

Following on from changes within the funding given to EA, which saw the overall budget for the four year cycle, 2017 – 2021, reduced from £17m to £7m, This is allocated by Sport England, with participation being the major factor in the allocation of funds. Pure competitive athletics, has never been about participation, so in this cycle our sport suffered because of this. Netball, it should be noted, saw its' funding rise dramatically to £17m. In order to work with this reduced budget, changes were made, with coaching under the LCDP/NCDP system, being hit hard. The changes are still being formalised, which explains the lack of contact with coaches directly, and this has led to me contacting you to help clarify the situation.

Nationally, the Club and Coach Support Officers (CCSO) have been lost, with a new post of Club Support Managers (CSM) being created. These are the contact point between clubs and EA, and should be the first point of contact for assistance and information from the grass roots of the sport. The number of CSM's is virtually half that of the CCSO's, with each having a very big area to cover, so they will be very busy! As with the CCSO's, they are reactive and will respond to your requests as they receive them. Quite simply, they need to know your wants and needs, but they need to be communicated with. Details of your local CSM can be found on the EA website:-

<http://www.englandathletics.org/regions.aspx?sitesectionid=23§ionTitle=Your+area>

On coaching development, the National Coach Mentors (NCM) and the National Coach Mentor Lead (NCML) are gone. This structure has been replaced by each of the event groups, Speed, Jumps, Endurance & Throws, now being headed by a Coach & Athlete Development Manager (CADM). For the Throws, this is Rob Thickpenny rthickpenny@englandathletics.org . Along with Throws, he also has the responsibility for the physical preparation of all the events of all event groups. Rob has a budget roughly equal to the old one, but it now has to cover all throws activity, both national and local, when in the past local development came from a different budget. So money is tight.

I have been contracted on a part time basis, to assist the Throws during this transitional phase and possibly onward. The cost of this is not taken from the Throws budget.

The following Regional Coaching Leads (RCL) have been appointed, to act as a local access point to athletes and coaches, as well as organising local events in their region.

North Nick Ridgeon nridgeon@englandathletics.org

Midlands Rob Careless rcareless@englandathletics.org

South Rob Earle robearle@englandathletics.org

South West Mo Pearson mo.pearson1@mypostoffice.co.uk EA address will be supplied, when issued.

These RCL's primarily exist to organise local events. Any contact for other reasons should be considered on this basis. Although I can be contacted if necessary?

You may well have noticed that the title of the Team now includes the word Athlete. Whilst the exact implications are not yet finalised, it now means that athletes will be included in local and national activity. This is not a return to the squad system and, as and when, the composition of attendees will be advised.

A Coaches Club is in the process of being implemented, where it is hoped that coaching material will be funnelled through, via an easily accessible website. This should be up and running in early 2018, so until then I will continue to pass out throws matter, through this mailing list.

Things are happening, which will be explained as they are finalised. However we must accept that things have changed and the level of support to coaches will inevitably, be significantly less than over the past eight years. It may well be that attendees will be expected to pay for entry to some events. This can be tempered against the knowledge that the other event groups WILL be charging for their events.

An International Throws Conference is taking place in November, I would suggest that coaches thinking of attending, approach their clubs to request assistance with the cost of this?

<http://www.european-athletics.org/athletics-community/coaches/news/article=internationally-renowned-coaches-speak-european-throwing-conference.html>