

Election Address - Lorna Marie Boothe MBE, OLY

I am:

- a double Olympian and Commonwealth gold and silver medallist in 100m hurdles;
- a former British and Commonwealth Games record holder;
- an MBE for services to Sports Coaching and Administration.

I remain very passionate about our sport, having first represented my club, Sutton & District (formerly Mitcham AC), at the age of 11 and having retired from competition, I have given back to this small club and the sport over many years in several ways:

- As Club President, offering leadership, support and advice;
- As Chairperson, I restructured the club, developing roles and responsibilities and codes of conduct for club officers, athletes and parents and also focusing on child welfare and equality policies;
- Leading on the construction of a new club constitution;
- Initiating and coordinating the affiliation and inclusion of the Wheelchair Club, Velocity Racers, into Sutton & District;
- As Head Coach, supporting other coaches by encouraging training courses, implementing a mentoring scheme and setting up a pathway for young children to move from the leisure centre programme to a club scheme and a structure for athletes to move coaches within the club.

At a time when there are lots of changes being implemented across the sport, it is imperative that our clubs are properly represented and their voices heard. I have the skills and experience to perform this role: I understand the sport, from grass roots to elite performance and I understand the wider landscape:

- I have served 2 terms on the London Regional Council;
- I am currently an Observer on the EA Board (with no vote), giving me even greater insight and knowledge into Board proceedings, responsibilities and the work of the elected directors;
- Professionally: I have worked for Sports Aid, coordinating grants for young people and setting up the disability grants system; I was a member of the government consultation team for Lottery funding and then an officer at Sport England charged with setting up the Lottery World Class Performance programme and other important programmes to benefit the grass roots and less fortunate, e.g. The Schools Sports Coordinator, Active Sports and Sporting Equals, in collaboration with external partners such as the Commission for Racial Equality, DCMS and Department of Education;
- I have also worked for World Athletics (IAAF) where, as part of my role, I administered grant aid to national federations and funds distribution for resources and set up of education opportunities for coaches
- As a member of the EA mentoring scheme and coaching system, I have supported clubs as a flying coach and have presented and coordinated workshops for athletes and coaches at the grass roots for both England and Surrey County as well as offering my support and expertise to club coaches when approached personally. I understand the important work still needed around coaching.

I am driven and passionate and know that grass roots are important to the future of our sport and I will use my professional skills and experience to ensure the interests of the membership are protected.