

## **Development Officer – report to SCOA Committee – 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

**1. Yvette Baker Trophy/ Shield** – a website is being developed for this competition. Clubs are being invited to host the Yvette Baker Trophy Final and the Peter Palmer Relays in 2022

**2. Peter Palmer Relays** – 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> September 2019, near East Grinstead - SCOA clubs are invited to raise teams, including younger smaller teams of 4 runners at TD2-3 level for the Daybreak relay. Juniors must be M/W12 or above (no M/W10s allowed) . This last is a new category, designed to attract some younger competitors – they won't have to run in the dark!

**Action:** Clubs are being invited to host the Yvette Baker Trophy Final and the Peter Palmer Relays in 2022

**3. Annual M/W12 Youth Camp** : much progress has been made with a Junior Camp for the South. This is being organised for the November Classic weekend , based in Burley Youth Hostel. There has been a good response from Parents willing to help. The Flyer is attached with this report. Local areas are being sourced from WIM & SOC

**4. M/W 14 – 16 ranking points** – there is still ongoing discussion regarding giving ranking points to groups under M/W 16s; also concern has been expressed about the jump in distance & course to be run from M/W 14 to M/W 16 – given the difference in ages, physical development between these age groups. There appears to be strongly held views everywhere - Those who feel that rankings spur on juniors, provide competitive motivation and a framework that clubs can't offer themselves versus research that shows that much of sport has been made over-competitive for younger juniors, encouraging some high performance juniors to over-train, putting off many mid/low performance level juniors, and that we should keep a focus on fun & participation and not getting too serious until a certain age (currently second-year M/W16s). Phil Conway is planning on examining the arguments in more detail.

Liz Yeadon  
June 2019