

For the Record

Newsletter for athletics officials of all levels and disciplines



Winter
2010 / 2011



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Welcome

I hope you enjoy this edition – as you see, I have bumped the pages up to 16 this time, so I hope there's something in here to interest everyone.

Thank you to all those who commented on my validity photo last edition – I made a judgement on the conditions of the day but in retrospect, I wouldn't recommend this as a suitable posture! As a bonus, you don't get a photo of me this time.

At the end of 2010 was my most memorable 'reporting' moment in my England Athletics Comms role – I went to collect information on the 10 out of 10 event at Lee Valley and it was a refreshing – if slightly hectic – way of seeing a new concept in action. I hope after reading the article on the facing page, some of you will be inspired to take this kind of event to your local area (perhaps you already do something like this – then let me know).

At England Athletics, things are moving onwards with increasing communications for officials. Chris Jones gave a presentation at the Northern and Midlands conferences, and we've set up a microsite on the England Athletics website for NAOA who don't have their own site, plus a new section for Endurance officials. England Athletics are working with SEAOA on officiating booklets for officials throughout England, possibly leading to the creation of video clips for learning too, as my video skills improve.

England Athletics have just recruited two Officials' Education Co-ordinators to join Tina Beresford who extends her North role to cover the South. Welcome to Jayne Reed (SW) and Barry Parker (Midlands) – details on p16.

Officials news online can be found at www.englandathletics.org/news then click on the Officials link on the right.

Finally I would like to thank all those who have contributed, suggested and worked with England Athletics to produce this magazine.

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Cover - Officials help young volunteers get to grips with timekeeping at the Lea Valley Athletics Network 10 out of 10 programme. Photo: Nicola Evans

Third National Officials' Forum

The England National Officials' Forum meets twice a year to discuss emerging policy, to share best practice, and to develop support for officials. The third Officials' Forum was again held at UKA, and once again a different mix of officials was invited to this event on Sunday 24 October.

Chris Jones and Chris Lockley gave an England Athletics update. This included a summary of the new England Athletics Volunteer programme, the delivery of Levels 1 and 2 and H&S courses – approx:

- ◆ 85 Level 1 courses nationwide up to end of 2010.
- ◆ 45 Level 2 courses nationwide up to end of 2010 plus 10 more due so far in 2011 for generic modules plus track, field, starter-marksman and timekeeper sections.
- ◆ 15 Health & Safety Courses nationwide up to end of 2010.

Chris explained the role of the regional Officials' Coordinators and other ways in which England Athletics is supporting officials, such as Area Association welcome packs, supporting regional conferences, False Start Equipment, area negotiations for competitions, financially subsidising specific officials' development groups and meeting room hire and subsistence for volunteers where appropriate.

Chris Jones reported that England Athletics gave presentations at NAOA and MAFEO Conferences. England Athletics have worked to increase exposure for developing officials at major England Athletics championships; using new officials at this level in ancillary roles, as an introduction to the larger competitions, plus the new seeding system now operated by two trained officials and two novices with a view to getting more seeders experienced.

UKA provided a Trinity update followed by a Trinity open discussion, followed by an Endurance update by Manjinder Singh. After lunch, there was a UKA update on realignment, followed by questions.

The afternoon saw a breakout session with the focus on the work of the COfSec. There were three facilitated sessions based on feedback from the area level Trinity workshop open sessions with COfSecs. Feedback included that:

- ◆ Trinity will be invaluable - relevant information could be directed specifically to COfSecs by UKA and England Athletics.
- ◆ Financial support (which would not normally be excessive), is requested from EA/UKA as well as County.
- ◆ COfSec meetings are needed, with funding, as the exchange of ideas and information is invaluable.
- ◆ Help and guidance, especially for new COfSecs – a simple guide would be useful. Common welcome packs for new Officials, as already used in the South would provide information.
- ◆ Information on attendees at Level 2 and Level 3 courses needs to be given to relevant COfSecs, if they are to help them qualify / progress.
- ◆ Clearer information is needed on important dates and deadlines. Is this a UKA role, or up to a COfSec?
- ◆ Ideas are needed to improve the proportion of course attendees who go on to qualify. Suggestions were put forward and will be considered by the Education Group.

Downloads at:
www.englandathletics.org/forum3

Next Forum

The date for the next Forum is scheduled for Saturday 26 March 2011 to be held again at UKA Head Office in Solihull. As usual we will be inviting a cross section of the officiating community to attend and contribute.



10 out of 10 for Young Officials

A report sent in for the England Athletics website by a McCain Athletics Network, piqued Nicola Evans' interest - a young volunteer had organised a series of indoor athletics competitions using nearly all volunteers - including officials - aged under 22.

More than 130 youngsters between school years four to nine from the Lea Valley Network clubs recently took part in a series of three '10 out of 10' competitions - each match covered 10 track and field events.

The difference with these events was the Youth Driven objective of this project. Event organiser 19 year old Kathrine Foy engaged 56 people aged between 16 and 22 to volunteer as junior athletic officials and team managers. Also enrolled were teenagers who filled other roles such as results compilers, photography, music controllers, announcers and reporters. It was encouraging to also see a number of disabled young people actively involved in the officiating. A small number of child friendly senior athletic officials were present to 'mentor' these juniors in a discrete and low-key manner during the three match competition programme.

After receiving a report to this effect for the England Athletics website, I went down to Lee Valley Athletics Centre to experience the third event of the series for myself. I was greeted by Graham Foy who was my original contact, and introduced to some of the young volunteers. There were also some familiar faces in the officials who had come along to assist and mentor the youngsters. Among them were Kevin Diedrick (referee), Beryl and Roy Stratton, Jackie Wright and Jean Burgess on the track and Simon Wright acting as Starter's mentor.

Most of the officials, both young and more experienced, had already officiated at the two previous events. Prospective timekeeper Mike said, "The first event it took some time to get used to" and Daniel added, "but now it's easy!" Some have tried different roles each time – Jean Burgess told us, "they sign up for their discipline — track judging is not so popular as instant decisions have to be made!"

The discipline also affects how much intervention is made by the senior officials - Jackie Wright was keeping an eye on marksman Ed. She told me, "I just pop down and remind him what to do at the first of a set of races as he's never done it before." In the field, officials were taking a more active role - coach, tutor and Network Administrator Barry Cook was helping on the Long Jump with another adult as there weren't enough young people - the youths there were on pull through / measure and card / call up. Barry told me while I picked up a rake, "The adults are just the dogsbodies and we're here to check the safety of the event. Apart from that, it's left to the youngsters and they've done really well." Year 11 Myles was measuring his young charges' distances in the pit said, "I'm a triple jumper and hurdler and this helps me as an athlete, plus I'm with my friends which is fun." Another athlete who was enjoying the officiating experience was Maggie who is over from Toronto as a supply teacher. She joined WGEL club as an athlete but was enjoying meeting new people at her first officiating event.

Kate Stockings has been trained up as a Starter by Simon Wright. She said as she prepared for a start, "It was scary until I had done it once." The gun misfires and Simon whispers, "you have to say 'Stand up please'" as she gives him a questioning look. He says to me afterwards, "she's our starter protégé – she's very good and picks things up quickly. It's a beginning although there are lots more complex things like set positions still to cover."

Eyes in the back of your head

Kevin took Lee and Lauren under his wing for the High Jump. Lauren had been to the previous two events and said that afterwards she had a sore throat from all the talking to athletes

– "I did shot last time and I didn't realise there was so much to do in just the shot. This is my third time – it's been really interesting and I've really enjoyed it." Nat echoed Lauren's comments (including the sore throat!) and didn't realise how hard it was. "You need eyes in the back of your head, but it's nice to learn from top officials on how to run an event correctly, and I can take that back to the Junior Leagues."

Overall my impression was of a very noisy event (as is usual with so many young athletes!) and a lot of enthusiasm from both the younger and more experienced officials. The field perhaps needed a couple more knowledgeable officials to nurture the youths and ease the shock of running a field event for the first time.

Great enthusiasm

Organiser Kathrine said "It was certainly a challenge that I hope many of the Youth Officials and Youth Team Manager will have enjoyed as much as I did. The feedback I have received from children, parents, officials, UKA and England Athletics has been so positive. I kept my fingers crossed that everyone who promised to turn up would turn up. The older teenagers were amazing and the excellent turn-out and enthusiasm was great." She continued, "All the youth team managers and officials were engaged and enthusiastic. They did a fantastic job with the adult officials mentors to make the night run so well. Hopefully these meetings will inspire some of the youths to go on official courses and workshops in the near future". In fact they have been invited to help at the upcoming Varsity indoor championships at Lee Valley, and indeed, I'm told a number of the youngsters have also signed up to take a Level 1 course.



TECHNICAL TALK

The TIC

Paul and Brenda Avery are often seen at County or Regional meetings sitting behind a desk with a computer and various piles of papers. Once at National events and beyond, all the well known non-technical jobs – results, athlete registration, protests, doping, records, are combined into one entity. Paul and Brenda enlighten us to the workings of the TIC – the Technical Information Centre.

Effectively, TIC amalgamates a number of the well known non-technical jobs and adds in a number of championship specific tasks, with a heavy dose of problem solving.

Even at domestic UKA meetings, there will be significant variations in the role of TIC: at a Grand Prix, there are few, if any, heats and start lists are pre-drawn, and at Championships where heats are drawn on the day, and the results of those used to create start lists for finals. Other differences involve the split of responsibility between Call Room Manager, Technical Manager, Results service, etc. Distribution of results is more normally the responsibility of a dedicated results service, but TIC may be involved, especially with bulk distribution to teams.

Paul and Brenda Avery were invited to work in the TIC at the European Athletics Indoor Championships in Birmingham – at that time they had no idea of what was involved! They take up the story:

We drove up to Birmingham three days before the Championships to get set up and were shown a temporary 'office' with a counter, some pigeonholes (to distribute to each delegation a daily programme, start lists, results and other official information) and two very big photo-

copiers. This was the Technical Information Centre and was to be our base for the next five days. We were given a Team Manual, and found out from this useful publication what the official version of a TIC's functions was supposed to be.

The description is as follows: The main function of the TIC is to ensure smooth communications regarding technical matters. The TIC will be linked to all Information. Desks set up for this event and shall be responsible for the following:

- ◆ Competition Information
- ◆ Start lists
- ◆ Receipt of Final Confirmation
- ◆ Liaison points concerning technical matters between Team Delegate(s), Technical Delegate(s) and LOC
- ◆ Settlement of technical enquiries from the teams
- ◆ Record Forms
- ◆ Recovery of call room confiscated items
- ◆ Applications for 'national records', doping control and photo finish prints
- ◆ Collection and delivery of any urgent written notices to the team
- ◆ Receipt of final declaration of members, with running order, of relay teams

Laptops, printers, copiers and piles of paper – it must be a TIC! (well, a Region equivalent!)



- ◆ Receipt of protests from the teams
- ◆ Publication of Results - published on the notice boards near the TIC
- ◆ Official Invitations
- ◆ Entrance tickets ordered by teams
- ◆ Doping Control Request Forms
- ◆ Registration and collection of personal implements (e.g. shot)
- ◆ Withdrawal of athletes
- ◆ Receipt of questions to be answered during the Technical Meeting
- ◆ Checking team kit

Points to note

Paperwork

Publication of start lists, results, redraws etc is the responsibility of TIC. Clearly display them and indicate time of publication. Liaise with seeders and the results service. Know who to inform about withdrawals. A timed paper trail is essential for formal protests, which TIC manage. Any Jury decision is published through TIC. Record form and doping requests can be made through TIC, although the Meeting Manager may deal with these.

Equipment

Personal implements will often be handed in to, and collected from TIC, for the attention of the TM. A system of logging and identifying these is needed, as well as arrangements for transporting them.

Confiscations

However much they are warned, athletes persist in taking banned items into Call Room. When these are confiscated, TIC may end up storing and returning them. Agree clear identification and storage procedures with the Call Room Manager.

Information

The most common questions tend to involve start lists, often about when they are coming, why athletes have not qualified, or why they are in an outside lane. However, it is impossible to predict what questions will arise, so TIC staff need to be experienced, well informed, and able to act independently yet correctly.



A busy international TIC in Barcelona.

This then is the 'official' definition of a TIC and its functions. We did do lots of the things mentioned above, plus many more.

The TIC was officially open for a minimum of 10 hours a day during the competition. On those occasions when there were protests we were working beyond normal 'office hours' as we had to wait for the Jury of Appeal to make its decision and then we had to publish the result – so we did several 12+ hour days!

Our second TIC was for the World Half-Marathon Championships in Birmingham in October 2009. This was an entirely different experience and there was a less formal structure to our role. In the team manual, the information given was as follows: The Event Information Office will be set up in the Team Hotel. It will also fulfil the functions of the TIC throughout the event. On the day of the race, a booth will be set up, in order to deal with any technical enquiries and protests, close to the Post Event Area and Team stands. There will also be a Results Posting Board.

That is all that was written down! In actual fact we had to sort a variety of problems including helping athletes who had lost their shoes, team delegations' accreditation, getting medical support for pre-race injuries, sorting teams who couldn't find their kit, displaying course maps, issuing competitors numbers, sorting out places for teams to go training on a track or in a park, organising the personalised drinks for athletes so that they could be placed at the appropriate drinks station and displaying final results.

Based on an article which first appeared in the SEAOA newsletter *Communiqué*. There are many more articles, plus minutes, useful hints, etc in every edition of *Communiqué*, available to anyone who joins the Association. Thanks to Paul and Brenda Avery, and to Chris Lockley for the 'Points to Note'.

EDM Play Day

Sunday 3 October saw a number of officials enjoy an 'EDM Play Day' in Brentwood, Essex. The day was organised by Precision Athletics which is headed up by experienced field officials Peter Lee, Tony Sach and Bob Hammond who provide EDMs to competition organisers all over the UK.

The three 'tutors' set to work helping officials, not just from the Field discipline, but also track officials and photofinish experts. Lorraine Vidler is a Level 3 Field Judge but her main work lies with Photofinish. She said, "It's great to get lots of support from experienced EDM officials. Because I mostly do Photofinish I never get the chance to set one up or use it for the jumps." Her husband David – also a photofinish expert – was intrigued to learn about the technology behind the system and some of the officials were discussing ways of improvement for Precision Athletics to investigate (such as download of results to a laptop).

The aim of the day was to enable officials to practice with the EDM in a non-pressurised environment, to learn how to set up the equipment (most officials were already familiar with its use in the field, either as an operator or as a spiker) and what to do if something goes wrong, such as the machine is knocked and goes out of alignment. Attendee Richard Weston from Surrey came to learn about setting the equipment up, because he feels knowing how to do this is essential if one is to be effective as a Clerk of Course or Referee, especially at Level 3, as the required EDM report is only for use of the system." Bob Hammond added, "It's a useful day for everyone, and a good way to learn more."

Tony and Peter had set up a number of prisms to replicate a throws circle, javelin set up, sandpit and board, and a pole vault / high jump "bar". This meant that officials could use an EDM and set up in their own time for each, or concentrate on particular events. There were six EDMs to use, with more available as necessary.



Surrey official Richard Weston regarded it as an "extremely valuable experience; setting up in the heat of a competition is an unnecessary pressure." He continued, "I was very grateful for the opportunity to become familiar with the setting up process, I would not call myself proficient after just the one session, although I ended the day feeling a lot more confident. I would recommend the bacon rolls to anybody though!"

The officials helped put away all the equipment just before the rain set in and enjoyed discussions over a bacon butty and tea or coffee before leaving. Essex official Ralph Burrows summed up the feelings of the rest of the attendees, "Thanks to Tony for hosting and to Peter and Bob for helping with the training."

There's another free EDM Play Day on 20 February 2011 for anyone interested. Send Tony an email tony@asach.co.uk if you'd like to attend.



England Athletics award winners 2010

The annual England Athletics National Awards programme sees volunteers from across the country recognised for their contributions in supporting the development of the sport. Two of these awards are Official of the Year and Services to Officiating. There are nine Regional awards and one National for each.

Official of the Year

East Region and National winner:

Peter Lee

During this year of change for officials, as Herts COFSec, Peter has been excellent at keeping the Herts officials updated both face to face, and electronically, supporting them, and generally providing a source of advice and encouragement to officials of all levels of experience. He can be seen officiating at all levels of competition and is one of the reasons that Herts officials are held in such high esteem nationally.

Peter has dedicated a huge amount of time to officiating throughout the country and also tutors new courses. He is an excellent role model for officials - especially in the technical room or at the EDM where he is always happy to share hints and tips from his own experiences.

Peter helped set up Precision Electronics - an EDM rental business which meant that Herts officials were conversant with the technology a long time before many other Counties. Along with Tony Sach and Bob Hammond he runs EDM Play Days to help officials become more familiar with the technology outside of the pressures of a competition setting.

A few days after the National Awards ceremony Peter told us, "Now I've got over the shock would you tell those who proposed me that I am very honoured and hope I can live up to the citation."

Peter Lee at the National Awards.



Steve Marshall



Terry and Eileen Williams

London Region: Steve Marshall

Steve has spent the past 30 years now as an official, and is now also COFSec for Middlesex, so helping newcomers as they start their officiating career.

He was the referee at the National Police Championships, and the Southern Championships. He will be co-presenting at the Southern Officials' Conference for 2011

He told us that he enjoys the technical and organisational aspects of the official's role, especially trying to bring new technology to the roles. "I love the challenge of booking in and checking 75 private javelins, or of ensuring that an event of 16 competitors is run through smoothly, on time, and everyone enjoys themselves."

South East Region: Terry and Eileen Williams

Terry and Eileen have been joint County Officials' Secretaries for many years in Hampshire. Their nomination reports that they are diligent in their many duties by arranging courses and tutoring many of them. They follow this up with a programme of mentoring using other officials within the County.

Eileen and Terry are efficient in their paperwork and always fighting for the best for the officials at all levels in their County.

When allocating the meetings within the County they are mindful of the development needs and of the experiences that many officials require. They are always available when advice is required and if they

do not know the answer they will search for someone who does.

South West Region: Mike Strange

Mike Strange has been described as an excellent timekeeper in both Track and Road events and has contributed significantly across Avon over the last year. He works at Midlands level as well as at National events and apart from being a Level 4 timekeeper he is also a Level 3 field official and a Level 3 endurance official. He always encourages new officials and is a very approachable and helpful official who always offers help and encouragement to new and developing timekeepers.

Mike said at the South West awards presentation, "I dedicate this award to all officials in the South West Region. A lot of people commit great amounts of time in order that athletics meetings are organized and well run, and this award is recognition for all of them."

Regional Chair Nigel Rowe (right), presents the SW Official of the Year award to Mike Strange.





Nigel Smith

East Midlands Region: Nigel Smith

Nigel is currently working towards his Level 3 Field accreditation and has been supporting a group of Level 1 officials in Derbyshire to gain their Level 2 qualifications. He is also a Level 2 Throws Coach, Team Manager for Derbyshire, Amber Valley AC & Team CDAV. Although a member of Amber Valley he also attends all of Chesterfield & District club's meetings, as one of their field officials; for that club, Nigel's experience has been invaluable as they have struggled for officials since a couple of their stalwarts retired. Recently Chesterfield & District have struggled to find field referees and Nigel has once again stepped into the breach at short notice to alleviate this problem. Nigel is always available for advice during competitions and has helped with the completion of log books. Nigel is also very active within Derbyshire – officiating at County Championships and schools events.

After receiving his award, Nigel told us, "I started with Athletics 10 years ago, through my daughters doing Sportshall. Both of them represented Amber Valley Borough in the Fun in Athletics U11's and I continued from there. I would like to say thank you to Jono Baker from Chesterfield DAC for the nomination, and to Karl Ponty, and Chris Cohen plus all I have worked with for the last two years."

Kevin Johns



Les Venmore

Yorkshire and Humber Region: Kevin Johns

Kevin Johns is a highly regarded timekeeper who is always available for all Holmfirth track and field meetings and when he can, he is also an official at other County and regional meetings.

Following a suspected heart attack he had a pace maker fitted in the Spring. Two weeks after leaving hospital, Kevin was there again at the sharp end in his role as chief timekeeper at a YAL meeting. During his subsequent rehabilitation Kevin has not missed one YAL or Northern League meeting - in fact the only thing stopping Kevin from doing more was that medically he was not allowed to drive for six months.

North East Region: Les Venmore

Les Venmore has been around as a Grade 1 timekeeper for well over two decades and is a well-respected official at practically every meeting in the North East. He has also been on the timekeeper's stand at numerous national and international events.

Now is the time for Les to be recognised and thanked for his many years in the sport. As well as being one of the top three timekeepers in the region, Les is also the treasurer for the North Eastern Counties AA, a role he has held for the past 20 years. What little money the NECAA has in its coffers, Les makes sure that it is spent wisely.

Les told us that when he is not officiating, he enjoys National Hunt Racing, and 60s music and 60s/70s TV programmes.

North West Region: Alan Morris

Alan Morris lives and breathes athletics. He regularly officiates at club, County, regional and international meetings as a field judge and is now working hard to become a track judge.



Alan Morris

West Cheshire AC have been indebted to Alan's contribution during his many years association with the club. His professionalism both on and off the track has always been respected by his fellow members.

He has played a leading role in the successful development of the annual Shell Chester Half Marathon organised by West Cheshire AC and Cheshire West and Chester Council.

Alan has recently been appointed as Cheshire County Athletic Association's Officials Secretary (COfSec). Alan has been appointed due to his organisational skills and due to Cheshire's respect for his dedication and commitment.

A latest example of his enthusiasm for the sport was to return from this year's UK School Games where he had officiated for two days, and then to accept the responsibility as field referee for West Cheshire AC's home match on the following day in the Cheshire Track and Field League.

"It was an honour and a surprise to win the Regional Officials Award, particularly when I consider the high standard of the officials working in the North West," commented Alan. He continued, "I officiate because I enjoy it and to contribute to the development and success of the sport of athletics. Whilst I don't look for or expect personal recognition, awards such as this are important because they demonstrate that the sport recognises the essential contribution of officials and other volunteers."

West Midlands Region did not make an Official of the Year award for 2010.

If you see a fellow official going above and beyond the call of duty, why not nominate them for an England Athletics Volunteer Award for 2011?

We'll keep you posted via this magazine, our eBulletins and the website so that you know when the nomination process is open.

England Athletics award winners 2010

Services to Officiating

East Midlands Region and National winner: **Chris Cohen**

Chris is a Level 5 Field Judge and ITO – officiating at National, International and local meetings at all standards. He is a member of the UKA Technical Committee, Chairs the Education Group and has been a leading figure in the development of the new officiating system.

Chris has been the Chair of the International Paralympic Committee's Technical Committee, and has led seminars and instructed Disability Athletics Officials around the world. In 2008 Chris chaired the Jury of Appeal for the Paralympics in Beijing, and was Awarded the CBE for Services to Disability Athletics in the 2010 New Year's Honours. Last year he officiated at the World Juniors in Canada as well as the Commonwealth Games and in 2011 he will be ITO at the European Indoors in Paris and Technical Delegate at the European Youth Olympics in Trabzon, Turkey. He has also just been appointed as TD at the European Championships in Zurich in 2014.

Chris is a retired PE teacher and the former Secretary of Derbyshire Schools. He has been the Chair of English Schools AA, is a Vice President and a member of the General Committee. With all this going on Chris still finds time to tutor officials' courses and support new officials with their development - he's frequently asked to mentor young, up-and-coming officials.

Chris took some time out of his hectic schedule to tell us, "I was thrilled to have the work I have done in recent years recognised, at local level, schools competition, Paralympics, and the other international work. It is always nice to be recognised by your peers for the work you do."

Chris Cohen



(photo: Mark Shearman)

West Midlands Region: **Ann & Ernie Johnson**

Ann and Ernie Johnson have been officiating for more years than they would like to admit to, Ann as a Track Judge and Ernie as a Timekeeper, but also involved in endurance, both Road Races and Cross Country.

Ann was County Secretary for Staffordshire AAA for well over 20 years (ably assisted by Ernie), and they organised both County Cross Country and Track and Field Championships for a number of years. They have always been active with City of Stoke AC.

After many years' service they decided to retire last year from County work to enjoy some time at their daughter's house in France, but still continue to officiate at grassroots level.

South West Region: **Pam & Ray Gooding**

Pam and Ray Gooding are a husband and wife team who have both worked tirelessly as officials and also in administering officiating in the Avon area. They are both in their 70s and yet show no signs of slowing down. They have supported athletic meetings all over the SW for many years and without them many meetings would not have gone ahead.

They have both also worked as Tutors for the Level 1 and Level 2 officials' courses, disseminating their experience to new officials.

Their nomination states, "They are truly a very hard-working couple and deserve this award."

South East Region: **John Neale**

John has been actively involved in athletics since his daughter Tracey competed; it was at that time he

became interested in officiating after going to a Grand Prix meeting at Crystal Palace. He was drafted in as Marksman at the 1994 World Cup at Crystal Palace then reached the pinnacle in 2002 where he was Chief Marksman at the Manchester Commonwealth Games.

He became Kent Officials' Secretary in 1993 and worked hard on behalf of all Kent officials – guiding, mentoring, and steering people in the right direction. In 2000 when the equivalent role became vacant for the South of England, John was asked to the job and is still in place doing sterling work. Now into his 80s John still does his best for officials. He told us, "I gain enjoyment and satisfaction from what I do."

London Region: **John Gebbels**

John has been a track judge for over 40 years and arranges officials for open meetings as well as league fixtures, he has been track referee for numerous meetings at area and County level. He also is heavily involved in Surrey County and SEAA athletics – being a chairman in the past of both as well as serving on numerous committees. John is always keen to welcome, encourage and assist newer officials to his club Herne Hill Harriers, and give them a good grounding into the sport.

John has track judged at numerous track and field meetings as well as road and cross country events – referee at many.

John told us, "I have always thought that to be a technical official is more about common sense than a certain grade and it would be lovely if we could find more people who can take over from others like myself who are a bit long in the tooth."

John Gebbels





Bob Thompson (Chair of the East Regional Council) presents Al Weaver with his award.

East Region: Al Weaver

Al has been instrumental within Cambs County AA in the recent purchase of a top-of-the-range photofinish equipment. He has encouraged the track and field clubs from the County to have a part share in the equipment as well as enlisting help from qualified officials to train how to use it.

Al works tirelessly within the County to improve education and training for those already qualified as well as enlisting those interested in qualifying. In 1998 whilst in the RAF, Al qualified as a track and field official as well as a timekeeper. He retired from the post of Officials' Secretary for the RAF and Combined Services on retirement from the force in 2004. Within a few months he was recruited to take on the officials' post for Cambridgeshire AA, a job he retains to this day.

He works tirelessly as an official all over the country as well as locally for both Peterborough AC and Cambridgeshire. In addition, each year he encourages people from all County clubs to take the officials' tests, which he arranges in conjunction with the regional organiser. He also acts as an officials' tutor and a health and safety tutor within the County.

North East Region: George Ogle

The winner of the North East award for Services to Officiating – George

Audrey & Karen Ogle receive the award on behalf of George Ogle.



Ogle – sadly passed away last month so after some short but stirring words from journalist and athletics stalwart Bill McGuirk, George's wife Audrey and daughter Karen collected the award on his behalf. His contribution to the sport in the region will be missed greatly, but never forgotten.

Speaking after the event, Bill said: "The awards for Les Venmore and George have both been a long time coming. The work they have put into the sport has been tremendous. Athletics has been their life and it's wonderful to be able to show some appreciation for their dedication over the years. It's a real shame George couldn't be here as he'd never really won any awards, but I'm sure he would have been as delighted as I am that Audrey and Karen have been able to come along and collect the award for him."

North West Region: Margaret Crompton

Margaret Crompton doesn't just officiate at a International, National, Regional, County and club level, but helps to train the next generation of officials by giving up a lot of her time voluntarily to tutor Level 1 and 2 Officials' courses.

Her nominee said, "Margaret is organised, efficient and very reliable. All feedback from schools, sports development, clubs and course requesters has been positive and she is a positive role model for the attendees on her courses. She doesn't just tutor the courses, but promotes them and is approached by people to do courses for them!" Margaret supports officials by tutoring and mentoring them, while also being approachable and helpful, and is enthusiastic about what she does.

Margaret is an excellent example of an unsung hero whose contribution to officiating is vital and a positive representation of what an athletics official should be to the world outside of athletics. Like many officials Margaret never asks for anything in return for her services and doesn't get enough recognition, as specially given the long time she has been involved as an official.

Margaret fits in her regular officiating as well as acting as Field referee, organising the Lancashire Track and Field Championships, being involved with the Lancashire Athletics Association and with her local club Blackpool, Wyre & Flyde, plus more!

Margaret told us after receiving her award, "Yes, it was a lovely surprise



Margaret Crompton

and a nice evening. The award made me feel like I was doing something right for athletics and I'm very honoured. I enjoy doing the courses and hope that more can be encouraged, especially younger people, to come along and get involved. Meetings cannot be run without officials."

Yorkshire & Humberside: Dave Roberts

A true gent, a good friend to athletics and a first class official. Dave Roberts is in his 70s, has been a member of Cleethorpes and District AC for 30 years and is still attending track and field, cross country and road races all over the region as a starter and in other officiating capacities. These can be from small club events along the promenade at Cleethorpes on a wet and cold winter's evening to sunny summer track meetings.

Dave single handedly organises the officials for his club's prestigious New Year's day 10k road race and the open track and field meeting where he is the key official on the day. His presence gives all local events that feeling of importance.

After being presented with the award, Dave spoke of his delight of been involved in the evening and receiving the award, "I was so pleased to be there and meet so many people with an interest in the development of athletics. I very much appreciate the award which I felt privileged to receive."

Dave Roberts



Officiating as ...

Infield Spotter

With not a tape measure, EDM or spike in sight, the task of the Infield Spotter is very different to that more typically performed by the Field Judge. Replace the rake with a radio, and you're closer to the mark.



Ever wondered how that Announcer keeps abreast of what's going on in every activity in the stadium? Here is the answer! The Infield Spotter is in fact a roaming reporter, covering set activities on the Field or Track, and relaying information back to the man with the mic who can then pass it on to the crowd, tv or radio, effectively allowing them to know everything, all at once!

Spot the Difference

But why an Official? Why not a media person or gopher? Simple: because an Official has the insight to know what to ask when, how not to interrupt a run up or crucial check, and can see with an informed glance exactly what stage a competition is at, knows what the flags, whistles and horns mean, and has an awareness of the field that means they're not likely to stray into the sector. Thanks to being fully trained and with invaluable experience, an Official (or on occasion, an experienced Spotter such as certain official's/Announcer's other halves!) can move around the field without disturbing athletes or fellow judges, and can play a crucial part in the smooth running of the event as a whole by feeding back not just results, but explanations for hold ups, highlighting exciting close finishes and flagging up possible record attempts.

How does it all work?

At the beginning of the day the Infield Spotter picks up their radio

Spotter's checklist:

- ◆ Introduce yourself to the Announcer, and event team leaders if practical
- ◆ Find out what all radio channels cover
- ◆ Check what information the Announcer wants
- ◆ Prior to each event find an unobtrusive place to sit/stand and routes between competition areas
- ◆ Try to get hold of a duty sheet – you may find it easier to spot the team leader or card 2 if you know who they are.
- ◆ Bring blank throws and height cards for your notes
- ◆ Always remember to say what event you are at before giving information!
- ◆ Do not wait until the end of the round to advise the Announcer of a new event leader.
- ◆ There is often no formal break – make sure Announcers and yourself are fed and watered.
- ◆ Bring some tape to keep the earpiece in place!
- ◆ Keep eyes and ears open at all times

from the pile that also services the Referee, Technical Manager, Meeting Manager and all the others you may see wandering around with headsets on at a major match. They then report to the Announcer, who, if they are unfamiliar with the system, will show them how to use it and then discuss the events that the Spotter will be expected to cover.

If there is more than one Spotter; they would work as a team, so no one person has to cover everything, but they do usually cover more than one event, hence the need for moving around the infield carefully and unobtrusively. A Spotter may have a "duty list" although this is often a working document, and at some major events a Spotter is

allocated to one discipline and will follow it through from start to finish.

Announcer and Spotters are usually on a dedicated radio channel, with other channels for other groups such as the Technical team, Meeting Manager or Referees. It's useful to know what the other channels are – the Spotter might be the one who has to request a Clerk or a Referee, or even First Aid (usually via the Announcer).

Be prepared

Whatever the event, information right at the start is very important so that the Announcer can keep abreast of athlete order (especially important during triple jump when take off board order may prevail), name changes or correct pronunciations, withdrawals, time changes, etc, and pass that information on to the waiting crowd.

It's always useful to work with the Announcer to identify the likely top athletes and warn the Announcer when they are about to go onto the runway or into the circle so they have enough time to introduce them to the crowd. The Announcer can often follow the vertical jumps providing an indicator board is being used and only needs occasional updates until only the final few jumpers are left. They will



usually want to know the athletes' starting heights to help them see who comes in when, giving a sense of the tactics being used.

A good Spotter will also check that the Announcer can see all the scoreboards and get them moved if necessary. If that can't be done the Spotter should take note that that particular event may need more coverage.

The best way is to keep it succinct – the Announcer does not want a running commentary. It's useful to ask whether the Announcer wants info – quite often they already have an event covered from their position e.g. Spotter: "women's long jump to Announcer, do you want top 3?" Announcer: "it's Smith, Jones and Brown?" Spotter: "correct, Jones withdrawing due to injury. Out"

Eyes and ears

The skill of the Spotter lies in knowing what to report and what not, being prompt with results, and knowing when things are reaching an exciting point that the crowd or television may not be aware of. On a busy infield, points of interest can easily be missed by spectators from the other side of the stadium, or by the Announcers who may have limited vision of the whole area – and it's the job of the Spotter to bring such events to notice, so no one misses out.

Tony Miller shared this anecdote with us "From the box at Loughborough, you cannot see the horizontal jumps. For three rounds, we were announcing Greg Rutherford was on the runway. Then, deep into the competition, the infield Spotter called over in a very casual way, "Oh by the way, number 1 is not Greg Rutherford, it is XYZ". Because Greg did not feature amongst the leaders, we just assumed he was up to his usual trick of lots of no jumps, because we could not see anything. Peter (Matthews) and I were quite embarrassed after all the build-up we had been giving him, reeling off all his achievements, that he had in fact been replaced by a somewhat lesser light – all it needed was a word at the start from the Spotter!"

The Information

All the little extras are also meat and drink for the Announcer: who has passed a round and why, are there any injury concerns, such as a niggle in the ankle, what is the wind doing if records are likely (you may be asked for the wind speed)? In short, any other factors that might be affecting an athlete's performance.



To help the audience follow a competition, where possible give details of the top three at the end of each round and certainly at the end of the 3rd round. When IAAF rules apply the final round order changes so it's very important for the Announcer to know who's up next.

Keeping track

If you can, try to get a spare card for every event you are at – this may mean rapidly scribbling on a blank one you have with you, getting to an event early and being able to photocopy one for yourself, or if you are lucky, the Referee has allowed an extra copy for you. If you can stand unobtrusively behind Card 2 when arriving back at an event you can quickly update your own copy.

It's likely the Announcer's box will be holding similar cards or scribbles. Understand that the Announcer will

not be able to use everything you transmit as there will be competing priorities (e.g. Presentations, Track events etc). But even though they are in progress, continue to send over the information. There is often more than one Announcer and they can always break into a track event commentary or presentation if necessary.

As with all officiating tasks, the job varies according to the type of event and what else is available – for example at a Grand Prix where the result is linked to the EDM or via the TIC, there's often not time to tell the Announcer before the result is displayed – although it is very satisfying to beat the technology to report a distance which means a win or new record!

Thanks to Tony and Rose Miller, Martin Etchells and Peter Matthews for their review of the draft.

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Realignment

UKA announced the Licence realignment to the new Track & Field Officials Structure that takes effect from 1 January 2011.

From 1 January 2011 the UKA Officials' Structure will formally align to the new structure. UKA have regularly communicated to Officials regarding this change and have provided opportunities for Officials to complete courses to further their development.

Old Structure (pre Jan 2011)	New Structure (post Jan 2011)
Level 5 – UK Active List	Level 5 – IAAF Level 3
Level 4 – Regional Level	Level 4 – Management Level
Level 3 – Local Level	Level 3 – UK Active List/IAAF L1 Equivalence
Level 2 – Local Level	Level 2C – Regional Level (or Home Country equivalent)
Level 1 – Assistant Official	Level 2B - County/District Level (or Home Country equivalent)
	Level 2A – Local Club Level
	Level 1 – Assistant Official

Please remember re-alignment is the process of moving officials' licences and levels from one system to a new system of development and progression, not a process of reassessing individuals. It is not an exercise of upgrading or downgrading officials. With the new system in place and the work that is being carried out to develop the new pathway, it will be more transparent as to how officials can progress and develop in their officiating careers.

You will not need to do anything as re-alignment will automatically take place according to the standard procedure or through individually highlighted cases at a local level. Some officials will have started their training directly on the new structure and as such will not fall under re-alignment if this is the case.

Current level (pre Jan 2011)	Level after realignment (post Jan 2011)
Level 5 (having undertaken new Level 3)	Level 3 (UK Active List)
Level 5 (not having undertaken new Level 3)	Level 2 Regional (2C) (or Home Country Equivalent)
Level 4 & 3 (having fulfilled requirements for new Level 3 via accreditation through Peer Groups)	Level 3 (UK Active List)
Level 4 (not having fulfilled requirements for new Level 3)	Level 2 Regional (2C) (or Home Country equivalent)
Level 3 (not having fulfilled requirements for new Level 3)	Level 2 County (2B) (or Home Country Equivalent)
Level 2	Majority become Level 2 County (2B) (or Home Country equivalent)

During the process that took place during the latter half of 2010 County Officials' Secretaries and Tri-Regional Secretaries were able to flag where officials may warrant higher levels than in the chart shown above, depending on circumstances.

An appeals process has been set up with specific instructions on how to appeal and what can be appealed against. This process will be sent out with your new licence and should be read carefully and in line with the other guidance you will have received about the re-alignment process. Appeal forms will need to be completed and received as indicated on the form by 4pm on 30 April 2011. Decision will be communicated by 30 June 2011. The decision of the Appeals Panel is final.

You will be sent a new licence very shortly which will show your new level within the new Officiating Structure. All the documents that have been sent out by UKA, including Frequently Asked Questions, are available in the officials section of the UKA website (in the Competitions menu).

In brief...

UKA Officials' e-bulletin

December saw another special officials' edition of the UKA regular electronic bulletin *E-inspire*. It includes: Javelin rule clarification, TM and C of C, officiating report from Delhi, Paul and Aiden Smith's exchange trip to the USA, profile of Dean Williams, Race Organisers' pilot course report, upgrades and international appointments, realignment and a Trinity update.

You can only read it online; find it at <http://einspire.uka.org.uk/december2010>

Mystery officials

Thanks to Mike Scoggins who let me know that the 'mystery' officials on the cover of the last magazine edition with John Rudd, Sandra Woollas, and Graham Thompson were Moira Gallagher (bottom left) and his wife Emma Scoggins (on the right).

Leagues seeking officials

British Athletics League and Women's Athletics League are seeking officials for summer 2011 – deadlines to apply are 31 January (BAL) and 12 February (UKWAL).

South Duty Sheet returns

The Tri Region Group have decided that as from 1 January 2011 all the Officials Annual list of duties (Form 10) and the level 3 upgrading reports for the 'South' will all be collated by Wendy Haxell.

EDM Play Days

There will be another EDM 'play day' on 20th February 2011 in Brentwood, Essex. Send Tony an email tony@asach.co.uk if you are interested so that numbers can be monitored and to ensure you get your bacon butter!

Volunteering

Many of you take on other volunteer roles in your clubs. Have you seen the new England Athletics Volunteer programme resources? Lots of useful information and downloads at www.englandathletics.org/volunteer



Gold Challenge

Gold Challenge is a UK wide project that gives everyone the opportunity to feel the excitement of London 2012 by taking part in Olympic and Paralympic sports – while raising money for charity. As well as individuals, teams made up of workmates, colleagues or friends over 16 years old can participate through specially designed events such as the athletics Track & Field Team Challenge. If you're interested in taking part as a competitor or organiser see www.goldchallenge.org



Endurance update

by Graham Jessop

Endurance development work continues to move forward and over the last few months a considerable amount of effort has been made to ensure things really happen in 2011. As I write this article the final plans are already in place for the second batch of Level 2 Training for new tutors. Sadly the December course had to be postponed because of bad weather. On the same day there will be a pilot risk assessment course for the new Tutors. Both the new courses will be rolled out in the New Year.

We now have some key positions filled – Nick Folwell (South), Pat Green (North) and Paul Ross (SW & Midlands) are the new Tri-regional Endurance Secretaries. Their details are on the back page of this magazine. The Tri-regional Endurance Secretaries are each supported by a Peer Group – full details of these are on the England Athletics website. Volunteers have been sought from County Officials to act as the Endurance COfSecs – response has been good but we still have some gaps. Again a complete list is on the website.

An Endurance Section is being developed on the Officials' section of the England Athletics website and is starting to contain some very useful information. Updates are continually being made but comments for improvements are always welcome.

Duty sheets from endurance officials have been coming in slowly - contact points are on the England Athletics web site but if in doubt they can be sent to the Tri-regional secretary. Please note the Endurance Year is 1 September to 31 August.

Realignment notification for Endurance Officials together



(photo: Mark Shearman)

with the new licences start in January 2011. The programme is on target and new licences, so long as CRB checks are in place, will be despatched by the end of the month. All Endurance Officials should have received a letter in October explaining the process and further information can be found on the UKA website. Please be aware that 2011 will be a transitional year and there is no intention to disenfranchise anyone. Please feel able to honour your existing commitments in 2011. An appeals process will be open from January to March 2011. Appeal forms must be in by 1 April 2011.

Currently the data base of Endurance Officials is being cleaned up to ensure duplicate entries and non active officials are removed. Our thanks to all the county officers who have helped in this process.

I am happy to be a point of contact for Endurance matters as the Endurance Officials' Coordinator for England.

Have a successful spring of officiating!

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Delhi diary

Chris Cohen was in Delhi for the Commonwealth Games in his role as ITO. If you're not a 'friend' of his on Facebook, here's an edited selection of his thoughts on the event.

 Well – will the stadium be ready for the first event at 5:30 tomorrow? We are looking for a bookie to offer odds.

05 October 2010 at 18:19

 Tough day at the track in Delhi but how they got it ready to roll the way it looked yesterday we will never know. The first event started spot on time though and I spent a fun couple of hours watching a seated shot. The local officials didn't have any experience but were really keen to learn. Let's hope it stays that way and they get more experience.

Then reality reappeared and the buses didn't arrive. Early start tomorrow - another long day - will the bus arrive on time? Let's book a tuk-tuk instead.

06 October 2010 at 20:04

 Day 2 and the first two protests - and both in Paralympic events! You just can't get the staff any more! At least the buses turned up on time this morning - and tonight? Who knows. First day protests were on lifting in the shot (England v Canada) and was it a false start or not? (England v Nigeria).

07 October 2010 at 10:21

 Tonight we went from phantom ITOs at the stadium to phantom false starts! But the buses came on time, so it must have been a good day. And poor old Reg got the dreaded trots.

07 October 2010 at 18:30

 Must be the first time ever the Technical Delegates and the ITOs have had to tidy up the field because the stadium staff and officials didn't bother.

08 October 2010 at 18:54

 The morning went off without incident, apart from blocks slipping. I was on the discus with the decathletes. Who was the athlete who walked in to the circle to throw and stood at the back of the circle before remembering he hadn't brought a discus with him?

08 October 2010 at 09:56

One of the less usual obstacles on the track.



 Another day at the office - biggest crowd so far - shame they've never been to a stadium before so keep cheering their athletes at the start so the athletes can't hear the starter.

08 October 2010 at 18:59

 Just finished the last morning session - all evenings now. Had a very pleasant morning in the 2nd Call Room. Good team of officials, pleasant athletes concentrating hard on what they had to do. Had some fun with the women's 400 hurdles - just as they were leaving the Call Room we saw a dog wander across the track, so I challenged them - the one that catches the dog gets a bye to the Final! Nobody did.

09 October 2010 at 09:52

 Fun at the track today. Morning in 2nd call and evening on high jump. Fun event! First time a high jumper has asked my advice on what height to jump. After winning at 2.32, Don Thomas asked me what height to go to as I obviously knew about high jumping! I suggested that, as he had done 2.35 and the Games record was 2.36, and he was jumping well, he should have a go at 2.36 - his answer was OK - let's go for it!

09 October 2010 at 19:12

 What I didn't say was that during the event he had come over and asked if he should move his run up back half a stride! (which I didn't answer of course!).

10 October 2010 at 07:36

 Went out for a stroll this morning (no athletics) to watch cycling - couldn't get within 200 metres of the course. Barriers, buses blocking the road, more barriers, fences, soldiers, policemen, more fences. Even with accreditation! Saw them flash past in the distance.

10 October 2010 at 07:38

 Another pleasant night at the stadium (at least it was for me on the discus). I heard there were some problems on the 200s (or should that be the 195s). Jury has just got back to the hotel after deliberating. No dogs in the stadium tonight, just locusts, moths, mosquitoes, wasps about two inches long with stings the same length again and big birds of prey swooping down on all the other wildlife.

10 October 2010 at 18:50

 Had some fun in the discus tonight. Great bunch of athletes who set out to enjoy the event and did some great performances. And the officials did a good job for them.

10 October 2010 at 18:53

 Had a good morning off - ten of us went to the market. Arrived at subway but needed vouchers which nobody had given to us. Solved that one, but then needed them to get back.

11 October 2010 at 09:51

 A fun night at the track, although they don't pay me enough to act as judge, umpire, starter's assistant, referee, coach as well as ITO. Was due to be on the changes in the 4x4 but got there to find that no judges had the duty to get them on the track, so I had to do it.

11 October 2010 at 19:07

 Think I did OK - any trackies out there who saw it on TV opinions welcomed.

11 October 2010 at 19:07

 Having done the relays last night I have what I hope will be the relative peace and quiet of the pole vault. Let's hope everyone else turns up for the relays!

12 October 2010 at 09:57

 Had a good night at the track - last evening of competition. Women's Pole Vault. Had to explain how to follow the procedures when an athlete lodges an oral protest. Poor Henrietta Paxton had a third foul called for landing beyond

Henrietta Paxton argues her case.

(photos: Gary Mitchell)



the scratch line but protested. We solved the problem but she didn't clear. Always sad when an athlete no heights.
12 October 2010 at 19:24



Had to smack the hand of the Aussie coach for letting his athletes watch his video. Put a marshall on duty standing next to him. Told him afterwards what a bad man he is! Followed up by helping get the athletes on the track for the men's 4x4. When I lined them up one asked if I wanted to run - told him it was about 30 years too late. The Botswanan nearly wet himself laughing.

12 October 2010 at 19:27



Told Bill and Keith (TDs) that I had learned an incredible amount this week - and that my resignation was in the post if they were asking me to do it again! Seriously, I think the team has done an incredible job and it's been a great experience and a tremendous learning curve for us all.

12 October 2010 at 19:29



Up at 5:00am- Marathon. Got to start to be told I was in lead car for men's race. Expected to be joined by race referee - but wasn't! Spent next 2 & 1/2 hours keeping driver just far enough ahead of the race but not too far - difficult when he had no English! Nearly ran a dog over and saw 3 monkeys sitting on fence - all 3 with eyes covered - obviously had no accreditation so knew they couldn't watch. No public tho!

14 October 2010 at 13:23



The Taj was spectacular, enjoyed watching the monkeys playing on the roof of the coaches at the railway station! Some wonderful memories of India, Along with the frustrations we suffered, but the young people we worked with are the future of India - let's hope they get the chance to show it.

17 October 2010 at 11:36

Feeling just a little underdressed...



Moving on up

Chris Lawrence continues his report on how a new official continues within the sport.

I've achieved my goals for my first season as a field official - 30 meetings and a Level 2 Regional licence. I reached the 30 meetings at the ESAA Combined Events Championships in September, having obtained my target licence a couple of weeks earlier.

It started badly. Armed with some good indoor experience, I had arranged several outdoor meetings in April but a ruptured appendix meant my season only started at the County Championships in May. I'm grateful to the Field Referees for then kindly assigning me less-arduous duties for several weeks as I recuperated.

As a single parent with a full time job, I'm not sure I got the balance of athletics and home life right, with 25 meetings in 20 weeks! I had thought it would be hard to find enough meetings, but from the regional associations, COfSecs and other officials I actually had plenty of opportunities. I chose a range of meetings, from club and disability, through county and regional championships, to my season highlight at the Bedford International Games. My Annual Record of Experience, always completed immediately after each meeting (so making the end of year submission much easier!), shows 91 different events.

I have found the UKA licensing requirements reasonably clear, though I know that many officials have found the realignment process harder to follow. Underlying everything is the need for evidence, so detailed completion of Competition Experience forms at the end of every meeting, recording feedback on your performance, showing learning and getting the Referee's signature, is vital. Mentoring sessions provided more evidence, answered queries and gave guidance on responses to the logbook questions for the Level 2 County application.

For the Level 2 Regional licence, I knew that getting a positive report on my performance from a Regional level meeting was important. There weren't many at this level in my calendar so I requested a report at the first - only my 6th outdoor meeting. A mistake - much too early - but a good reality check and learning experience - the constructive feedback provided guidance on areas I needed to improve. The second report, though, was entirely positive and allowed me to submit my Level 2 Regional application.

My 'winter training' has included attending both H&S and Level 3 courses and I am now looking forward to a period of consolidation and broadening of my experience - initially indoors, then hopefully a full outdoor season. I'll seek reports along the way, but will only request those as a Field Referee, Clerk of Course or EDM Operator when I'm fully ready. Lesson learned!

I've found out:

- ◆ it's a mistake to aim too high too soon. Experience is key – with it, positive reports will come. Without it, they won't. Apply for the next Level when you're ready, not before.
- ◆ if you don't ask, you don't get! Whether for the opportunity to officiate somewhere new, a report, or a particular event/duty that you need more experience in....ask.
- ◆ every meeting offers a new learning experience, whether about the environment at a major meeting or the unusual situations that arise at club meetings.
- ◆ it's useful to gain experience under IAAF Rules.
- ◆ club meetings offer the opportunity to assign duties to other officials or helpers and to provide leadership and guidance to a less-experienced team.
- ◆ spotting a discus landing point is difficult on hard ground with short grass!
- ◆ access to a throwing cage must be properly controlled and athletes reminded that the horn is to check officials are ready, not the signal to throw.
- ◆ athletics is the friendliest of sports and being part of it is highly rewarding.



Courses

Level 1 and 2 courses

England Athletics manages the Level 1 and 2 Officials' courses. Contact an Officials' Education Officer or go to www.englandathletics.org/officialscourses to see what's coming up. To book a place on the course please complete an Officials' Licence Application form which can be downloaded from the web and sent with a cheque (where applicable) made payable to 'England Athletics' to the appropriate England Athletics regional Officials' Education Officer.

Level 1

Level 1 is an Assistant Officials' course to meet the needs of those looking to take their first step into Officiating. It is normally offered to parents, athletes and youngsters looking to get into volunteering and leadership roles, and is predominantly a teacher-led award. It enables someone to receive a licence having first demonstrated their commitment to work in the sport through a process of supported practice. The Level 1 course is traditionally a one day course.

Level 2

Level 2 courses take 1 day - there is a generic element then delegates choose one from track/ field/ timekeeper/ starter-marksman. Officials achieving Level 2 will become Club Officials after showing successful experience in their log book at the minimum requirement. Officials who show a further successful experiences in their log book will progress to become County Officials or Home Country equivalent and continue to become Regional Officials or Home Country equivalent.

Level 3 courses and above

Courses for Level 3 and above are managed by UKA. Go to www.uka.org.uk/officials for more information. Officials at all levels can attend modules of the level 4 course to further their development as an official. Cheques should be made payable to 'UKA' and should be returned together with a completed registration form to; UKA Level 3 (or 4) Officials Course Registration, UKA, Athletics House, Central Boulevard, Blythe Valley Park, Solihull, B90 8AJ.

Level 3

There is a generic Level 3 module and discipline specific modules. This includes Starter / Marksman, Track, Field, Timekeeping, EDM L3, Photofinish L3. Course fee is currently £30 or £10 per module if you're exempt from some.

Level 4

'Old' Level 5 and 'New' Level 3 officials who have been on the National Active List for at least 3 years and have attended the relevant Level 3 modules can become a Level 4. There are compulsory and optional modules plus additional requirements. Course Fee is £15 per module or £50 for the whole course (can be taken over different course programmes).

Race Director's courses

The next Accredited Race Director's course will be held in Trafford, Manchester on 20 February. Details of 2011 courses are available from Manjinder at msingh@uka.org.uk.

Officials' Education Officers

North and South:

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Barry Parker

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South West:

Jayne Reed

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Endurance contacts

For a full list of Endurance COfSecs see the website.

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