

Meeting Notes of England Athletics South West Region Council Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd April at Kings School, Taunton 7pm

In attendance:

Richard Llewellyn-Eaton (Outgoing Chair), John Deaton, Paul D'Arcy, Keith Reed (Competitions group admin), Charlotte Phillips, Debbie Brooks, David Cooke, Richard Ayling

1. Apologies and welcome:

Apologies received from the following, **Brian Baker Sonya Ellis, Dave Varney, Holly Newman, Elliot Prince.**

2. Matters Arising.

None not raised anywhere else

3. Election of Chair

Richard L-E took the Chair initially as our outgoing Regional Chair. Richard thanks all the council members (past and present) for the support they had given him over his tenure. There was just one nomination for Chair which was Paul D'Arcy who has agreed to accept the nomination. Paul was voted in unanimously.

Paul thanked everyone and welcomed the newly elected councillors. John Deaton would deputise for Paul at meetings where he could not attend.

It was agreed Richard would appraise the situation with competitions planned

4. 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. Cost of track has increased in line with expectations. At the last meeting it was decided to increase event cost by £1 and use the Jotform system from Yeovil. David Cooke suggested we could use Roster and we will be evaluating it at Yeovil this coming weekend. The standards will need to be looked at to maintain numbers within manageable levels. KR to add participation numbers from last year and circulate for comment.

Chris Jones will be attending and we will also be inviting the England Chair Gary Shaughnessy

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 with the Welsh Championships. John D has published 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 or look at Cardiff Met's meetings (Christmas Cracker; Non Thomas).

6. Other 2023 events

Road Events

Dave Phillips has been in touch with Matthew Hurcum at Chippenham who has told him they're happy to host us again. This year the race will be on Sunday September 17th (0930 start). I propose that we use the race again this year.

It would be good to have at least one more event as part of the championship. Perhaps a 5k or 10k race earlier in the year. Last September Richard Nelson of Dorset suggested that he may be able to suggest a 10k (in June?). I contacted him recently and he's going to get back to me very soon. Watch this space!

In this email I've tried to include at least one representative from all seven counties, Avon, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire. However, have still failed to find anyone to contact in Avon. Please can anyone help?

It would be helpful if you're able to update me with email addresses for people in your county willing to be contacted about the championship.

With regard to the relays it would appear Cleeve are not keen but South Devon AC are very keen and have approached us. Details to be confirmed. Race would be on Friday 11th August in Torbay.

7. London Mini Marathon

The team selection for the SW team have been done and athletes informed. Sonya and Dave Varney are the main team managers. Thanks to both of them for their hard work.

Other EA issues raised by National Council

Competition Review

On the 9th, 10th 11th and 12th May, EA are hosting a series of online competition congress sessions in the evening. As we will be in the peak track and field season, we know it is not perfect timing, but we wanted to ensure we continued the conversations from December. We will record these sessions.

Each session will be 2 hours, 7-9pm and focussed on a different topic with keynote speakers or facilitators in that area. This will once again be a chance to help raise issues and shape and influence the approach of EA on matters in need of urgent attention. If you have any specific areas of interest, please let me know. Some topics which have already been put forward are:

1. Update on funding from England Athletics, which competition providers are funded and why.
2. Fixtures update for 2024.
3. How to host an inclusive event.
4. How to get more athletes competing at the events
5. How to attract more volunteers onto committees and have a more diverse committee
6. How to attract more Officials,
7. The officiating pathway
8. How to make our events more sustainable

Trackmark

A spreadsheet showing the current state of tracks against Trackmark was circulated

Transgender

The England Council that UKA have today issued a position statement on Transgender following on from World Athletics recent announcement.

The position statement and EA's response can be found here;

<https://www.englandathletics.org/about-us/news/england-athletics-statement-on-eligibility-in-athletics/>

Over the coming week a small group will be populating a set of FAQ's (ideally we would have had these ready to go, but this has all developed in the past 24 hours).

If you receive any incoming queries they should be directed to the following;

Media – James Webb

General – Harry Stow

Transgender athletes – dutyofcare@uka.org.uk

Disability Competitions

David Cooke reminded everyone we had still not resolved the issue of a SW Disability Competition. It was not possible to include to include with the main SW Champs but it may be possible to include it with the Somerset event on May 14th. Dave is to contact various groups in the SW.

9. EA Update

Key Points for the benefit of new councillors:

- Club Support Manager (CSM) for EA. I've been with the organisation for almost 7 years
- Since lockdown I've been the CSM for both the South West & West Midlands.
- Job role is varied – covers anything from dealing with queries, managing disputes, supporting facility development, delivering virtual content, club visits/club meetings, club standards and leading projects Nationally for EA.
- I'm the National Lead for regional volunteer awards and also support with run leader development.
- Almost 320 affiliated clubs in my combined region. 124 affiliated clubs in the WM & 189 affiliated clubs. A further 3 affiliation requests have been submitted from clubs in the SW.
- I'm the National Lead for regional volunteer awards and also support with run leader development.

EA Strategic Plan:

At the heart of this plan, and the focal point for everything we do, are the people and communities involved in our sport across the following five key areas:

- Clubs, Club Leaders and facilities
- Competition
- Coaches and officials
- Participation: young people and running
- Talented athletes

Personal Objectives:

4 main objectives for 2023/24 will be around Club Standards, Bespoke Projects (inc. facilities), Club Hub content & Regional Volunteer Awards/Run Leader Development

Club Standards South West – Total Clubs (189):

- England Athletics have produced a set of Club Standards in line with legal legislation and Sport England's code of sports governance (Tier 1) to help clubs understand what they should have in place for good governance and duty of care:
- Good governance is the foundation of a well-run club. It protects the club's values and reputation whilst looking after the club's funds and people. It also holds those responsible accountable for the club's actions and decisions. It's represented by the structures, rules, policies and practices in operation in a club.
- 'Duty of care' is a common law that applies to all individuals and organisations. Clubs have a duty of care towards their members and are responsible for ensuring all club activity is safe. Everyone has a role to play in keeping others safe. All club members should know what to do if they have any concerns.
- Each club should have a functioning committee, a club constitution, complains and grievance procedure, privacy statement (GDPR), Inclusion & Diversity Policy and health and safety policy. Clubs should also be following safeguarding policy and adhering to codes of conduct and getting members to follow this, use qualified coaches and have appropriately trained welfare officers. Clubs upload info on to their respective portal and work towards a score out of 7.
- Full details about CS can be found [HERE](#)
- I'm looking for support with increasing club standards scores across the region. As a starting point, I'd like to deliver a presentation and go through the club standards in greater detail with you. I'm doing this at the next WM meeting and it would be great to do the same for SW? I could also do an update on Trackmark so you have an understanding of the state of the track and field facilities in the region?

SW Club Standards Breakdown:

- 11 Clubs on 7/7 for CS (5.8% of clubs in the region)
- 10 Clubs on 6/7 for CS (5.2 % of clubs in the region)
- 38 Clubs on 5/7 for CS (20.1% of the clubs in the region)
- 44 Clubs on 4/7 for CS (23.2% of clubs in the region)
- 18 Clubs on 3/7 for CS (9.5% of clubs in the region)
- 21 Clubs on 2/7 for CS (11.1% of clubs in the region)
- 14 Clubs on 1/7 for CS (7.4% of clubs in the region)
- 33 Clubs on 0/7 for CS (17.46% of clubs in the region)

Regional Volunteer Awards

- Awards going live the week beginning 8th May
- 3 Core Aims – Deliver 9 regional events, produce media content from each event and working towards a goal of 800+ total nominations. This equates to 89 nominates per region and averaging 11+ nominations per category.
- For 2023 we have 8 categories (the same 7 as last year & 1 additional category)
- Club of the Year, Coach of the Year, Newcomer to Volunteering, Club Leader of the Year, Services to Athletics & Running, Inspiring Officials, Community Project of the Year & Contribution to running.
- 4th & 11th November available at Devon Hotel (Exeter) for both an afternoon conference and awards. 11th November a preferred date as 4th November there are still plans for a National Conference despite the hall of fame being cancelled. FYI winners from regional events will be invited to a National awards dinner in Jan/Feb.

Dave Cooke mentioned the possibility of athlete awards and this would have to be funded by us. This will need to be discussed.

- **Richard is looking for support with:**

- Driving nominations (support helping Keith and I)
- Scoring nominations – a panel of 3 to assess nominations towards the end of August.

Actions:

- Rich to deliver a presentation on both Club standards and Trackmark at the next SW regional council meeting on May 3rd.

9. Finances and Grant Aid for Starting systems

We made a reasonable profit from the SW Cross Country and we have purchased the new medals. WE have funded Yate for £1000 their starting systems but the Cornwall one is still outstanding.

10. AOB.

John Deaton mentioned there is a consultation webinar about age groups on Wednesday 5th April where Regional Chairs are invited as well as EA board to discuss possible age group changes. John said this has wide implications for the sport and was not popular with many stakeholders when previously discussed.

Council Composition

This is a list of elected members

- Elliot Prince
- Holly Newman
- Paul D’Arcy (Chair)
- Brian Baker
- John Deaton
- Charlotte Phillips
- Debbie Brooks

We now need to sort out co-opted members which will be done at the next meeting on 3rd May (via Zoom) at 7pm. We also need to sort CIC status of the Athletics SW entity.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

PD/KBR