

Meeting Notes of England Athletics South West Region Council Meeting held on Zoom on Wednesday 1st November (7pm)

In attendance:

Paul D'Arcy (chair) John Deaton, Keith Reed), Charlotte Phillips, , David Cooke, Richard Ayling, Elliot Prince, Sarah Massey, Richard Llewellyn-Eaton, Brian Baker, Holly Newman, Debbie Brooks, Roland Gibbard

1. Apologies

Apologies received from **Sonya Ellis and Dave Varney**

2. Welcome and introductions:

Paul D'Arcy welcomed everyone and thanks them for their attendance.

3. Matters Arising.

Some errors with the attendance and apologies on the previous meeting notes.

4. Age Group Changes.

Paul updated everyone on the recent Board and Council meeting where the discussion on the age group changes were held following the series of webinars and consultation surveys. Paul had circulated a document with the results which showed support in general but also a lot of opposition from the clubs. After a long discussion it was agreed to propose to UKA that the changes should be approved but not until 2026. In the meantime more discussions and consultations should take place. This seems a very good compromise.

5. Conference and SW Volunteer Awards 2023

Richard Ayling gave everyone an update on both the Conference and the Awards
The format will be as follows.

Conference 2 – 5 with three agenda items, one on the SW Region, one on Club standards and the third on Improving Networking of clubs, coaches and officials. Holly is sorting the slides and needs the final info this week. The athlete awards will take place towards the end of the day and the recipients will hopefully be involved in the networking discussions.

Please see full details below for the South West Volunteer Awards:

- Date – Saturday 11th November
- Meeting Room – Regency Suite
- Venue – The Devon Hotel, Exeter Bypass, Matford, Exeter, EX2 8XU
- Website - <https://devonhotel.co.uk/>
- Parking – Available at the hotel.
- Timings – Please arrive from 6:30pm onwards. The buffet will be served at approximately 6:45pm. We will look to formally start the awards between 7:30pm - 7:45pm.

- Dress Code – We don't have a strict dress code and we want you all to feel comfortable, but we would encourage you to dress smartly for the occasion. Host – Jo Pavey will be our host for the evening. Jo has had the most incredible athletics career and has also been a superb ambassador for the South West region. Jo competed at 5 Olympics & won gold in the 10,000m at the European Championships in Zurich. Jo also was the 2012 European Championship silver medallist in the 10,000m and a two-time 5,000m medallist at the Commonwealth Games, winning silver at Melbourne 2006 and bronze at Glasgow 2014. ***During the evening, we will have a short Q&A with Jo. If you have a question for Jo about her career, the sport of athletics or want some tips on how to make athletes/volunteers feel valued, please send these over to me by Thursday 9th November and we will try and ask her as many as possible on the evening!***
Livestreaming – This year we are livestreaming the awards. Please share this link with friends, family and clubmates so they can watch the action from back home - [South West live streaming / watch again](#)

6. SW Cross Country

The event is on Sunday 7th January. Permission has been granted for this event and plus the Somerset Schools on 21st January and SW Schools on 3rd February. There should just be the single license fee of £300 for all three. We will make donations as usual. We will use Jotform for entry again. Fee as 2023.

Aim to open by this weekend. Medals and lanyards have been orders for all 2024 events. KR has circulated the official invites and will appoint accordingly. First Aid to be confirmed. PA and Catering has been booked. Some cutting back of the course will be required. Discussions had taken place about holding the 2024 Inter Counties but it was felt that 2025 may be more appropriate.

7. Structure and Role of Athletics SW Ltd (Update)

Sarah has done more work on this and it may be that the CASC option is not the best one after all. We should therefor look at the CIC route which may be more flexible. Richard Ayling suggested talking to Muckle who are the EA Legal advisors.

7. EA Update

Richard Ayling gave a brief update on other issues. He has been very involved with the Annual Awards events and also the conference. There are facility issues at Carn Brea and also some concerns about Yeovil and Taunton due to issues with Somerset Council.

Paul D'Arcy advised the meeting that there would be no EA Combined Events fixtures in 2024 but that they would be included in the main championships starting on the Friday.

8. Other 2023 events

Road Events

The final event of the SW Championships was held on Sunday Sept 17 with Chippenham Half Marathon. Keith Reed was the Race Referee.

The event went well and medals were given out. David Phillips to issue an update on winners and plans for 2024.

SW Indoors

The junior events are both confirmed and entries are open. Day 1 is on Dec 3rd and Day 2 on Jan 7th both at the NIAC in Cardiff. Senior ones still to be confirmed

10. AOB.

John Deaton said the UK CAU AGM was held and there are still issues with both the Cross Country and Track and Field Championships.

The question was asked about where the Midland Cross Country Championships will be held.

(Now confirmed as Leamington)

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Next meeting is Wednesday 13th December.

PD/KBR