and also assist with new content creation. It was suggested we should revamp the SW Development plan. KR to circulate for comment. A revised document will help refocus our meetings. The facilities update will also be circulated.

4. SW Track and Field

The 2022 Track & Field event will now be on Sunday 24th July at Exeter. David Cooke will not be able to act as Meeting Manager due to being away at the European Masters. KR is happy to step in but if anyone else would like to get involved then please let us know. It was agreed we would use the same entry system as last time (Jotform) subject to Yeovil's agreement but will not use Hytek on the day. We need to finalise a timetable, it was felt we should try and use a similar one to last year but move some events to make timetabling easier. RLE/KR/DC to look at timetable. We also agree the standards would remain similar to last year but date achieved needs to be added to entry form. The track issues at Exeter will be sorted by the date of the event.

5. SW Road Events

Unfortunately Tony Gale has had to step down from the role of co-ordinator due to family health issues. We would like to thank Tony for all his hard work over the past few years. Dave Phillips and Emma Stepto are taking on the role for the moment and there is dialogue on potential events at 10k/Half Marathon for 2022. One option is Bournemouth where both events are on the same day. This will be finalised soon once all feedback from counties have been received.

There is uncertainty about the Cleeve Relays in August. Mark Cowen is putting on an event in Taunton. RLE to talk with him.

6. Cross Country

We plan to use RNAS Merryfield again in 2023. The date will be 8th January. Paul D'Arcy said he is getting a favourable reaction in early discussions.

7. Finances and CIC

As said at the last meeting we made a surplus from the SW Cross Country and we discussed an Electronic starting system which can be used by all SW venues. The system has become cheaper, and will be demonstrated at the SW Combined events in Yeovil on April 31st/May 1st. Timing to be confirmed and circulated to interested parties.

We need to sort the CIC status of Athletics SW and KR will try again with his contact. If anyone can help with this could they get in contact with Keith. As said last time the council should consider allocation of budgets and we need a dedicated finance person on the group.

9. AOB

Yeovil Olympiads AC will be contributing 20% of any profit from their open meeting to the ESAA. RLE said the ESAA need to look at the way their funds are spent and maybe not offer such large subsidies to counties for travel and accommodation.

Overall it was felt that the cost of living would start to affect athletics as a sport.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

Date of Next meeting –25th May

KR/RLE