

Meeting Notes of England Athletics South West Region Council Meeting held on Zoom on Wednesday 3rd May (7pm)

In attendance:

Paul D’Arcy (chair), John Deaton, Keith Reed (Competitions group admin), Charlotte Phillips, Debbie Brooks, David Cooke, Richard Ayling, Brian Baker, Sonya Ellis, Holly Newman, Elliot Prince, Sarah Massey

1. Apologies

Apologies received from **Richard Llewellyn-Eaton and Dave Varney**

2. Welcome and introductions:

Paul D’Arcy who is the newly elected Chair welcomed everyone and gave each attendee an opportunity to introduce themselves.

3. Matters Arising.

None not raised anywhere else

4. Composition of SW Council and Roles

Paul outlined the structure of the new Council and explained that as we had seven elected members we could have 6 co-opted members.

After a brief discussion it was confirmed that the following have been co-opted onto the EA South West regional council. All these people will need to sign the Code of Conduct and provide a Biography.

- Roland Gibbard – Run Events Regional Lead
- Keith Reed - Cross County Licencing and Admin
- Sonya Ellis - T&F Licencing and Mini Marathon
- Sarah Massey
- David Cooke
- Richard LLE

Paul will discuss other roles with individuals after reviewing Skills Matrix.

5. Feedback from London Mini Marathon (SW entrants)

Sonya gave a brief synopsis of this year’s event. It went well overall with some good performances from the SW team especially in the U17 Girls race where we had the winner and 2nd.

There were a few issues with the start and the allocation of wrist bands and this has been fed back to the organisers. Sonya asked that Dave Varney’s massive contribution should be recognised.

The Regional Council are very grateful for the hard work put in by Dave and Sonya plus all the other team managers.

6. Structure and Role of Athletics SW

We need to sort out the status of Athletics SW going forward. We have received the following advice from a firm of Chartered Accountants used by Yeovil. The options are as listed:

Yeovil Athletics Club Limited is a trading entity, which would ordinarily be taxable, but is not because it is registered as a CASC.

If they can register Athletics South West as a CASC, they can incorporate in this way, which would be the easiest method. Formation is straightforward, but registration as a CASC takes a bit of paperwork. YOAC was already a CASC before YACL was formed, which made this easier.

CIC – Community Interest Company, taxable and all profits must be used for the benefit of the community.

Has the benefit of being able to attract donors, without going down the Charity route, but will incur Corporation Tax on profits. Formation is fairly straightforward.

CIO – Charitable Incorporated Company, Registered at Companies House, but falls under the jurisdiction of the Charity Commission.

Would need registration as a charity, which would involve a higher level of compliance, including the responsibilities of trustees. Formation is more complex, particularly for the charity itself. Requires a constitution.

Paul will ask Council members for their thoughts before continuing. KR to produce a set of accounts.

7. EA Update (including National Council report)

Paul gave a brief report on his first meeting as Chair of the National Council.

The main agenda item was Coach and Officials education.

EA currently holding consultation events. Chris Jones and Gary O’Shaughnessy will be attending the SW Champs. Paul also raised the lack of SW success in the National awards in the last few years.

There were also discussions about the possible Age group changes. This will be discussed at one of the congress events. A brief discussion took place and it was felt that a greater understanding of the rationale and benefits of such a major change was needed.

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:

The links to these have been sent to clubs and competition organisers

Richard Ayling gave a brief update of his priorities and work areas.

He requested that he could hold a wider discussions on Trackmark and Club standards at the next meeting

8. Volunteer Awards 2023

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.
- Date of SW event confirmed as 11th November at Devon Hotel (Exeter) for both an afternoon conference and awards.
- Awards to be live streamed.

Dave Cooke mentioned the possibility of athlete awards and this would have to be funded by us. This will need to be finalised but there was a general agreement. It may also be possible to do the Sapphire League awards if timings work.

Richard asked for help with driving nominations where everyone can. We will be appointing a panel of at least 3 to assess nominations towards the end of August. if anyone would like to be involved then please let Richard Ayling know.

9. SW Track and Field Champs

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. David Cooke suggested we could use Roster which worked well at Yeovil this coming weekend. The standards will need to be finalising. It was agreed to do this via a sub group.

10. Other 2023 events

Road Events

Dave Phillips has been in conversation with a few county reps. It looks like we may be proposing using the following two races for the SW Road Running Championship this year:

Sunday Aug 13 Langley Burrell 10k
(Subject to agreement by the organisers)

Sunday Sept 17 Chippenham Half Marathon

We've used Chippenham before, so I'm happy with that. Does anyone know anything about the Langley Burrell Race? I'm told it will be used for the Wiltshire 10k championship.

We will need to give SW Regional Council approval and medals to Dave.

Keith has been discussing the possibility of Road relays at the South Devon event on Aug 11th. We could look at Merryfield for 2024

SW Indoors

We would like to use Cardiff again, but need to agree the schedule with Welsh Athletics and also include U20 and Senior Championships which weren't held in 2023. Sonya volunteered to take the lead on this.

10. AOB.

Nothing raised

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

PD/KBR