

For the Record

ENGLAND ATHLETICS

Spring
2011

Newsletter for athletics officials of all levels and disciplines



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Photo: Adam Kerfoot-Roberts

Welcome

It seems like the previous edition has only just been published, but as the outdoor season gets into full swing it seemed like a good opportunity for distribution of the magazine. Please continue to spread the word, and you can always request copies direct from me in the post. I have a limited number of previous editions if you need them.

England Athletics, in partnership with the other National Governing Bodies and UKA have now produced three 'Getting Started' booklets for Track, Field and Timekeeping disciplines. These are based on documents from the SEAOA and are available for download, or as hard copies via your Regional Association.

I've been busy on the England Athletics website - we've got a new Endurance officials area now, officials' courses are now in the updated 'Courses' section (they are no longer mixed in with 'events'), and in a voluntary capacity but supported by England Athletics, the new SEAOA website is beginning to be packed full of useful information, including 'help sheets' on officiating on the track and in the field, and will go live soon. UKA have also been very busy getting Trinity up-to-date; COFsecs have been trained up and officials can now access their own data. Officials' news online can be found at www.englandathletics.org/news then click on the Officials link on the right side.

Finally I'd like to thank all who have contributed, suggested and worked with me to produce this magazine, especially the photographers who have provided free use of photos, and those who subjected themselves to the video camera interviews.

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Cover - An endurance official braving the cold during the Northern Road Relays in October last year at Bagulay, Manchester. Anyone know who he is?

Fourth National 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 fourth Officials' Forum was again held at UKA, and once again a different mix of officials was invited to this event on Saturday 26 March, with an emphasis on officials interested in Disability Athletics and Endurance officiating.

Head of Marketing Chris Jones provided an England Athletics update; Officials' Booklets for Field, Track & Timekeeping, are now available for download and there are also printed versions available. Regional Officials' Associations will receive a supply of these. Further versions of the booklet are currently being developed for Starter/Marksman and Photofinish and will be available soon.

There is now a new Head of Member Services at England Athletics Head Office. Lynette Smith will use her expertise to help to improve the quality of what the team offers to our partners and customers, including officials' course organisation - courses are now being advertised on the website in the newly adapted courses section. It was reported that recent Officials' Conferences in the South and SW were successful (you can read reports in this edition). The North will hold theirs as usual in October and the Midlands will be on the 6th November. England Athletics plans to continue to support these conferences during 2011/2012.

Lee Dakin provided a UKA/Trinity Update. He reported that online assessments successfully ran for the 2011 indoor season and that all 3000 officials with a valid licence have been emailed, to check if their data is up to date, with so far 500 having logged in.

Graham Jessop provided an Endurance Update. Everyone qualified in Endurance (1500) should now have a licence and the appeals process for Endurance Officials and has been extended. There are further details in the minutes but a lot is going on and new developments are happening all the time.

Attendees then divided into 3 groups to discuss the issues surrounding Endurance courses and a feedback session followed.

The post lunch slot was Chris Cohen who provided an interesting session on the history of Paralympic athletics and officiating. Accompanying Chris was paralympian Danny Crates who gave an overview about how he got involved in athletics.

The following Open session was led by Chris Lockley. Groups discussed CRBs, Communication, Assessments online, Tutors, and the Record of Experience.

The next Forum will be held in October; possible future topics include:

- ◆ Mentoring
- ◆ Olympics and 2013 onwards
- ◆ Recruitment and retention
- ◆ Young Officials

Full minutes, presentations and further notes on the Forum can be found on our website:

www.englandathletics.org/forum4



NEW Introduction to Officiating guides

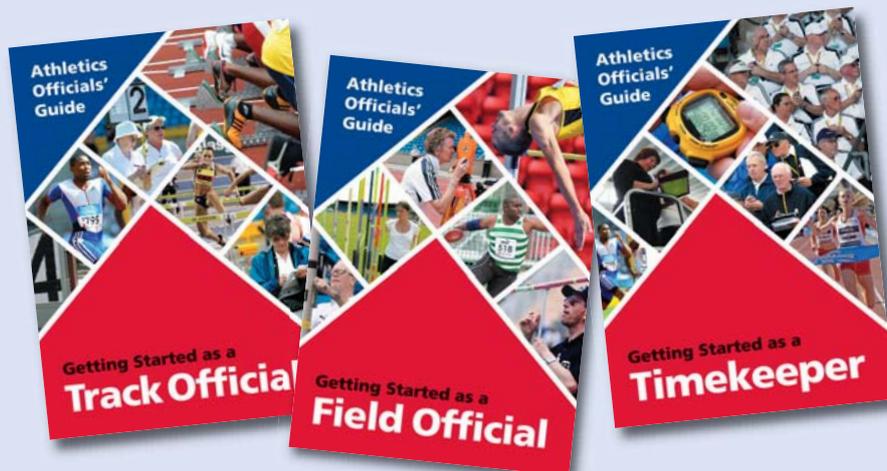
We have worked with UKA, the English Regional Associations and other National Associations to produce some booklets for new officials wanting to know where to begin. The initial series consists of five booklets: Timekeeping, Track Judging, Field Judging, Photofinish and Starter/Marksman.

The booklets were based on the publications produced by the South of England Officials' Association and the first three are now available to download from the England Athletics website and also available as an A5 glossy booklet from your local Regional Association.

Photofinish and Starter/Marksman booklets are currently at proofing stage, prior to being printed and distributed. It may be possible to further support the series with booklets on management and ancillary roles. We hope that the production of these booklets will help new officials across the country and also increase awareness of our three regional associations to those new in the sport.

The booklets are aimed to be simple guides for those working as technical officials. As with any skill, the best way to develop expertise is to work in the role. Obviously it is helpful if you have some idea of what to do – and why. For example you may have been on a course, or worked at meetings in other roles.

Each booklet contains discipline specific information, such as codes of practice, as well as more generic



details. Each booklet also contains information on the progression pathway, qualifications, and contact details for UK and Home Countries, COfSecs, and Associations.

Every year the track and field season gets more and more crowded with meetings at all levels and the demand for officials becomes greater and greater, so your assistance as an official is badly needed if meetings are to be adequately covered.

But it is also important that when we recruit new officials, those with more experience have a responsibility to

ensure that they are comfortable in their role and have a basic understanding of what it entails. To prevent the 'being thrown in at the deep end' syndrome and possibly putting some prospective officials off right at the start, the booklets can act as a pre-event introduction, answer questions, and also act as a revision after each of the new official's first few meetings. To this end, the publications attempt to answer some of the most common questions asked by those interested in officiating or just starting out.

Content includes:

Timekeeping

- Timekeeping duties
- Secondary duties
- Intermediate times
- Lap splits & leader
- Lap chart
- Relay 'splits'
- Lap times to announcer

Field Judging

- Starting out
- Duties
 - Sample field duties
- Tips
 - General
 - Height Cards
 - Distance Cards
- Weight specifications

Photofinish

- (in preparation)
- Photofinish systems
- Operational skills
 - Button Operator
 - Capture Machine Op.
 - Read Machine Op.
 - Reader/Checker/Verifier
 - Communicator
- Chiefting
- Data files

Track Judging

- Starting out
- Judging duties
 - Last 3 or 4
 - Lap scoring
 - Lap board and bell
 - Wind gauge
- Sample Duty Sheet
- Umpiring duties
 - Track positions
 - Hurdles
 - Steeplechase
 - Relay

Starter/Marksman

- (in preparation)
- Introduction
- The starting team
- Basic duties
- The starting process
 - Stand up
 - False Start
- Equipment & clothing
- Liaison with others
- Marksman's checklist
- Starter's checklist



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IPC World Championship Diaries

Ros Alterman was Chief Judge at the IPC (International Paralympic Commission) World Champs held in Christchurch, New Zealand in January. A number of British officials joined her there (at their own expense) to assist with the officiating of the event. Here's Ros' diary of events.

Wed 19th January

Woke up to a lovely day. No jet lag. Had a short wander round Cathedral Square and then headed over to Queen Elizabeth stadium for a look round. I'm sure it will be ready for the first day of competition!

Thurs 20th January

Woken up by our building shaking and much banging and crashing. Thirty minutes later a voice informed us that we had experienced an earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale but there was no need to evacuate. No time to worry about it as we had to be at the track for a 3 hour IPC presentation on judging disability events. We were issued with our uniform: dark grey polo shirts, windproof jacket and straw hat - and a 99 page A4 Technical Officials' manual. It was a long cold day spent in a very draughty marquee.

Fri 21st January

Back at the stadium for an 8.30am lecture. Then we were bussed into town for the opening ceremony. Not allowed to parade with the athletes as expected so we all went into Cathedral Square to cheer them in. Very colourful and a great atmosphere. Then it was back to the stadium at 3pm for a 'practice' session.

Sat 22nd January

On the 7am bus to the stadium where my first event was a seated club throw. EDM continuously failed and none of the strappers knew how to tie down so a very quick lesson took place. A long event - got back to the hotel at 9pm. It was a very long, wet, dry, hot and cold day. Pretty much like England really!

Sun 23rd January

Only two events today, one in the morning and the other late afternoon so a few of us took a ride out to Brighton Beach for an hour. It's felt so cold since the first day that I haven't worked without my windproof jacket. Oh joy!

Mon 24th January

Much the same as yesterday except that it was HOT!

Tues 25th January

On the 7am bus to the stadium as ever. Good club throw competition in the morning but my next event not until 4pm. Another long day as all meals are taken at the track.

Wed 26th January

It's Australia Day. An officials' Aussie v MCC cricket match was held on the

track at lunch time. What a laugh! We found out later that Sky TV had put it out on air. My last event began at 4pm, and it was still very hot and sunny but one hour later it was pouring with rain. The seated javelin event took three hours. There was an ambulant javelin taking place at the same time and I was out in the sector on my event doing "flag fall" with no idea when the javelins behind me were being thrown as no warning horns were in use. Couldn't allow the young volunteer retriever into the sector so everything took longer. Very hot and sunny.

Thurs 27th January

As ever on the 7am bus. Good competitions, good weather too. Had the usual 5 hour break between events. Thank goodness for the local ice cream shop. Some of us are gradually working our way through the array of flavours with strange names such as Hoki Poki.

Fri 28th January

Another hot day. Just the two seated throws events for me, with a five hour gap in between.

Sat 29th January

Hurrah, no 6am alarm call this morning. I have a half day off! Decided to go on the Gondola (a cable car). Took an early bus and was there for 9am. Terrific - it didn't open until 10am and it began to pour with rain and gusting winds. Naturally there was nowhere to shelter. Went on the first cable up to the top and just had to buy the postcard as the bad weather had closed in and there was very little to see. Arrived back in Cathedral Square where it was hot and sunny! Was back at QE Stadium for my final event at 5.45pm. That was followed by farewell drinks with all the NTOs and an exchange of email addresses before leaving the Stadium.

Sun 30th January

On the bus at 6.15am as I had volunteered to help out on the

wheelchair marathon. We met at the stadium where I was told that I would be a timekeeper. Explaining that I was not that experienced and hadn't brought a stopwatch with me didn't seem to matter, so off to the start where I was given a Seiko read out timer with no instructions. A few minutes later I was allocated my group to time and the athletes were off. Strolled round to the finish where chaos ruled. It was a residential road with a steep adverse camber either side. The public were everywhere. At one stage there was a wheelchair crash 10 metres from the finish line. I took my times whilst standing kerbside, looking over someone's shoulder, and members of the public chatting alongside; I don't think Health and Safety has reached New Zealand yet. What an experience!

Extra notes

The Technical Manager and his team were outstanding. They worked very long hours to ensure that everything was just right for competition; nothing was too much trouble. Some of the duties were different to those we are used to but interesting to learn how they 'do it' in other countries. Every event had a team of technical officials, a chief judge and a referee as well as ITOs present. In the seated throws there was also a team of volunteers to do the tie-downs. One of the funnier incidents that recurred during the week was of trying to keep a straw hat from blowing away during events whilst bending over tying down. Chasing the hat round the cage became a new event together with 'guess how high up the cage netting it could go' before landing! Note to 2012 organising committee, straw hats are totally impractical for field officials. Overall it was a very enjoyable meeting with some great competitions and several world records. Well worth the long trip.

The British contingent, including Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson who sneaked into shot!



Rob Walker, as well as being the British contingent's chief photographer, was a field judge at the championships. His view is slightly different to Ros' – being out in the field most of the time – and tells us what it was like to be on the judging team.

All the officials first got together on the Thursday before the championships. There were introductions from the senior New Zealand organisers during which we experienced our second earth tremor in two days. The first one woke me at 6am by shaking the bed.

After this we were shown the disability rules PowerPoint put together by Chris Cohen that most of the British officials have seen more than once. When questions were invited one southern hemisphere official asked would IPC rule books be issued.

In the afternoon some of us were shown how to set up EDM by the Spanish technology provider. There were about a dozen of us being shown how, which involved checking the rim of the circle in three places. These distances appeared on the scoreboard computer and a fiddle with the figures gave the reading we were to use - we were not impressed. The instruments were like the ones that have been used at MCAA meetings with lock and fine control knobs which caused the Australians to complain, as they are used to using a Leica which finds the prism when you point the EDM in the general direction of the prism.

An opening Haka

Next day we gathered at the stadium in uniform to attend the opening ceremony where we were entertained by Maori singers and dancers, including a Haka performance. Afterwards we went back to the stadium for a practice when some of us judged and others acted as athletes. Much of the training was not very well organised so we sat around a lot even as field judges – I was not aware of any activities at all for the track people. When competition started it was nice to be working even though it was wet and the connections between the EDM, the computer and the scoreboard were intermittent. This was when we noticed the difference in judging practices: Where in the UK we try to keep the number of people in the middle to a minimum, here each event had a referee and a manager above them. Most of the managers kept out of the way and kept in radio contact with the



EDM, and an array of results, recording equipment and officials!

competition director and it was the same for the referees except that one or two of them would become involved and then overrule a decision before an athlete complained. Then there was the way they judged some of the tasks - Javelin validity being a committee decision where everyone in the field was asked for an opinion. This took one of the British officials by surprise when they were asked as they were only looking for where the implement landed - not how it landed. Another difference being the way shot arm action was judged by the person on the side the athlete held the shot and not from the rear of the circle. There was also a judge with flags to signal whether an implement had landed in the sector.

There was the occasional idea that could be used - one being that the cage netting is in two parts running from the front to overlap at the back but there is a gap between the two layers to allow people into the cage. Another idea was that on throws the official without the flags has two small cards (a red and a white one or a card with a red and a white side) to indicate how they saw the trial. This is useful especially at meeting where it is difficult to make yourself heard. There was also an interesting device for repairing the no jump indicator.

Australia Day

During the Championships the Aussies celebrated Australia Day by

decorating the officials' room, having special cakes and challenging the non-Australians to a game of cricket. The Australians won - but they were in charge of the scoreboard!!

Inspiring performances

I certainly had a good time at the Championships and I think almost all the British officials also enjoyed the meeting. The performance of the athletes is inspiring and one in particular that stands out for me is the F11 (totally blind) athlete jumping just short of 13 metres. This was just one performance out of all of them that shows all of us what can be achieved.



The Australia day cricket match!

Rob Walker's article is reprinted from the Midlands Officials' Association (MAFEO) *Newsletter*. You can join MAFEO for £10 a year. Membership is open to all athletics officials within the Midland & South West region, and is renewable annually. Members receive a membership card, a copy of each new edition of the UKA *Rules for Competition*, a MAFEO name badge and the *Newsletter*. MAFEO also organise at least one Workshop a year to cover subjects requested by members.

South West Officials' Conference

The 2011 South West Officials' Conference held at Exeter was an outstanding success. The attendance was on a par with the events held in the North and Midlands and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The day began with a welcome by Keith Reed (SW Portfolio holder for officials) and then a very informative update on the way that England Athletics supports its officials, this was delivered by Stan Burton who is a very well respected national time-keeper and a member of the UKA members' council. There was the usual healthy debate but in general the attendees were given all the information on the initiatives being put on by England Athletics and UKA.

Stan's keynote talk was followed by a health and safety course delivered by SW Facilities representative Richard Jenkins. This was an ideal chance for new officials to take this necessary qualification and for others to gain a very useful refresher.

After an enjoyable lunch and an update on Officials' education by Jayne Reed (Officials' Education co-ordinator for the South West), the attendees enjoyed a series of workshops. There was one on Disability Throws given by Nick and Sally Higman and another on the use of EDM to measure jumps.

There was also a useful planning session for the introduction of photofinish equipment at Exeter where each discipline shared ideas on solving any

potential issues. The final workshop was on the changing role of the Clerk of the Course to adopt a more multi disciplined approach.

Overall the day was very successful and the officials greatly appreciated the support given by England Athletics to put on this conference. Keith Reed summed up the feelings of most who attended when he said, "It was probably one of the best conferences we have put on and to get sixty people there was quite amazing.

We hope that we can put on more workshops for our officials during 2011 and look forward to giving all of the SW officials a chance to work at the top levels of the sport up to and including 2012."



SEAOA Officials' Conference

On Sunday 5 February 2011 the SEAOA conference took place at St Mary's University College Twickenham, with 140 delegates attending. The South of England Officials' Association hold an Annual Conference in February to update members on rule changes and they also hold workshops during the conference for the different disciplines. Chairman of the Conference committee Julie Dew reports.

As usual St Mary's did us proud. Thank you. Our guest speaker David Hemery was excellent; we thank him for taking the time to visit us, considering he only came back from Sweden in the early hours of Saturday.

As a committee we have met to analyse the debrief forms returned. We received very good feedback with 94% of comments classed as good or very good from those officials who returned them (less than 50%). Thank you to all who returned one; they are important, and the comments raised will help towards next year's organisation.

Any ideas you may have or would like to be included in next year's conference please let me know. The raffle this year raised £300, thank you to all those who donated the prizes. May I take this opportunity to say 'A BIG THANK YOU' to all the speakers who ran the workshops, without whose expertise we would not be able to put on such a full programme.

Thank you to the committee for all their hard work and commitment and to all the officials that helped on the day. Ros Alterman stepped down this year as Chairman of the conference sub committee after 19

years supported by John Tanner. Thank you Ros and John for all your help and input before you went to New Zealand to officiate at The World Paralympics Games and a much deserved holiday.

This was my first year and I enjoyed it. Thank you. (I feel like I have just accepted an Oscar with all these thank yous).

If you didn't attend the conference this year, why not come along next year? All levels of Officials will be made welcome. Please note next year's conference has been booked and confirmed – 5th February 2012.

UKA Officials' Conference 2011

Investing in an Officiating Legacy - The 8th UKA Officials' Conference kicked off at the St John's Hotel in Solihull with over 300 delegates in attendance, with the overarching theme of this year's conference being legacy and the officiating landscape of the athletics world beyond 2012.

The theme of this year's UKA conference was legacy and the officiating beyond the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Fittingly, the keynote session was delivered by UK Sport Chair Baroness Sue Campbell.



Baroness Sue Campbell delivered the conference's keynote session

Great role models

In her address, Baroness Sue Campbell said; "UKA is held in such high regard, both domestically and internationally because of the strength of its volunteers. You are great role models for the sport, not only because you are passionate about your sport, but because you give up your time to support the aspirations of others, of younger generations. Part of your legacy is what you do, but the other part of your legacy is what you will leave behind."

She continued, "2012 will ignite something. 2012 is not an end, it is a beginning for the future of British Sport. Building the future is very much in your own hands. Research and innovation is in each and every one of you, it's called creativity. This year, we have over 100,000 16-19 year olds wanting to volunteer in sport. No one knows how to develop the officials of tomorrow like you; it is up to you to grab them while they are enthusiastic."

Highlighting the significant investment into the officiating community by UKA were members of the UKA Technical Advisory Group. Malcolm Rogers, the UKA Technical Advisory Group Chairman, pointed out the successful exchange programme for officials that is now into its fourth year, as well as endorsements that the officials' education materials had received, not only from the IAAF but other IAAF National Governing Bodies and SkillsActive, all part of the £1.2m that has been invested by UKA in recent years to develop, recruit and retain officials.

Trinity database

Also highlighted was the continued development of the trinity database as a resource for the sport, with

access to the database for County Officials' Secretaries, and more recently, officials themselves to update their own details and manage their own portals.

With the scene set, delegates split into a number of discussion groups to consider several key topics branching out from the conference theme of legacy, including creative ideas for recruitment, reward and recognition ideas and best practice from competition providers.

Officials' Awards

This year's UKA Officials' Conference saw the 2nd annual officials' awards, nominated by officials for officials. Four categories were nominated at this year's awards, with the winners as follows;

The Official's Official Shona Malcolm

Endurance Official John How

Young Official Callum Piper

Innovative Official Chris Cohen CBE



Callum Piper with Niels de Vos

Commonwealth Games

Seven months on from the first hosting of the Commonwealth Games in the Indian subcontinent, Chris Cohen and Alan Bell reflected on a challenging but enjoyable experience during the athletics competition in Delhi. The UKA Technical Advisory Group members talked about the

Alan Bell and Lynda Lenton lead a workshop



lessons that could be learnt from the event and the key to being prepared for what a major event can entail, as well as the remarkable atmosphere, interest and excitement that host nation success can generate.

With the recent setup of UKA's Youth Advisory Group and the work towards setting up the UKA Recruitment and Retention Group, members of the UKA Youth Advisory Group had the opportunity to talk to delegates about their aspirations and intentions while working in partnership with UKA to ensure that the legacy of the volunteer remains at the top of the agenda for UKA when the curtain falls on London in the autumn of 2012. Most importantly, both the UKA Youth Advisory Group and UKA Recruitment and Retention Advisory Group are made up of volunteers from the sport and officiating peers.

Youth Advisory Group

UKA Youth Advisory Group Members Poppy Merriot, Craig Birch and John Robertson introduced the idea of the Youth Advisory Group to conference delegates, highlighting its diversity and objectives going forward, including drawing more young people into volunteering in the sport and initiatives that recognise the involvement that young people have in the sport. The Group members also talked about some of the initiatives that UKA had already implemented, such as the Young Leaders Camp, an annual residential camp bringing together 150 16-19 year olds from three sports (Gymnastics, Netball and Athletics) to learn new skills in officiating, coaching and leadership.

The afternoon workshops were led by a number of leading officials from across the UK, with modules from the level 4 track and field pathway, event delivery, the progression of the official and race organisation as part of the schedule.

Sportshall Young Leaders set to continue officiating

Coverage of a local Sportshall event and the National Finals led to the discovery of a crop of young volunteers trained up within their schools to become our potential athletics officials of the future.

Issue 3's report on the Lea Valley McCain Athletics Network's '10 out of 10' initiative shows how our McCain Athletics Networks around the country can help develop a new generation of volunteers and officials. Another breeding ground for young volunteers is within our schools. Many of us know that nowadays academic success is not the only target for a school, but that pupils are encouraged at many establishments to 'give back' or to expand their horizons in areas which interest them. Just so in two schools; Cheshunt School in Hertfordshire and St. Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls in Lambeth, London. Each of these have set up a programme for their pupils to learn leadership skills as part of the PE curriculum - and their enthusiastic teenagers came together as a team to officiate at the Sportshall 2011 finals, alongside more established officials.

Cheshunt young leaders

Roy Tucker is Head of PE at Cheshunt School and chairman of the Lea Valley School Sports Association which involves 17 different secondary schools. His school's young leaders were spotted and interviewed during an England Athletics filming session at a Herts Sportshall event. He explained how their young officials progressed, "Sports leaders start off in their very first PE lesson when they enter Year 7, where we encourage leadership and responsibility. We do that via them taking responsibility for warm ups from that first PE lesson and we build on it during the course of Years 7, 8, 9 and upwards. After warm ups they move on to taking responsibility for small groups and preparing lessons. When they get into Year 9 they get the opportunity to do a formal qualification with Sports Leader UK and the UKA Level 1 officiating course and then they do the Level 2 courses when they enter Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5.

We also arrange for them to be directly officiating Key Stage 2 and 3 Sportshall and Track and field athletics - they organise and run a local primary school Sportshall event themselves - they do all the officiating, all the organising and



Sportshall young leaders line up in readiness at Birmingham

scoring themselves and they are then able to take that on to the secondary school Sportshall where again they do everything themselves, giving the staff the opportunity to sit in the stands and give their full attention to watching high quality athletics themselves. I think that's a credit to the system we run at the school."

The Cheshunt pupils began their officiating responsibilities formally with the local Lea Valley School Sportshall Athletics league, and such is their competence that Roy is able to say to all the visiting teachers that they can stay with their teams, watch the activities with their teams and the Cheshunt sports leaders are more than able to perform the officiating duties, both for Sportshall athletics competitions, outdoor athletics competitions and local indoor competitions at the UK Centre of Excellence at Pickett's Lock.

Roy continues, "We also develop their confidence, maturity and responsibility by giving them the opportunity to develop secondary and primary school teachers through a Sportshall athletics inset programme which we run at our local sports centre and also at our local school gym. This gives the

leaders (on a 2:8 or 2:10 basis) the opportunity to lead adults, to instruct them and to develop them so that they can then take the necessary attributes and skills back into their primary or secondary schools and pass that on to their students. With new GCSE examination specifications pupils can offer both leadership and officiating as part of their exam course and that's a valuable area where they can gain extra marks.

Pupils Alison and Jess had a chat with England Athletics both at the Herts School Games and the Sportshall Finals: "We've been doing it since year 7 in normal PE; we've been doing warm ups and from then it carried on and next week we are going to the UK finals in Birmingham. We're really looking forward to that! We've done our Level 1" said Alison - and Jess added, "We really hope to get to some big events in the future." She continued when asked what was the best thing about officiating at Sportshall, "You get good responsibility, and socialising with different people" with Alison adding, "and it builds our maturity and you get to work with lots of different people. Different students get different

chances as there are quite a lot of us but we all get to do different things and change around."

England Athletics caught up with them once more in Birmingham - "We've been working together with the older officials which is really good because it's different people that we are not used to." said Alison. She continued, "I hope I can carry on doing events like this, maybe the Olympics." Jess added - "The Commonwealth Games in Scotland in 2016 - I'm up for that!"

By the track was Ben from Cheshunt School, "It's gone really well, I've enjoyed it. I do a bit of everything but my favourite is track judging - I quite like that." Nathan Blundell, an ex athlete and also a coach is in his twenties; "I've been working with the young leaders today and they've been a great help. We've had some on the track and they've been really useful - and the track team will back that up."

Tips from older officials

England Athletics also spoke to Demi, Darshana and Kasey who were full of smiles and excitement. They had been doing a mixture of field events and ancillary duties. They all agreed with Demi that the best bit was, "Meeting everyone especially the Olympic athlete" - Kasey proudly displayed her autographed top (Louise Hazel was present at the Final and really getting involved with the athletes and officials). Darshana commented, "The older officials gave

us a lot of tips and stuff." "They were really good, I liked them." added Kasey, who continued, "I would like to carry on officiating, definitely." One of these more experienced officials was Brian Charlton from Kent, full of enthusiasm himself, "Very encouraging, they showed a great deal of enthusiasm and I was really very impressed with their attitude and the way they approached things."

St. Martin-in-the-Fields

Pupils at St. Martin-in-the-Fields High School undertake a similar training programme and were also officiating at the Sportshall final. PE teacher Jacqueline Greenlees reports on how their programme works:

"The Leadership programme was started at St. Martin-in-the-Fields approximately 3 years ago now. The leadership has enabled the students who are not necessarily performers the opportunity to still participate in sport. It's led to a lot of enjoyment and satisfaction and that's the reason our leaders are here today at the National Indoor Sportshall Athletics Final."

Jacqueline explained the programme, "Leadership begins in the classroom and our students take on responsibility through leading warm ups, analysing performance, and officiating different activities. It encourages communication and team leadership. As part of the key stage 4 curriculum at the age of 14-16 the children are given the opportunity to lead

through doing a Junior Sports Leaders award as part of their core curriculum. This not only keeps them motivated but teaches them how to organise different activities - it's at this level that they start to be involved in the local competitions and it is here that they receive training from the Lambeth School Sports Partnership who train them up to be sports officials for the indoor athletics." That then led them to be invited to the regional and National championships which has been a fantastic opportunity for the students. She continues, "This obviously not only keeps them motivated but for our students in particular shows them that there is a different level at which they can both compete and officiate."

Level 1 officiating courses have been taken by these pupils, not only for athletics but other sports as well and that's a natural progression from the Junior Sports Leaders programme.

Jacqueline concludes, "From here we are hoping that some of our young officials today will carry on and they'll become platinum leaders and will have the chance to officiate at other championships."

How clubs can help

Ian Blythe from Suffolk was officiating but also a team manager. He told me how clubs are also working with young officials, "We like to bring in children who have been through Sportshall athletics, who have competed and then they can officiate as they get older. And that's what I've done today, I've brought two young officials today and one has gone through the whole system. He's also officiated at the regionals and at local league matches as well so this is like a step up for him.

One of these was 16-year-old Charlie. "I've been on shot and it's not easy but I got used to it in the end. I used to compete until I was injured and basically Ian got me into it and I've been going to Norwich with him and hopefully I can go to some more matches. I've done field events which I think I might do again as it's the most interesting." And the best bit? The food! He finished by saying, "The kids have done really well, it's not about the winning it's the taking part."

Ensuring continuity

Keeping our young aspiring officials inspired and motivated is a vital step in ensuring the continuation of excellence within officiating in the UK and that experience lost as officials get older and withdraw from being active is first passed on to those who will continue to ensure athletes compete under fair conditions.

Judging the standing long jump at a Sportshall event.



Photo: courtesy of David Griffiths and Sportshall

How to Judge Field events – a journey through the decades with Nicola Evans

At 37 I am still regarded as a 'younger' official, even though I have over 20 year's experience. I started out helping my school to record results and *The Technique of Judging Field Events* (1989 edition) was a fantastic resource for a field official then. Nowadays, the book is still used - but for a new generation of officials there are opportunities for learning using different media too.

After a year or two 'helping out' at my School District Athletics I decided to complete my Duke of Edinburgh's Silver award and chose officiating as my skill. My PE teacher at school put me in touch with Mike Parmiter, an official who was also involved with schools athletics and a teacher at a nearby school. Mike then 'mentored' me (before such a thing was 'official') and invited me to shadow and help at many major meetings that he attended. In November of 1990 I received my 'licence' - a handwritten blue card signed by Don Turner. Mike also gave me a copy of his *The Technique of Judging Field Events*, inscribed "I trust the experience gained this season will result in a field judge for life." Little did I know then that my personal officiating bible was also the definitive work that had undergone a number of revisions since its first edition in 1957. 21 years later, Mike loaned me his previous editions of this booklet so that I could 'compare and contrast' the editions through the decades!



Edition 1
1957

Edition 3
1969



photographer today. Sinfield had had a long career in the Forces as competitor, athlete and official, including acting as a Field Judge at National level and appointed as a wind gauge operator at the 1948 London Olympics. He continued at a high level and undertook a further revision in 1976.



Edition 4
1976

The covers of each booklet also show the progression of field judging - in the two Sinfield editions, a throwing circle takes the honours - with two middle aged male officials measuring a throw at the arc (both incidentally standing in the throwing area - something we are advised not to do nowadays!). Both editions show shirts and ties, although one of the 1969 officials is also wearing a white trilby and an 'Official' armband, whereas the 1976 officials are bareheaded but wearing blazers. The 1989 edition uses a graphic of a long jump - again depicting ties and blazers. The 1996 edition, although still showing a mix of blazers and ties (and we're back at a throwing circle), includes two female officials (Diane Ratcliffe and Margaret Nelson) resplendent in long white skirts with blazers - and we've moved onto colour photography!

The first edition of *The Technique of Judging Field Events* was written by Dr. Sidney Edward James Best, headmaster of Doncaster Grammar School (known to all the boys as SEJ) who was an official judge at the post-war Olympic Games in London. This 40 page Amateur Athletic Association Instructional booklet was revised in 1965 by Victor Sealy who wrote a number of coaching and officiating documents. Four years later, Cyril Sinfield, a retired Lt Commander of the Royal Navy took up the gauntlet. This small red booklet cost 5 shillings and its cover photograph was taken by none other than Mark Shearman who is still a prolific athletics

The pre-Parmiter editions are fairly similar in structure, mainly concentrating on changes in the Rules, detailing those rules and specifications, with some quite long verbiage of how to officiate the described event, and examples of over-pedantic officials. In fact all the publications do have this as one of the similar themes - don't be officious, be fair to the athletes, and check that everything is in order before and throughout each event. The earliest editions describe the qualities of a good Field Judge; "A thorough knowledge and understanding of the rules. He [sic] should have good powers of

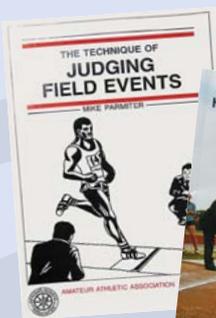
concentration, quick reactions, tact, common sense, a brisk decisive manner, meticulous care in measuring and recording and a thorough understanding of the needs of the athlete and the requirements of the competition."

Mike Parmiter brought a new way of thinking to the instructional booklet; it's less anecdotal and more instructional. Of course the rules still needed to be explained, as do events need describing individually. But long 'quotes' of Rules have been taken out (after all, one can refer to the Rulebook!) and detailed descriptions of pedantic officials removed. The judging techniques are simplified with what was then quite revolutionary in the publication of the booklet - diagrams showing deployment and duties of judges (with further clarification on this approach in edition 6). This is what the Parmiter editions concentrate on, as well as introducing the roles of the Technical Manager (in the 6th edition), Clerk of Course (including useful checklists), Wind Gauge operator, separate validity judge for javelin (a pull through judge is also not mentioned in earlier editions), second cards, Electronic Digital Measurement and detailed notes on the preparation of duty sheets and how to fill in event cards (with examples). The role of the Referee and progression of officials also clarified according to changes in practice and the norm at the time.

Throughout the editions it is interesting to note what are regarded as the 'tools of the trade' for an official. All of course mention the rule book, a tape measure ("two 100ft ones coupled together will keep costs down" - Sealy), safety pins, waterproof clothing (though Parmiter omits Sinfield's 'umbrella'!), pens, pencils, eraser, coloured tape,

Mike Parmiter





Edition 5
1989

Edition 6
1996



callipers and a spike. The Hardboard and clip progress to Weatherwriter, the supply of marked pegs (for spiking and for random draws) and metric conversion tables all disappeared after the 1970s, and the warning horn and wallpaper roller make an appearance. In fact the horn is alluded to in the 3rd edition as "the kind used by look-out men on the railway". The roller of course recognises the changes in the preparation of competition areas. The early Sealy / Sinfield editions provide a fascinating insight into athletics from the 1940s to the late 1970s for someone like myself who wasn't even born then! There are suggestions such as providing sawdust to dry shot and discus, athletes jumping from cinder fans, judges should ensure that the high jump landing area is "deeply dug, and well piled up", damp sand is

used instead of plasticine and can also be used in a pole vault box. When in a pit, there is "only one sure way of finishing off a surface: a scraper board extending right across the pit". In the pole vault, poles terminate in a wooden peg, and they can buckle rather than merely break. There are references to mysterious whitening material, calibrated apparatus, approved datum equipment, impedimenta (implements?), the drawbacks of using multiple markers, and a complex sounding measurement system for long throws requiring an arc of circular white pegs, a corresponding template and 'out' and 'in' tapes. The crossbar for vertical jumps changes in the eighties from a triangular cross section to square, and once again to the flattened circle we now use.

Competitions also seem to have changed somewhat - Sealy mentions "if more than one field event is scheduled in the programme" and warm ups are recommended to be no longer than 10 to 15 minutes, with high jumpers possibly preferring to wear a number on their front if they are performing a flop clearance rather than a straddle.

On to the future – a new edition is in production by the SEAOA Field Committee with additional information on practice and procedures that have changed in the

past decade. This year, England Athletics has led the production of *Introduction to Officiating* booklets (based on those produced by the SEAOA), in both paper and electronic format (see page 3).

The new SEAOA website will go live soon with online information on all the disciplines, I also hope to have video clips to aid learning online within the next year (part of my Communications job is Film Producer at England Athletics) – with the support of the Education Committee.

There are such initiatives such as Steve Marshall's *Armchair High Jump training CD* where prospective officials can go through all the motions of a High Jump competition using an interactive powerpoint presentation, including short video clips and Questions with user activated answers. Who knows what next - a Kindle, mobile or iPad version of the booklet? Officials and results connected via computer notebooks during events? A Playstation instructional game? Whatever it is, the importance of ensuring UK officials continue to be regarded as some of the best in the world all depends on the quality of their training.

I am indebted to Mike for introducing me to the world of officiating, and to both Mike and Sue for supporting me, encouraging me and passing on their knowledge and enthusiasm. Thanks!

A model official?

England Athletics recently held a photoshoot at the Brunel University track, to provide some generic images of athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers to use within our publicity documentation. After spotting the familiar face of a 'tame' official in the ensuing photographs, I asked Bob Densley about his day in front of the cameras!

I was invited to attend a photo shoot by Neil Deans our CCSO (Club and Coach Support Officer) as they were looking for a mixture of athletes, officials, coaches and volunteers to promote amongst other things Athletics 365. As I am retired and can boast to hold all four of these titles in my club I said yes. I started off as an Athlete, then Coaching and for the last 15 years also an Official - and I only started this when I was frustrated at the lack of people to help to run meetings efficiently.

When I arrived at Brunel University the shoot was well underway with a couple of current GB internationals and I was surprised to a professional photographer clicking away, just thinking it would be someone from the England Athletics communications team (*I'll take that as a personal insult to my professionalism! Ed.*) After about half an hour, people started drifting in: sprinters, jumpers, some Brunel Staff and a couple of other officials, most of whom I knew either personally or by sight. We were asked to do group and individual shots, the whole process taking about 4 hours. To keep us going, a great spread of food was laid out for us and the dips were very enjoyable as most of the athletes avoided these!

As a thank you we were supplied with a pair of Puma trainers which made the day even more rewarding.



Bob Densley with
Nadia Williams

Photo: Gwen Harris

Portfolio holders - what are they?

England Athletics has nine **Regional Councils**. Each has **responsibility for representing the volunteer interests of the sport, supporting the staff in their area and giving input into investment.**

The councils also work towards developing strong links with key partners such as McCain Athletics Networks, Sport England, Private Sector Business and other agencies.

Key areas of work

Each of the nine regional councils have a number of portfolio holders who represent different areas of the sport.

Suggested areas of work include:

- ◆ Clubs
- ◆ Coaching and athlete development
- ◆ Officials
- ◆ Facilities
- ◆ Marketing and communication
- ◆ Road running and cross country
- ◆ Partnerships (normally the Chair leads this area of work with manager or paid staff)
- ◆ Schools and education
- ◆ Competition

Core functions

The Core Functions of a portfolio holder are:

- ◆ To be a role model, providing dynamic and motivational leadership in the particular area of work covered by their portfolio. This may include chairing project group meetings and involvement with other associated events.
- ◆ Acting as an advocate and champion for their area of work in order to enhance athletics, both in their region and across the country.
- ◆ To provide a single pro-active point of reference for the voluntary sector related to their specific area of work.
- ◆ To represent their region on national project groups, advocating and influencing any development or policy revisions related to their portfolio.
- ◆ To develop good relationships with other organisations that will enhance the development of their particular area of work, both in the region and nationally.
- ◆ To provide input to the communication and information processes, highlighting examples of best practice that relate to their portfolio and which will help to

enhance shared learning across the region, or the country as a whole. This may include the provision of verbal, e-based or written reports, as required, to local partners, other council members or portfolio holders in other regions.

Who is yours?

Most of the regions have a portfolio holder for Officials – do you know who yours is?

East Midlands:
Barry Parker

West Midlands:
Graham Heeley (Endurance) and Pete Afford (T&F)

South West:
Keith Reed

North East:
Chris Betts

North West:
Shaun O'Donnell

Yorkshire & Humberside:
Moira Gallagher

East:
Sonia Edwards

South East:
Alan Vincent

London:
Peter Crawshaw

First in a series of mentoring courses a success

A new mentoring course was held recently for a small group of officials

It was the first of a series planned by UKA building on the good work done by Les Duggan for England Athletics with coach mentoring

courses. It aims at helping experienced officials improve their mentoring skills when working with less experienced colleagues and eventually producing a group of mentor tutors from within the sport.

The small group of ten officials came together from across the UK and

worked with Les on a series of both individual and team sessions to improve their listening, observation and other mentoring skills.

Three more sessions are planned during the year for officials not fortunate enough to have made it on the first one.



Nonagenarian calls time

Alf Walsh has called time on being a timekeeper at cross-country events. It isn't surprising, however, that the Hartlepool Burn Road Harriers' president is putting his stopwatch aside – for he has reached the age of 92! At the season's final fixture of the North Yorks and South Durham Harrier League in Richmond, Walsh received a number of parting gifts for his service to athletics for over half-a-century.

Walsh was never an athlete himself but after his son linked up with the Hartlepool club he went along to offer his services and before long he was on the ladder of officialdom. "I was in my 40s when I first got involved and I have to say I've loved every minute of it since," said a thrilled

Walsh after receiving his awards. "In the early days, when I didn't have any qualifications, I did anything at the club that I was asked to do, a general dogsbody you could say.

"That led on to me taking up timekeeping which I've enjoyed immensely. Next to my family it's been the most important thing in my life." Walsh enjoys being involved in the grassroots end of the sport just as much as timekeeping at major meetings, and he has proud memories of being called up to officiate at Gateshead International Stadium for a GB match against East Germany. "That's probably my biggest ever fixture and I can remember every minute of it to this day. In fact, I'm sure that was the last

time East Germany competed as a nation before the reunification of East and West. That was a great occasion to be part of, but I'm just as happy being in a field somewhere timekeeping a local cross-country event. I get just as big a buzz. This winter has been pretty rough with the weather and that so I think it's right to call time, though I haven't put my stopwatch away for good just yet. I will do a few local road races and track meetings during the summer. After you've been timekeeping for as long as I have you can't just switch off, you have to ease into retirement gracefully!"

Article reproduced with kind permission by Bill McGuirk

Moving on up

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

At the UKA Officials' Conference in April I was asked that for my next blog update in the series, could I write about my experience of moving along the officials' pathway. That caused me to reflect on what I believe are the keys to advancement and my conclusion was that the answer is in IKEA! I believe the keys are Improvement; Knowledge; Experience; Audit. All of these attributes must be demonstrated in your Competition Experience and Annual Record of Experience Forms, Mentoring Session Records, Reports and in your responses to Log Book questions. The accreditation process is entirely evidence-based – if there's insufficient evidence in your application of all the elements of 'IKEA', the next licence will not be granted.

How we complete the forms is vital and must be comprehensive. The description of your duties in response to the question 'How did you carry them out?' is not 'Brilliantly'(!), but is an opportunity to demonstrate your Knowledge of the rules and your Experience. Similarly, the self-analysis questions 'What went well?' and 'What might I do differently next time?' are where you show evidence of Improvement. Where you could have done something better, write it down, then at the next competition you can demonstrate you have thought about and improved how you deal with the situation by specifically covering it under 'What went well?'.

Audit comprises feedback from your mentor, other officials, Referees and

Reports. This is where your analysis of your performance is verified by others. I have found it useful to ask others about anything you could have missed or done differently – more experienced officials often notice areas for improvement but some are reluctant to mention them unless asked. Others are not!

In working towards Level 3, new roles come into play and it can be difficult to find the opportunities to fill them. For field judges, they comprise EDM, Clerk of Course and Field Referee.

There is a lot of demand from aspiring Level 3 officials, but fewer opportunities. It might be good for them to be managed and allocated more centrally to ensure a reasonable distribution.

My experience over the winter has included acting as Clerk of Course over the two days of the Birmingham Games at the NEC, which presented some interesting challenges in getting the newly installed athletics facilities fully ready for competition. I have also had my first competition experience

as EDM Operator. Currently, my appointments over the summer do not include any further opportunities in these roles.

I have three summer appointments as Field Referee, but have not been able to find someone to prepare a report, so they may all meet the Experience, rather than Audit objectives. I had hoped to shadow an experienced Referee before doing the role myself, but it has worked out the other way around so I will be 'in at the deep end' at a YAL meeting.

Officials, like athletes, continually look for improvement in performance. For officials, recognition comes in the form of licences. For athletes, it's in personal bests. Part of the 'buzz' of being an official comes in seeing the athletes' reaction to improving their PB – whether an Under 13 which we see often, or a world champion which we see less frequently but, as the picture taken after a shot competition at Loughborough where that happened shows, can still be 'on your watch'.



Endurance update

During the last three months all the planning for the new opportunities for endurance officials has started to bear fruit. Graham Jessop outlines progress.

Realignment

The first thing to happen in 2011 was to finalise the re-alignment process, advise Endurance Officials of their new levels and issue the new licences. This process was virtually complete by the end of March. For the majority of endurance officials the process was seamless. Inevitably the changeover highlighted some issues, including the absence previously of a review process for a number of officials, missing information such as a valid CRB check or simply a photograph and in some cases the inability to match some officials' experiences with the new pathway. Fortunately with the production of evidence of previous experience and the application of commonsense a significant number of the outstanding cases were resolved.

Appeals

For those Endurance officials who were still not satisfied or indeed those who felt their new level was inappropriate an appeals process was put in place. This process closed at the end of April and the expectation is that all appeals will have been determined by the end of June.

New Licences

As indicated, all registered Endurance officials should have their new licence including the new levels. If you have not received your new licence it is likely to be due to the fact you have not:

- ◆ Registered as an Endurance Official
- ◆ Sent a passport photo
- ◆ Sent off your completed CRB to Athletics Welfare

Please communicate direct with Manjinder (msingh@uka.org.uk) to resolve these issues.

Trinity Database

All the information on Endurance Officials has now been transferred to one database. The advantage of this is that the information we hold on Endurance officials has been 'cleaned up', duplicate entries removed and the facility

(photo: Mark Shearman)



now exists to provide statistical information and improved communication. As information on officials changes so new information, such as courses attended and records of experience, can be added. Furthermore all Endurance officials will have the opportunity shortly to make sure that their personal information such as home address, email address and telephone numbers are kept up to date.

The Endurance Pathway

Now that all the new levels have been released Endurance officials may wish to take the opportunity to progress along the Pathway. The Pathway and the necessary requirements to achieve each level can be found on the England Athletics website at www.englandathletics.org/endurance. All attendees at the new courses will receive details of the new Pathway and existing Level 2a's and 2b's who wish to progress further will receive information on the transitional arrangements.

Level 2 Officials' courses and Risk Assessment courses

The first stage along the Pathway is attendance at a Level 2 course and a programme is now being rolled out across

Endurance contacts

Tri-Regional Secretaries for endurance

North: Pat Green jngservices@btinternet.com
 Midlands & SW: Paul Ross paul.ross25@blueyonder.co.uk
 South: Nick Folwell nicholas.folwell@btinternet.com

Tri-Regional Peer Groups

North: Nick Hodgson (North East)
 John Driscoll (North West)
 Mike Moss (Yorkshire)
 Ernie Cripps (Co-opted)

Mids/SW: Ted Butcher (East Midlands)
 Paul Ross (South West)
 Graham Heeley (West Midlands)

South: Chris Harbord (East)
 Martin Howard (London)
 Graham Jessop (South East)

County Officials' Secretaries for endurance

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Beds: Paul Brooks honsec.bedsaaa@hotmail.co.uk
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Worcs: Roland Day roland.day@btinternet.com

England. Initially courses are programmed for Ipswich (Suffolk), Ivybridge (Devon), Eastleigh (Hampshire) and Leatherhead (Surrey). Further details of these courses can be found in the main Courses section on the England Athletics website. To secure a place and also to register as an Endurance official you will need to fill in the Endurance Officials' application form. At all the Level 2 courses mentioned above there will also be a Risk Assessment Course. Attendance at this course is mandatory for all Endurance Officials who wish to progress to Level 2c.

Log Books

Following attendance at a new Level 2 course, all prospective Endurance Officials will be given a new log book. This contains records of experience, a computer disk including all 6 level 2 modules for home study, the Endurance Officials' Pathway and application forms for progression to the next level. Endurance officials who already have been given a grade and wish to make progress along the Pathway are being advised how to obtain the appropriate documentation.

Records of Experience

This is important not only for new Endurance officials but for existing ones as well. Records of experience should be kept on annual basis from the 1 September to 31 August each year and currently we are still counting for progression purposes experiences from 1 September 2009. During September and October 2011 your records of experience should be sent to the appropriate Secretary in your area and their details are on the England Athletics website and in this edition of *For The Record*. Blank copies of the records can also be downloaded.

The Structure

A new structure to support and implement this work is currently being put in place. Each of the 3 Tri-Regions has an Endurance Tri-Regional Secretary; each English Region a peer group representative and each County either has an Official looking after Endurance work specifically or in many cases it is being undertaken by the Track and Field CoFSec. All these details are currently being finalised so that they will be in place and operational from 1 September 2011. Current information is opposite.

Level 3

Plans are now being prepared to complete the new Level 3 course. The syllabus has been determined, requests have currently been made for authors of the different modules and a programme to roll out these courses from January 2012 is being firmed up. It is expected that two pilot courses will be delivered in the Autumn.

Communication

It is very clear from comments received in recent months that the most important task to be addressed at present is to ensure there is effective communication with all Endurance officials. This update is another stepping stone in that process but we should like to hear from you on other areas which would be of interest to you or indeed if any of the above subjects need further clarification then email enduranceofficials@englandathletics.org

Education co-ordinators (ECs)

To facilitate the new procedures and the administration of the new courses, officials' education co-ordinators have been appointed for each of the different areas of England. These are listed on the back page.

The England Athletics Website

Reference is continually made in this update to the England Athletics website which, thanks to Nicola Evans, has been significantly improved over the last few months and much useful and relevant information.

Photofinish needs you!

As the outdoor season is now upon us and calendars are filling up rapidly, the photofinish group are trying to arrange for more people to become involved.



As the sport moves more and more towards the use of technology, there is a growing need for 'experts' in its use. People that know more than just working as operators – capturing or reading results – but are able to set up, trouble-shoot, and actually run the systems.

The sessions at the SEAOA conference in February showed a few people a little of what is involved, and proved useful to those that attended, but were only able to cover the 'using' of the system in detail. We need to do more, with more people, to widen the pool of expertise.

New rules

With the rules for the new Level 3 grading system requiring use of photofinish – and reports – everyone is going to have to do some meetings working with the systems. Too often, we hear complaints that there are too few opportunities to do photofinish, or that people can only 'have a go every two or three years'.

Now is your chance!

Well – now is your chance! Mike Scott can arrange for you to work on a system at one of various meetings during the summer when the equipment is being used. There will be a variety of meetings to choose from: e.g. St Mary's College for Richmond's Schools events on 14 May, and 26-27 June, there will be an opportunity to get involved, with some personal tuition.



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

These are managed by UKA. Go to www.uka.org.uk/officials for details. 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 Details of 2011 courses are available from Manjinder at msingh@uka.org.uk

Endurance courses

Find courses online at www.Englandathletics.org/courses and look in the dropdown 'other'.

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