

Election Address – Clive Poyner

I have been involved in grassroots athletics for some 45 years and in that time have garnered knowledge and understanding across many aspects of our sport.

Initially I competed to a County standard for Halesowen and Bromsgrove before moving to Norfolk and immersing myself in volunteering roles.

My coaching licence going back to 1980, was dusted down with jumps and throws added. Using my management knowledge I joined the committee of City of Norwich AC doing various roles including a 6 year period as Chair. To ensure I understood the expectations of being an official, I qualified as a track judge and timekeeper along with doing all the field event training. Currently, I am coaching 4 days a week within a combined events structure for athletes from u11 to u20 and help out on the judges' stand when not meeting managing.

For the last 10 years or so I have been Chair of Athletics Norfolk and Norfolk Sportshall and have organised numerous meetings / events including cross country, opens and championships in that time. I take particular pride in the achievements of Norfolk Sportshall with many National Final wins, coupled with a number of All Rounder Champions and the approaching 50th Quadkids competition. These are great entry level events for youngsters to experience athletics for the first time.

Understanding of the bigger picture being important to overall knowledge resulted in my decision to stand for election on the EA East Council Region Council in 2013. I spent the full 8 years on the Council, with the final two years as Chair. This role gave me a place on the National Council which in turn led to many video meetings with the senior team at EA as we provided grassroots feedback to assist with steering our sport through the pandemic. One such change was the regional support for UKA and meeting permits, which since its inception I have provided the regional support for the East Region.

Away from athletics my other passion has been manufacturing engineering. For the last 25 years I have held board positions including 15 years as Managing Director. Having steered my current company from 20 employees to 130 with secure foundations in place, the pandemic changed my view and I advised the company that I would 'retire' from engineering in September 2021.

Now that you know about my involvement in our sport and my professional background, I should explain why I put myself forward for the members elected EA board position.

Having 'retired' from engineering I now have plenty of time available to pursue my passion that existed before work began. I believe my knowledge of grassroots operating, constraints, and concerns will bring further diverse thinking and approach to the table; complimenting the current make-up of the board, alongside Lorna in the other members' elected board position.