

## Meeting Notes of England Athletics South West Region Council Meeting held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October via Zoom at 19.00

### In attendance:

Richard Llewellyn-Eaton (Chair), John Deaton, Paul D'Arcy, Keith Reed (Competitions Group admin), Sonya Ellis, Dave Varney, Richard Ayling (EA) Phil Lucker, David Cooke, Fiona Edington, Brian Baker, Elliot Prince.

### 1. Apologies and welcome:

No apologies received. Richard welcomed everyone to the meeting

### 2. Matters Arising

Sonya gave an update on the London Mini Marathon which took place at the beginning of October. It was a good performance from the SW team including the individual and team winners of the U17 women's race. There were some safeguarding and organisation issues which have been fed back. The plan is to increase numbers to 50.000 over the next 5 years which will be challenging.

### 3. National Conference and EA update

Richard attended the National Council meeting and also the National Council Conference along with John Deaton. The three main threads from the meetings were as follows

- Coaching Development
- Official Development
- Competition Review

Julian Starkey who is the National Chair did a brief update on the findings and they are listed here.

- Determining where hotspots of coaching expertise exist and how this could influence competition.
- Track the entry/exit points for athlete in different age groups, (do older starters stay longer?)
- Track older athletes and their entry points into the sport and their early performances
- Are there hotspot of drop outs/retention?
- Do we understand the size of the pipeline prior to U13? i.e. how many are members of clubs and undergoing some coaching
- Can we determine whether all being coached are competing, and why they don't (social vs. competitive)
- Officials recruitment through parents of the younger athletes

There are many more, these are identified separately. We need to evolve competition

Fewer League dates to introduce headroom in calendar  
Team competitions help build Club communities, and generate Officials

#### Virtual competitions

Could technology be applied to national competitions to determine club of the weekend/year?  
Leagues and opens could be used to generate interclub competitions Some league events could be held at specific venue to encourage/provide bigger fields and better competition (PV, Hurdles, SC).

BMC performances contribute to club points and rankings Footnote: could there be event leagues, with clubs/competitions hosting several leagues on one day, creates head to head rankings perhaps knockout or stream competition, with access to National Champs.

### **Next Generation Competition**

Use performance points instead of place based points to determine match positions  
Dynamic Timetables, based on tech generating a timetable based on entrants, i.e. more 100m events timetabled, PV pool generation (starting heights)  
Events based on team requirements, i.e. teams not restricted to two per event, people limited to 'x events' per meeting, match points a function of participation (if 100 available 75 count), use of wildcard athletes.  
Live results and team standings  
Minimum performances  
Club Rankings based on PoT performances by members

### **Age Appropriate**

The sentiment was that U13 competition is not optimal for the age group there needs to be more fun, less selective, follow Athlete Development Model Officials requirements could be reduced if performance points vs. head to head competition introduced  
Wide range of events to enable U13s to think through their best event  
Move to WA age Groups, (U18, U20, Senior) U14, U16 for UK (Avoids top of year and key exam clash.)  
Athlete Development Model based competition

A discussion was held on these ideas and opinions were divided. The key thing is that any proposals contain full details and are properly debated at all levels. It is hoped to implement changes in April 2024

Richard Ayling gave a local update with EA developments.

Mark Brace has been appointed Regional Club and Coach Lead. He will be working with clubs who have applied to be part of the initial pilot. More details are shown here  
<https://www.englandathletics.org/coaching/news/new-regional-club-coaching-leads-team-announced/>

A number of SW clubs have received Improvement Grants towards Electronic Starting systems; Richard is leading on the Run Leaders Development programme. It has been a very busy period.

## **4. SW Awards and Conference**

Richard Ayling gave the update on the Conference, The details are as follows:  
SW Regional Annual Conference – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022- Devon Hotel – Exeter 2pm

This event is open to all those involved in our sports in whatever capacity they are in, We would welcome club volunteers, leaders, coaches, officials or athletes and it would be really good if we could get a wide cross section of views.

The outcome of the conference is to take the SW Region forward by helping to formulate an action plan and assign timescales and responsibilities

This would be in three main areas.

- Competition – how can we improve the current offer in the SW and are there any other events/disciplines we should be offering?
- Volunteer recruitment and retention/recognition. How can we best do this before we reach crisis point?
- Inclusivity and Diversity plan to be formulated and introduced into clubs/groups. Highlighting best practice and carrying out a details audit

The poster will be circulated to all clubs via secretaries and it would be good if council members could spread the word. We hope to get a good turnout and also a wide range of people.

The SW Awards will take place at the same venue in the evening. The people shortlisted for the seven awards have been invited. Council members are also invited. Emma Davenport will also be there.

The SW had the second highest number of nominations. Thanks to all on the SW Council for helping with the process. Winners will be circulated to SW Councillors. The event will be recorded and available to view after the event.

### **5. SW Cross Country**

Paul has received the permission to use RNAS Merryfield again in 2023. The date will be 8<sup>th</sup> January. There is still some paperwork to be sorted and also confirmation of the final cost. This is expected to be similar to last year. Course will be as last year. The contractors will sort the hedges and there will be sheep on site in the weeks before the event.

Entry form has to be finalised and entries will open during first week of November

KR has applied for the EA Licence

### **6. SW Road Events**

A successful event was held at Chippenham on 18<sup>th</sup> September. Thanks to Dave Phillips and Emma Stepto for all their hard work. There were 5 counties taking part. Discussions are now ongoing about 2023. Unfortunately the Road Relays were not held as part of the Cleeve Relays in late August. We could look at the South Devon Relays for 2023 if Cleeve are not able to offer their race as a championship. David Cooke asked about the 5k series promoted by Mike Down. RLE to chase up.

### **7. SW Indoor Events**

Welsh Athletics have confirmed they are happy to host our junior championships on Dec 4<sup>th</sup> and January 8<sup>th</sup>. Entries are now open. There is a link on the Athletics SW website. Richard LE has been trying to firm up the hosting for the Senior/U20 championships with the Welsh Championships. John Deaton is OK to take the medals to the first junior event on Dec 4<sup>th</sup>. Phil Lucker said he could hopefully cover the event on 8<sup>th</sup> January as John D is at the SWIC XC.

### **8. Finances and CIC.**

We have paid the £1000 contributions to both Yeovil and Exeter towards the Electronic Starting system they have purchased. Payments will be made to City of Plymouth (£500) and Newquay & Par (£500) towards their systems. Lanyards and U11 medals ordered.

We have not yet received a response from the company concerning the CIC. Richard Ayling supplied a possible contact we could use.

### **9. TRNG Meeting**

Both Keith and Paul attended the Midland & SW Tri-Regional Group held on Sunday via Zoom. Overall it was a very gloomy meeting and has raised real concerns about the lack of officials coming through and the system of upgrading. Keith has written to Marc Ritchie about the situation. It was mentioned that there will be no Indoor fixtures held in the Midlands this winter.

### **10. AOB**

John Deaton had an update on the Midland Counties situation ahead of their AGM. They are looking to recruit a number of new officers.

John had added an Adaptive Athletics section to our website. Needs clubs to send him details of what is going on

Sonya mentioned a survey about Women in Coaching which does not present a very positive picture. This report will be circulated.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

**Date of Next meeting – Wednesday Dec 14<sup>th</sup>**

KR/RLE