



OFFICIALS' SECRETARIES REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 13 March 2015

Officials Committee

Stan Burton(BEM), Mike Barratt, Alison Friend, Peter Darts, Janet Smith, Pam Rogers

Committee Secretaries

Eileen & Terry Williams, 73 Marrowbrook Lane, Cove, Farnborough, GU14 0AE

Tel:01252 664455 email: eileenandterry@ntlworld.com

This is our 10th report to the AGM. Our Officials continue to be selected for National and International appointments including some who were invited to the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

HA UPGRADINGS

We are pleased to report that Jackie Tobin has been promoted to Level 3 (Probationary) and Lisa Baker, Pam Bungay, Sue Doust, Sian Henderson, Jez Pigden and Steve Richardson have all been promoted to Level 2 Region so our congratulations to them all. We continue to encourage newer Officials to progress up the ladder but are well aware that not all Officials, for various personal reasons, want to progress and are quite happy just supporting their Clubs where they are really needed. British Athletics are looking to change their Grading system again but there is a great groundswell of opinion that they should leave the Level 2 system as it is. However there have been changes to the way Officials are appointed to International Meetings and a new International Meetings Officials (IMO) group has now been created and we have a number on that list although it is fair to say that a number of senior Officials throughout the country are dissatisfied with this system and some have walked away!

HA NEW OFFICIALS

We held Level 2 Courses in Andover in November and a total of almost 30 over the 4 disciplines attended. Our thanks to Steve Baldwin, Peter Darts and Janet Smith for Tutoring at this one and, with Mike Barratt and Alison Friend, at other Courses throughout the Region and outside. Also, our thanks to Ian Oldacre from Andover AC for arranging access to their Track and providing some young athletes to enable candidates to get some practical experience. However, there are still Clubs who are not providing any people on these Courses and sooner or later they will find that they are unable to host meetings due to a lack of qualified Officials. This could have a big impact now with the restrictions on officiating long throws. We have had problems with some Clubs sending in Applications for Courses either by scanning them in or not getting them signed by the Applicant. This means that they do not show on the Trinity Database as the forms need to be signed by the Applicant with a passport size photograph. This also caused a considerable amount of unnecessary work for us and England Athletics. All those who attended Courses were included in our annual mail out for availabilities for County events with some success.

MEETINGS

We continue to arrange Officials for the County Track & Field and Multi Events Championships together with the Hampshire Schools events plus Special Olympics, Inter County events and those arranged by Michael Coker. Photofinish at the County Championships caused big problems as the Technician from HS Sports was not up to the job. After some not inconsiderable correspondence we achieved a £500 refund. For this year we are back to the regular Technician. We also covered the two Saucony Grand Prix Events at Basingstoke and Southampton. In late June Jersey will be hosting the NatWest World Island Games and we were asked to select some Officials, especially in senior positions, and have invited some 30 giving a spread of experience and also encouragement to some of our new and younger Officials. This was done in conjunction with Wendy Haxell who will be Meeting Manager. The Senior Appointments are Field Referee – Alison Friend, Track Referee – Steve Snodden, Chief Timekeeper – Mike Barratt, Chief Starter – Janet Smith, Chief Photofinish – Chas Harvey, Call Room Manager and ½ Marathon Referee – Pam Rogers. The Cross Country Championships were suitably covered although the weather was not too good. We attend meetings of the South of England Regional County Officials Secretaries (Cofsecs) every six months. Also our thanks to Richard Dean for all his work in updating the Officials page on the website and especially the Schools information which has proved to be a very useful source of information for athletes, parents and coaches.

ENDURANCE

There are still continuing problems with the Endurance Pathway but things appear to be slowly improving. We leave our Endurance Tutors, Pam Rogers and Ian Murdoch, to deal with arranging the relevant courses and we will give

them the backup required. There was an Endurance Course in Poole last Sunday but there was only one Hampshire attendee despite Pam advertising the Course as she knew people interested.

OFFICIALS' MEETING

We held our 10th 'Get Together' last March at Basingstoke Hockey Club with around 60 attending again. Original Guest Speaker was Cherry Alexander from British Athletics but she had to pull out late due to having to look after a Welsh contingent in Copenhagen for the World ½ Marathon Championships but she managed to get Malcolm Rogers, Chair of the UKA Technical Advisory Group to step in and he gave a super talk on his background in Athletics. Once again our thanks go to Michael Coker for all his help and support with the arrangements and the sponsorship of Sport Hampshire & Isle of Wight which meant that there was no cost to Hampshire Athletics. Our next gathering is on Friday 20th March once again at Basingstoke Hockey Club with Guest Speaker Cherry Alexander MBE. She will be in Glasgow that day but arrangements are in hand for her to make the journey down.

DIRECTORY

The 2015 edition should be ready for circulation to all our Officials and Clubs in April following our next Technical Officials meeting later this month at which selections for all Hampshire and Hampshire Schools events will take place. In 2014 we emailed the Directory and gave the option for a postal copy and, as we only received a handful of requests for the postal copy, this saved a tremendous cost in printing and postage. We will be adopting the same system this year.

SINFIELD AND PHILLIPS TROPHIES

The Sinfield Trophy was presented to Pam Bungay and the Phillips Trophy to Jack Messenger at the Basingstoke Open and County Championships respectively and this year's recipients will receive their presentations on 20th March at the 'Get Together'. In addition there will be a new Award donated by Sheena Fitzmaurice in memory of John Lofts which will also be presented on 20th March and we thank Sheena and the family for this generous donation.

NEWSLETTER

The bi-annual newsletter continues and Eileen (Editor) is always looking for articles. The majority go by email and we also send to some of our retired Officials who have asked to be kept in touch including Paul Slater in Malta. For those who remember Paul, he has not been well but is now recovering. We have been having problems with emailing the Newsletter through the Trinity database as the system does not like the size of the file so UKA have to reduce it more than we can!

TRINITY DATABASE

The Trinity Database has now been reduced as UKA have raised a Deactivated List which is for those who have not renewed their DBS for 6 months or not obtained a Licence within 2 years of their Course. However, without any notice or advice to Cofsecs, in early March Welfare instituted an on-line system for applying for a DBS which entails the Official logging into their Profile on Trinity. The problem here is that the majority don't know how to do this! In addition they will still have to produce their documents for verification.

Finally, our thanks to all our Officials who have supported us throughout the year and particularly to our Officials Committee whose expert advice is invaluable. As to the future, unless someone else would like to take over, we are quite prepared to continue to stand for another year.

Eileen & Terry Williams
(Joint County Technical Officials Secretaries)