

Meeting Notes of England Athletics South West Region Council Meeting held on Zoom on Wednesday 13th December (7pm)

In attendance:

Paul D'Arcy (chair) John Deaton, Keith Reed, David Cooke, Richard Ayling, Elliot Prince, Richard Llewellyn-Eaton, Brian Baker, Debbie Brooks, Roland Gibbard, Karen Robiliard, Sonya Ellis

1. Welcome and apologies:

Paul D'Arcy welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Apologies received from **Charlotte Phillips, Sarah Massey, Holly Newman**

2. Matters Arising.

Nothing raised

3. Age Group Changes.

The changes have been approved by the EA board but not until 2026. Still waiting on UKA Rules group decision which has not been communicated to EA. We need to understand the way forward with the further consultation exercise especially with ESAA.

4. Conference and SW Volunteer Awards 2023/4

Richard Ayling thanks everyone for their input with both the Conference and the Awards

It was overall a very successful event and the conference was well attended and proved to be very useful.

The awards went well, we need to look at the length and timings of the event. Suggest we share the workload of Jo Pavey next year.

Nothing has been confirmed yet, but a potential awards timeline for 2024 will look something like this:

- January – RA confirm awards proposal.
- February – National Council to sign off awards plan for 2024
- Jan-March – CSM's book awards venues
- Jan-March – All content for website and assets to be created and tested.
- March/April/May - Awards Live (Nominations to be live for 10 weeks roughly)
- May/June – After nominations close, Awards Packs Created & Nominations Assessed by each region and winners/runners-up confirmed.
- July/August – All communications go out inviting winners/runners up and media to be requested.
- September – Deliver regional events
- November 2nd – Hall of Fame

The suggested date for the SW event will be 28th September at the same venue

6. SW Cross Country

The event is on Sunday 7th January. All permissions and licenses in place. We will make donations as usual.

Entries are currently at 300 using the Jotform for entry again. More U11 medals have been ordered.

KR will be issuing the final official lists by early next week. First Aid, PA and Catering has been booked.

Cutting back of the course will be done on 18th Dec. Brian Baker has issued an initial Course Inspection document and will update the Risk assessment. We still need more marshals and number stewards.

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

Sarah has discussed the situation with EA Legal consultants. it would seem that that the CASC option is not the best one after all. We should therefor look at the CIC. We will now work on this option with a little more urgency ahead of our next meeting

7. EA Update

EA Update

Paul gave the meeting some feedback on the recent National Council meeting held in Gateshead.

- There will be a review of Skills Matrix. All councillors will receive a communication together with a questionnaire about satisfaction in the role.
- Leshia Hawkins who is an EA board member will be our nominated board member on the SW council and will attend future meetings.
- LiRF courses - can we offer more from regional funding?
- The issue of GDPR was discussed and clubs will be advised to consider iCO registration to further protect them if they hold data.
- Welfare Officer Courses are proving to be weakest element in clubs achieving Club Standards. There are new course online but we need to encourage clubs to engage.
- Officials / Coaching transition – there are still a large number who have still not confirmed the terms & conditions. This is a real concern especially in the case of coaches. There will be a final deadline in the New Year.
- We need to elect a Council Member as the Coaching portfolio holder (Terms to be sent)
- We need to look at hosting of Race Director courses in SW.
- Roland Gibbard said there will be one in Redruth on 10 Feb. Could put on additional ones if needed.
- In keeping with the new policy of moving National Council meetings around the country, we will hold a Regional Council meeting on April 23rd in the Bristol area and then host the National meeting on the 24th. Venue to be sorted.

CSM Update: (R Ayling)

- Please see CEO Update - <https://www.englandathletics.org/news/blog-from-our-chair-and-ceo/>
- Please see an update on our strategy - <https://www.englandathletics.org/news/england-athletics-2021-2032-strategic-plan-update/>
- Club Standards Update – Main priority. I've been working with all clubs that aren't meeting the welfare requirements. I've had communication with 28 clubs since last week.
- Club Leaders Programme – Details about this can be found on this link - <https://www.englandathletics.org/news/england-athletics-launches-its-club-leadership-programme-for-2024/>
- Facility Strategy – Please find attached the strategy for South West. If anyone has any questions or comments can they come back to me and I will share these with Ed? I am attending a meeting in January regarding Cornwall and this is my biggest concern. I also think sorting out the business case for Cheltenham and the operational management agreement for Brickfields are hugely important for the region. The dream is an indoor facility in the SW.
- Child Welfare Course – This will be launched in 2024 and replace the T2L course.
- Club Support Resource – Please see club support infographic including info on Greater Clubs.
- Greater Clubs – Please see details of Par Athletics open day that was held in September. I'm working with Lytchett Manor Striders (Dorset) on having a club vision session in January and I've spoken to Poole Runners about doing a workshop around youth development with a particular focus on race distances. I'm in dialogue with Corsham RC about some road running workshops within Wiltshire for athletes/coaches (nutrition, age-appropriate training for masters, yoga for runners, S&C etc). I'm supporting Bristol and West AC post SGM.
- Case Studies – Meeting with North Somerset AC tomorrow to put a case study together on club improvement funding. I'm planning to do a case study around greater clubs with Lytchett Manor Striders and also Somer AC to celebrate winning club of the year.

8. Any Other Business

We discussed the SW Indoor Championships. The junior day 1 event on 3rd December went well. Thanks to John Deaton for giving out the medals. The next one is on 7th January. We still need to sort the U20/Senior event. It is hoped we can do it at the Welsh Senior event at the end of January.

Roland Gibbard attended the new UK Members Council meeting. Denise Lewis is the new president and Hannah England the Vice President.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Next meeting is Wednesday 21st February

PD/KBR