

## **Meeting Notes of England Athletics South West Region Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25th May 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, Fiona Edington; Elliot Prince**

### **1. Apologies:**

**David Little, Sonya Ellis; Brian Baker**

### **Welcome**

Richard welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **2. Matters Arising**

As was 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 was successfully trialled at the Somerset Combined events in Yeovil on April 30th/May 1<sup>st</sup>. It was agreed that we would finance three applications from club or counties in the SW. The max would be £1000 match funded and three would be considered. The EA support Grant could be used to support any applications. This would be communicated to all clubs and counties.

We still need to sort the CIC status of Athletics SW. John Deaton said he would be keen to assist. (see below). Also no feedback had been received on the SW Development Plan. KR to resend.

### **3. EA update (and Officials)**

Richard Ayling gave his thoughts on the latest Trackmark situation in the SW. In general things are good with some concerns about Carn Brea. Dave Varney expressed his concerns about the cost of the inspection process. John Deaton suggested that rule changes are not always good for tracks who have to invest in new equipment.

Richard A also gave brief details of a Conduit Analysis tool to look at track life. More details to be issued.

A further debate took place on the current situation with a lack of officials and the discussion that had taken place at National level.

Marc Ritchie who is the new Technical Officials Development Manager will be meeting with Council Officials Co-ordinators on 13 June and with COFSCs on 20 June.

It would be useful to have everyone's thoughts on the current situation before those meetings.

Some points were raised as immediate areas of concern

1. Pathway too complex
2. Lack of Courses
3. Website confusing
4. Courses need to be easier to set up on Club nights run by experienced officials not necessarily UKA approved tutors.
5. Upgrading and mentoring system not working well.

Some possible solution:

Create Regional leads for Officiating

Link recruitment of Young Officials with D of E and similar schemes

The creation of a Diversity Champions has led to discussions on the need to recruit new council members to reflect the diverse population. This is a function of where in England the council is based. It was widely agreed that we need to recruit younger people from the sport and to reflect diversity but it would be a challenge. It was felt that inviting Anne Wafula-Strike (Board Member for Diversity) to a future meeting may be useful

Richard L-E gave details of a Stakeholder Management Plan. This is being set up in conjunction with UKA. There has been a Task & Finish group working on this. It will link with the AGM and Council conference in October.

#### **4. SW Track and Field**

The 2022 Track & Field event will now be on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July at Exeter. Keith Reed will act as Meeting Manager due to David Cooke being away at the European Masters. The timetable was circulated and agreed. 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.

The track issues at Exeter have now been sorted (at least as a temporary repair).

Entries to be launched by Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June

DC had circulated standards and these were broadly agreed.

First Aid booked and Level 2 License confirmed. Officials' replies are coming in.

#### **SW Road Events**

Dave Phillips and Emma Stepto have been having discussions with the various county road representatives about possible Inter County events.

The consensus is to include such an event in the Chippenham Half Marathon on 18<sup>th</sup> September subject to the race organiser's agreement. Dave will now pursue this. The Road Relays will be held as part of the Cleeve Relays in late August. This will be for Senior's only.

London Mini Marathon again being held in October. Dave Varney and Sonya will be the lead Team managers. Trials to be in Taunton on 21<sup>st</sup> August.

#### **6. Cross Country**

We plan to use RNAS Merryfield again in 2023. The date will be 8<sup>th</sup> January. Paul D'Arcy will submit paperwork in the next few weeks.

#### **7. Finances and CIC**

Finance situation was shared with those attending. As stated above we will fund applications for the TESS starting systems.

The CIC was discussed. KR had been in contact with the company that the Armada Network use. John Deaton volunteered to help out with this task.

#### **9. AOB**

Richard Ayling gave details of the Volunteer awards this year. The number of awards have been reduced to 7 (was 9). The categories will be Coach, Club, Services. Newcomer to Volunteering, Club Leader, Community Project, Inspiring Officials. The awards will be held Face to face in Nov/Dec and nomination will go live in a few weeks.

It was felt we should hold ours on a weekend and possible combine with a conference again. RA to look at suitable venues.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

**Date of Next meeting – 29<sup>th</sup> June**

KR/RLE