

Meeting Notes of England Athletics South West Region Council Meeting held on Monday 13th February via Zoom at 19.00

In attendance:

Richard Llewellyn-Eaton (Chair), John Deaton, Paul D'Arcy, Keith Reed (Competitions group admin), Brian Baker (attended but lost signal), Sonya Ellis, Dave Varney

1. Apologies and welcome:

Apologies received from the following, **Richard Ayling (EA), David Cooke, Fiona Edington, and Elliot Prince.** Richard welcomed everyone to the meeting. Phil Lucker has resigned. Richard thanked Phil for his service to the Council.

2. Matters Arising.

None not raised anywhere else

3. EA update

Richard Ayling was unable to attend but gave us an update by email

- We are currently planning for 2023/24 operational year. We are considering some changes to our core work and how we distribute funds for existing programmes such as track nights, club run and club improvement funds. We will look to confirm our plan for the next financial year over the next 4 weeks.
- Trackmark – For facilities to host competitions they need to be track mark accredited and have completed units 1-4 of the scheme. Full details about trackmark can be found [HERE](#). I will ask for a summary of the facilities in the South West from Ed. I'm attending a virtual meeting regarding Plymouth tomorrow evening.
- South West Officials Day – A face to face officials training day is being held at Carn Brea Leisure Centre on Sat 1st April. Attached are the details.
- The big focus for 2023/23 will be around a greater clubs concept. This will embed club standards but also look at improvements for aspirational clubs.
- I will continue to be the lead for the regional volunteer awards. I'm meeting with National Council on Friday 17th Feb to confirm the plans for 2023. Please click [HERE](#) to see the National winners.
- I am submitting a proposal regarding run leader development and it will be confirmed whether I continue to lead on this area. In the meantime we have 2 virtual series planned for Feb and March (training plans – 5km-marathon and running technology). Full info can be found [HERE](#)
- Chris Mallender has been seconded to lead a review on coach education for the next 12months +. Emma Hurst will be the new senior club support manager for EA.
- EA are in talks with a large commercial partner. These are ongoing but we are hopefully that a sponsor for run together and other areas of the business will be confirmed by April.
- EA are currently delivering our club leader development season. We still have sessions being delivered on effective committees, female leadership in sport, club standards, managing and creating change and valuing your volunteers. Please click [HERE](#) for more details and share this with anyone who may be interested.
- We are looking for 5 new regional councillors for the South West. Further details and how to apply can be found [HERE](#). Please share this with local contacts.
- EA released a statement regarding transgender athletes last week. This statement and then the link to the UKA page can be found [HERE](#)
- We are continuing to add further content and collections on Club Hub. On this site clubs find useful information including templates, role descriptions, policies, videos and guides. Please click [HERE](#) to see more and share it with interested clubs.

- I've recently visited Team Bath AC and Yeovil Olympiad AC. I'm putting together a write up for the website from Team Bath AC and the following from the Yeovil visit was added to our funetics site – please click [HERE](#) for more details.
- Regional Info – I've been working with Cheltenham Harriers over an issue they have with their facility and the condition of the track. We are supporting a track nights project with Forest of Dean AC. Multiple clubs in the region have benefited from club improvement funding with 10 clubs receiving funding, and £4,025 being invested in projects. Some of these include – Team Bath AC, Yeovil AC, Exeter Harriers, Newquay & Par Ac, Swindon Harriers & Tavistock Run Project.

Richard L-E gave the update on recent National Council business. EA have come up with a list of Priorities and comment are invited from Regional Council

Priority/Support	2023/24 Focus	Projects
Clubs	<i><u>Club standards and safe environments</u></i>	CLUB RESOURCES, WEBINARS & NETWORKING CLUB STANDARDS, WELFARE & INCLUSION REGIONAL & LOCAL SUPPORT FACILITY ADVICE AND SUPPORT SERVICE CELEBRATE VOLUNTEERS
Competition	<i><u>Enhanced experiences- Our champs, supporting innovation and transition of RRL from UKA</u></i>	ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS ROAD RUNNING COMPETITION LICENSING SUPPORT LEAGUES & COMPETITION PROVIDERS
Coaches and Officials	<i><u>Making it easier to start and stay. Successful transition of responsibility from UKA</u></i>	COACH, LEADER AND TEACHER EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT OFFICIALS EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT
Participation	<i><u>Growth of U11 membership and funetics</u></i>	FUNETICS RUNTOGETHER ATHLETE REGISTRATION & MEMBERSHIP PERSONAL BEST FOUNDATION CWG ACTIVATION
Talent	<i><u>Re-launch talent hub strategy and simplified talent pathway</u></i>	TALENT PATHWAY ENGLAND TEAMS CWYG DELIVERY
Leadership		BOARD & COUNCILS, STRATEGY, GOVERNANCE, FINANCE, HR
Digital first		DIGITAL SYSTEMS & IT
Engagement		COMMUNICATIONS, MARKETING, RESEARCH & INSIGHT, CUSTOMER SERVICES
Commercial Minds		BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & COMMERCIAL PARTNERSHIPS
Back Office		LEGAL, INSURANCE, OFFICE, VAT, TAX

Richard L-E stated that he had suggested that Coach and Officials Education were the key ones and had suggested that we should make it much easier to achieve the qualifications for both within a club environment. This is being looked at.

It was felt that the new requirements on Safeguarding and First Aid for coaches may not be being well received. This needs to be monitored and also the exemption issues for those already well qualified in both areas.

Nominations are now open for Regional Council Elections. We hope that all eligible councillors will reapply and that some new blood will come forward. If an election is required it will be held in mid-March and councillors confirmed by end of March. We will have to invite everyone to our next meeting and elect a Chair.

4. SW Cross Country

The event went very well and a huge thanks to Paul D'Arcy, Richard and Bran Baker for all their hard work. Numbers were a little down on 2020 but better than 2022. Only adverse comment was the volume of PA announcements. We should be able to obtain one license for all the events (including County and SW Schools) being held in 2024. Paul is working on this.

5. SW Indoors

John Deaton attended both days of the Juniors Championships and all went well. Unfortunately Welsh Athletics were unable to host our Senior/U20 championships within the Welsh Championships. John D will publish a list of SW performances on our website, but we cannot pass out medals this year. We need to resolve this next year with Welsh Athletics.

7. Other 2023 events

Road Events

Dave Phillips and Emma Stepto are still talking to the other counties about the 2023 events. Nothing has yet been confirmed.

We need to follow up discussions about the Road Relays in 2023. It is possible there could be changes to the Cleeve Relays held in late August. We have also started talking to the South Devon Relays for 2023 if Cleeve are not able to offer their race as a championship. There is also a possibility we could use RNAS Merryfield. Paul D'Arcy to look into this.

SW Track and Field

The track is booked for 30th July 2023 at Exeter as is First Aid. A level 2 license has been applied for. We need to finalise programme including the inclusion of the Inter Counties. There will be a clash with the YDL Regional Final at Yate which will mean fewer officials and U20 athletes from Avon. We do not have a cost of the track as yet. We decided to increase event cost by £1 and use the Jotform system from Yeovil. We will try and allow multiple event entries on same form.

8. London Mini Marathon

Sonya and Dave Varney gave an update of the plans for the April event and Sonya is on a steering committee. The plan is still to make this a very big mass participation event for juniors but maintain the Regional championships. Selections for the SW team are in hand. The first two from the SW Cross Country Championships have been selected plus 4 more. This will be done by Sonya, Dave and Keith in late February.

9. Finances and Grant Aid for Starting systems

Finances from SW Council were shared, we made a reasonable profit but will have to buy new medals soon.

Agreed to fund Cornwall County (Newquay & Par) and Yate for £1000 each for their starting systems.
KR to circulate details of Insurance used by Exeter PF partnership.

10. AOB.

John mentioned the issues with the CAU. It would appear the Inter Counties Cross Country is going ahead with UKA assistance in March.

It was clarified that we could co-opt 3 people formally on to new council but still involve others in roles like licensing etc. Meetings will be open to all.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Date of Next meeting – Monday April 3rd

KR/RLE