



OFFICIALS' SECRETARIES REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 1st March 2013

Officials Committee

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

Committee Secretaries

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This is our 8th report to the AGM and 2012 has been a difficult year with the Queens Diamond jubilee which we think all enjoyed, followed by the 2012 London Olympics and Paralympics. Hampshire were well represented with 20 Officials selected to Officiate and, in addition, it was superb to meet so many other of our Officials who had volunteered as Games Makers. What a tremendous job they did as well to make the event the best ever. Some of our Officials were selected to senior positions such as Stan Burton (Meeting Manager), Wendy Haxell (Call Room Manager), Peter Nicholson (Field Referee) and Darryl Quinn (Technical Manager). As far as the future is concerned we are told that there will be a 'legacy' for athletics including Officials but we are yet to see that with recruiting new Officials.

HA UPGRADINGS

We are pleased to announce that Mike Barratt, Steve Snodden and Darryl Quinn have been promoted on to the International Chief Officials Group and Alison Friend, Doug Scott, James Townend and John Tobin to the International Officials Group. Jacky Tobin and Geoff Davies have been promoted to Level 2 Region. Our congratulations to all the above. We are actively encouraging our Officials to progress but we must all understand that some Officials, for various personal reasons, don't want to progress at present so we must bear that in mind and not push these Officials as we do really need them at Club level. It is, after all, our hobby. We have already seen the adverse effect of Officials being pressurised. We have been privy to a new paper from UKA in which they are considering a new Grading system, not another we hear you say – we make no further comment!!

HA NEW OFFICIALS

We held Level 2 Courses in Basingstoke in November and Winchester in December covering all 4 disciplines with 17 attending from Hampshire and more from other Counties including Essex. These were all well received by the attendees. Unfortunately numbers attending seem to be falling and there are still a few clubs who do not appear to be pushing these courses and they will suffer in due course when they find they do not have sufficient qualified Officials to run their meetings. In addition England Athletics are now putting restrictions on the minimum numbers they require to approve Courses and we did have problems with justifying the courses we held in 2012! If Clubs want meetings to run they have to support these courses – some do but others do not. In addition we held Health & Safety Courses at both venues as all Officials must have attended a Course before 1st April 2013 to retain their licence and we have circulated all those who have not as yet attended a course. We did have problems with the material from England athletics as they sent double the amount for Health & Safety Course in Winchester but failed to deliver the Field material so UKA had to post all the folders etc. to the attendees! Or thanks to the Tutors, Steve Snodden, Steve Baldwin, Janet Smith, Alison Friend and Wendy Haxell for their time. We have already emailed all these new Officials with availability forms for 2013 with little response. As far as H & S is concerned if Officials do not meet the 1st April date mentioned above then UKA are sending out letters stating that their Licence will be withdrawn. We have already had an example of this in Hampshire and the Official refuses to attend such a course and will therefore just do his club meetings as a helper. It all seems rather poorly thought out by UKA as he can now Officiate as a helper and still be covered by UKA insurance! We have said that he is more than welcome at Hampshire events. In addition to this, UKA, now British Athletics, are bringing in H & S as an online course so that Officials will then no longer have to attend a course and the date is set for **April 2013!** Our County Tutors, which also includes Peter Darts, Darryl Quinn, Mike Barratt and Stan Burton in addition to those stated above and ourselves, continue to

deliver courses outside the County. We are at present in the process of arranging courses for Jersey in April so life is not all bad!

MEETINGS

We continue to arrange Officials for the County Track & Field and Multi Events Championships together with the Hampshire Schools events plus DSE Southern Region, Special Olympics, Inter County events and those arranged by Michael Coker. In 2012, of course, we had the inaugural Saucony Grand Prix at Basingstoke with a good response from Officials with support from surrounding Counties. Hopefully this will develop but with better weather in 2013 as that evening it was like the middle of winter with heavy rain. This year there is one major clash in that the British Athletics League have arranged a fixture on the day of the County Schools Championships so we will be looking for as much support as possible from all our Officials. Why this has occurred is beyond us as the County Schools has nationally always been on the 2nd Saturday in June. The Cross Country Championships were suitably covered although the timekeeping was a little short but Stan Burton put in a Guest appearance! We attend meetings of the South of England Regional County Officials Secretaries (Cofsecs) every six months and have been invited to join the newly formed England Athletics Cofsecs Working Group looking at the role etc of Cofsecs country wide, first meeting is in Birmingham on 4th March.

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 relevant courses and we will give them the backup required.

OFFICIALS MEETING

We held our 8th 'Get Together' last April at Basingstoke Hockey Club with around 60 attending again and the Guest Speaker was Chris Cohen from LOCOG who gave us an update on 2012 and in particular the Paralympics. Once again our thanks go to Michael Coker for all his help and support with the arrangements and the sponsorship of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Athletics Network which meant that there was no cost to Hampshire Athletics. The next gathering will be on 12th April at the same venue with Guest Speaker Mick Strode who is an International Table Tennis Umpire who was officiating at the Olympics, so we will hear his version of events.

DIRECTORY

The 2013 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.

SINFIELD AND PHILLIPS TROPHIES

The Sinfield Trophy was presented to Jackie Tobin and the Phillips Trophy to Joe Flitcroft at the 'Get Together' and this year's recipients will receive their presentations on 12th April.

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. If anyone specifically would like a copy or contribute an article then please get in touch with Eileen.

Finally, our thanks to all our Officials who have supported us throughout a difficult outdoor season and particularly to our Officials Committee whose expert advice is invaluable. John Lofts has decided that after some 37 years on the Technical Officials Committee the time has come to retire from the Committee. Our heartfelt thanks to John for all his hard work and on the Committee over the years and we hope to still see him around the athletics circuit. To add some Endurance expertise to the Committee we have invited Pam Rogers to join us and she has accepted – welcome to Pam. 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)