

DRAFT VERSION

The SW Conference was held virtually via Zoom on Saturday 31st October from 2 – 4pm

Attendees

Richard Llewellyn-Eaton (Chair SW Council); Richard Ayling (EA Club Support Officer); David Cooke (SW Council); John Deaton (SW Council); Fiona Edington; Stuart Barnes; Keith Brackstone; Jacky Brett; Richard Carney; Pete Davenport; Mike Down; Albert Gardiner; Roland Gibbard; Peter Grosjean; Nick Higman; Sally Higman; Mike Hindle; Mary Hodges; Jim Kyle; Penny Mannings; Deanna Middleton; Bryan Murray; Barry Parker; Janet Phillips; Derek Redfern; Andrew Rumley; Carol Strange; Mike Strange; Alan Thorner; Richard Warne; David Watson; Geoff Williams; Jim Wotton.

The meeting was opened by Richard Llewellyn-Eaton (Chair SW Council). Richard thanked everyone for their attendance virtually.

Richard Ayling from EA gave a presentation on to the meeting (copy below)

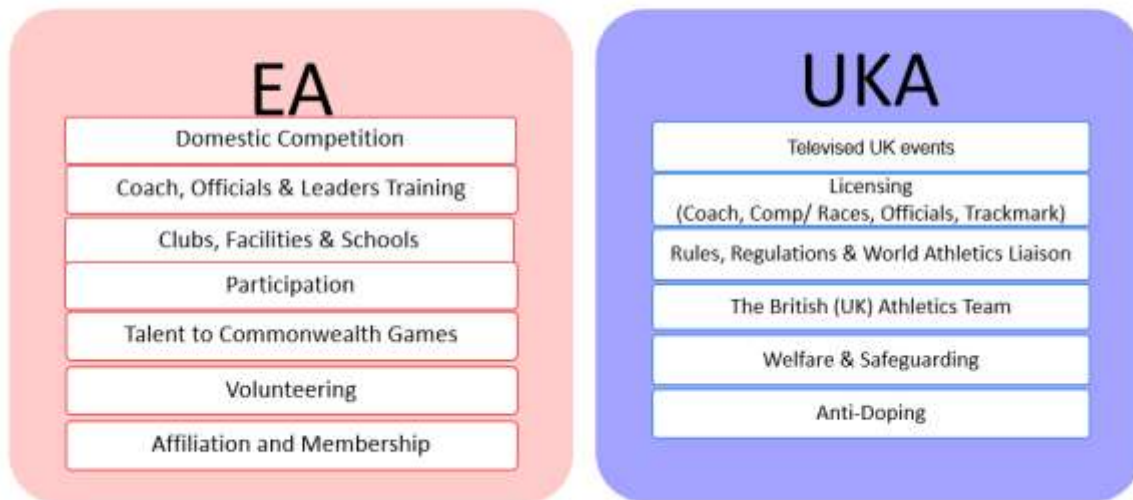


The Sport in England – October 2020



- 125k club registered athletes and runners - c23% behind 2019
- 1,600 member clubs and bodies – c200 behind 2019
- 35,000 licensed coaches, assistants and leaders – c5k growth
- 6,000 licensed officials – c600 growth
- 137k participants in the www.runtogether.co.uk programme – c9k growth
- C6.9m people run at least twice a month – a decrease of c100k with general physical activity levels plummeting across England
- Significant decrease in number of licensed road races per annum

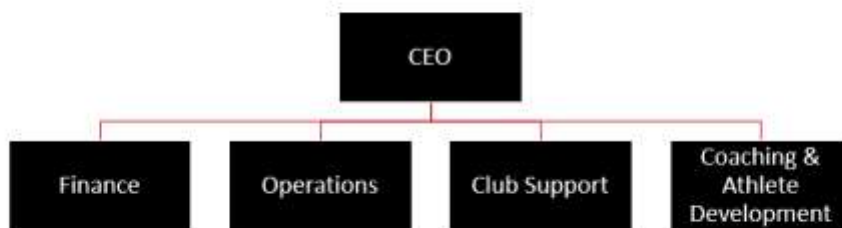
Our partnership with UKA



ENGLAND ATHLETICS – OCTOBER 2020

TOTAL STAFF 45 (reduction from 64)

further information available www.englandathletics.org/about-us/about-us/our-work/



Club and Participation Team

We will: Support and develop safe, sustainable and welcoming clubs to be the best they can and create vibrant environments for their athletes.

Resulting in: MORE SUSTAINABLE CLUBS...with every club retaining membership levels year on year

The team



CLUB SUPPORT TEAM

clubsupport@englandathletics.org

Facilities & Planning
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 TrackMark, facilities improvements and development

Road Running
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 Club Run, Masters and Road Running support and development

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 RunTogether, Funetics and product development

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Head of Clubs and Participation
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Programmes and Services



England Athletics Diversity Action Plan



RLDD & Tracknight

Club Development Fund



Education Update:



- All face to face courses cancelled since March
- During April – September a range of courses were delivered online including – LIRF-CIRF, Leading Athletics, officials courses and teacher education.
- LIRF – Will become an online course.
- Blended Learning – Athletics Coach, CIRF and Coach Assistant will be a mixture of virtual learning and contact days.
- Officials starter and field courses will be delivered online. A track course is being developed.

Update on SW Council activities

Richard outlined the position with the SW Council activities.

- The Track and Field Championships were cancelled due to Covid 19 and the closure of Exeter
- The Road Relays and the Road Championships were also cancelled.
- The Indoor Championships due in late 2020/early 2021 will not be held because of the closure of NIAC (Cardiff)
- The SW XC Championships is still planned to go ahead in Jan 2021
- It is hoped that both the SW Track and Field and Road events can return in 2021
- The council had continued to meet virtually and had invited more representatives from counties to engage
- RLE or John Deaton had attended National Council meetings virtually and also the Council Conference held in October
- Regional involvement in licensing of Track and Field events and now Cross Country
- Panel met to sort Regional England Athletics Volunteer awards.
- Finances still health but income will have reduced slightly.

Questions raised

Mike Down asked Richard Ayling about the new Development funding. Details will be sent to clubs.

Roland Gibbard gave details of Road Race licencing
For information DW Fitness are no longer a sponsor of EA.

RLE thanked Richard Ayling for his attendance and all the hard work he had put in recently with the council. Although Richard now has a larger area to cover it is still hoped that he can continue to offer clubs, counties and athletes in the SW the support they have had in the past.

The meeting then split into four breakout rooms to discuss the following topic

Competition & Officials – future post COVID

Feedback from groups

- A lot of Track and Field events were put on in the South West.
- Competition felt safe and were good at keeping to Covid Secure rules.
- The competitions did require extra staffing but more volunteers came forward
- Interest was high from athletes and many were willing to travel to get competition
- Online entries system a good idea, gave organisers more control on entrants and spectators.
- Athletes were more friendly and grateful to officials
- Not all officials came back to competition
- Road races have started up with events taking place in most counties.

- Cross Country still an issue, mainly with landowners and spectator control.

The meeting then split into four breakout rooms once again to discuss the following topic

How can we communicate better?

Feedback from groups

- We need to be able to send direct email communication to all athletes and their parents, coaches, officials, clubs and counties.
- Use social media aimed at athletes more e.g. Facebook, Twitter, etc.
- We need to encourage club secretaries to disseminate information to their members.
- Use SW website and have encourage clubs/counties to share link. Try to get a link on EA website.
- Need to include disability groups.

Governance future and Diversity – how should it work?

Richard outlines the way that the SW Council governance is currently done. There are elected councillors and co-opted ones. We try to involve other key people from counties in our meetings who do not have voting rights.

All councillors have a Code of Practice and a Job Description to follow. All councils need to consider how we they have greater diversity on our councils and we in the South West intend to do this through greater involvement with athletes, clubs and county associations.

We would like to hear from anyone who wishes to get more involved.

A new strategy document from UKA and the Home Countries is about to be issued showing their joint plans up to 2032.

Road and Cross Country future

This had already been discussed but it is hoped that both types of competitions will be allowed to take place over the winter months. Licensing of road events is being done through Run Britain whereas England Athletics have taken on the licensing role for cross country. The Regions have a representative on the committee and will be able to approve. EA will have the sign off however. Keith Brackstone said the Regions (South, Midland and North) had previously carried out this role but they all felt that they could not continue under the new structure.

It was carried that Cross country events could be held in public area but guidelines must be met. It is important that good communication is maintained with local groups and members of the public to minimise conflict.

Regional Plan

A Draft SW Regional Plan was shared. If anyone has any contribution or suggestions then please let us know.

Any other business

A question was asked about officials courses being held locally using club nights which Stuart Barnes (who is on the UKA Education Sub Committee for officials) was able to answer.

Stuart said this is possible but UKA Approved Tutors have to run the course.

Admin for courses is now being done centrally.

Coaching and Official Courses have now gone online and have been run successfully.

A question was asked about candidates with a disability and how they could get help to access the course. Stuart said he would take this up with UKA.

A reminder for all that the SW awards event will take place virtually on Nov 28th run by England Athletics. Short listed nominees have been informed.

Summary and Close

RLE thanked everyone again for their attendance and hoped that things would return to a more normal situation in 2021