

Programme

2pm - Welcome and introductions

2.10 – 2.40 - Making our sport safe - this will include updates on safeguarding, welfare and health and safety.

2.45- 3.15 - Making our sport happen - this will include volunteer development, club structures and what support can be offered for clubs, coaches and officials.

3.20 – 3.50 - Making competition happen - this will include a review of the competition structure, canvassing the views of both clubs and athletes and how we can ensure success for our athletes at every level.

3.50pm – Closing remarks

4pm Close

Richard Llewellyn-Eaton (SW Chair) opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance He gave a brief outline of the activities in the SW Council Region (see slide)

Despite COVID the council has operated very well meeting virtually. Although many things were cancelled the SW Track and Field Championships took place albeit in a different format.

It is hoped for a more normal year ahead.

Richard L-E then passed on to Richard Ayling who is the Club Support Manager for the SW Regions. Richard A gave a brief presentation (see slides). EA has produced a strategic plan which runs up to 2032. The key principles are listed here

- Put the athlete and runner first
- Encourage high standards and ethical success across all aspects of our work
- Enhance experiences
- Work together in partnership not in isolation.

Everyone in the sport should try and read this document and make other aware of its existence.

The other key area was around the 7 Club standards which all affiliated clubs should work towards hopefully by 2022. There were be support available for all clubs to help them achieve this goal.

The 7 Standards are as follows:

- Constitution
- Committee
- Grievance & Disciplinary Policy
- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- Inclusion & Diversity
- Club Safeguarding Code of Conduct
- Health & Safety

Discussions took place in groups around this topic. Overall it was felt that these are good practises but some clubs may have a lot of work to achieve.

The next topic was introduced by Paul D'Arcy who is an elected SW Council member and Treasurer of Yeovil Olympiads

This topic resolved around three key areas:

Volunteer Development

Club Structures

What Support can be offered to clubs, coaches, and officials?

The second two built on the point raised in the first workshop discussion.

The main group discussions revolved around Volunteer recruitment.

There were a number of good practises shared in the groups but it is still a major challenge not helped by COVID. The main area that most clubs recruit from is parents who often have not been able to be at club sessions. Communication is key and every way need to be explored.

One good idea is the come and try sessions which can be used to recruit new athletes, coaches and officials. It would be ideal if clubs could gain funding to put these on.

The other key area is to recognise the need to ensure that inclusion, diversity and sustainability are looked at in everything we do.

There are a number of excellent resources available on

<https://www.englandathletics.org/clubs-and-facilities/club-support-services/club-support-webinars/>

The third topic was a look at the competitions put on in the SW both by our own SW council and others. We need to look at possible other events and changes to current ones. We decided to look at the following:

- SW Disability – need to consider the level of competition
- SW Cross Country Relays
- Links to leagues?

Points to consider:

- Diversity, Inclusivity, Sustainability
- Cost
- Access to all SW region's athletes
- Link to UKA/EA Competition review

A discussion in groups took place which was very useful. It was felt by all that changes needed to be made in track and field competitions to make the days shorter but maintain good levels of competition and atmosphere. This has been difficult with COVID. The league competitions need reviewing but should continue. There is also benefits in event specific competitions.

The cross country relays need to be revisited and also better buy in for the road championships.

The size of the region is the major issue which affects the attendance at some events. We need to find venues that are accessible to as many as possible. There is a major review of competitions being undertaken by a Working group from UKA and the Home countries. We need to be very much aware of their finding and recommendations.

Richard closed the meeting thanking everyone for their contribution. The SW Council are meeting in November and will look at all the points raised which will help to formulate the working plan going ahead.

If anyone wished to attend the meetings they are most welcome. Just contact Keith Reed on reedy41c@googlemail.com to request a link.