**Derbyshire Athletics.**

**County Technical Officials Up-date Issue 11**

**January 2019**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Welcome to issue 11 of Up-date for Derbyshire Technical officials. Having had a busy 2018 both on Track and Off Track we hope that you have had sufficient rest and are ready to tackle what promises to be yet another very busy year ahead for many Technical officials of both persuasions. (Track & Field and Endurance.)

**Health & Safety.**

Following on from last year’s advisory (*see Up-date 10 June 2018*) re Long Throws, UKA have issued a revised specification for Throws cages. (IAAF Standard.) Unfortunately despite the Main cage in the Centre-bowl at Moorways being renewed only 5 years ago it may require modification (this is being disputed at the moment,) at some considerable cost to Derby City Council. Other planned work in the stadium includes repainting of the Lines on the track and resurfacing both of the Throws circles. (Inside and Outside cages.)

**Congratulations**

Congratulations go to the following Track & Field Technical Officials for their achievement of obtaining a Grade or an upgrade. Emma Marples (Photo-finish L1.), James Franco (Starter / Starters Assistant L2.), Hilary Burton (Starters Assistant L1.), Geoff Worsley (Timekeeper L1.), Mark Hazlehurst (Field L3.), Emma Nicol (Field L3.), Becky Waites (Field L1.), Rebecca Wardle (Field L2.), Michelle Tilbrook-Heath (Field L1.), Maisie Hollingworth (Starters Assistant L1.), Jackie Acton (Field L1.), Joanne Sharpe (Field L1.) and Zara Acton (Field L1.). A big well done to all and thanks for your endeavours. We look forward to seeing you all at many events this year.

**Officials Recognition.**

For many years Derbyshire Athletics Technical Officials have seemed to be the ‘Poor Relation’ when at many venues with other Counties Officials. (We do not have clothing with the Derbyshire Athletics branding). The Derbyshire Athletics Committee has now agreed to purchase for Technical Officials who support Derbyshire Athletics events a quantity of ‘Polo’ type shirts with the Derbyshire Athletics badge and the wording Derbyshire Athletics Technical Official embroidered on the front, this embroidery will be in the County colours of Maroon & Green. At the moment it will be one per person with the opportunity to buy a 2nd at cost price. This is going to be done hopefully in time for the County Track & Field Championships in May. Hopefully there will be a variety of sizes available but we will be sending out more information about this, (cost per garment / sizes available, etc.) as soon as we can.

**The 2019 Track & Field Season.**

The Derbyshire Athletics County Track and Field Championships (held at the same time with Nottinghamshire) are due to be hosted by Derbyshire at Moorways Stadium on the weekend of May 11th & 12th (please put these dates in your diary). These Championships are the only chance to officiate with Male & Female competitors of all age categories U11 (QuadKids) through to and including Masters. It can only be successful if we have enough Technical Officials of all levels plus a great number of other willing volunteers to fill the ancillary positions. Recently qualified and upgraded Officials will learn much from working with many experienced Officials.

There will also be throughout the Season the usual four Derbyshire Athletics Mini-league matches at Moorways. (For our younger Athletes.) These can be a great pathway into officiating and count towards the four meetings required to qualify as a Technical Official when the L1 course is completed and the DBS disclosure is in place.

If you know of anyone interested in becoming a Technical Official please encourage them to come along and help out at Mini-league events. Track judging, Field judging, Timekeeping, Starters assistant or Photo-finish judging are all available to have a try at. Photo-finish is all done on a Lap-top and there is no deep dark mystery to putting a Cursor on the Torso of an Athlete and pressing ‘Enter’ and it is usually quite warm and dry in the PF box. A Track & Field Level 1 Officials course is being planned for October or November this year.

There should be an additional opportunity to extend your skills with Disability Athletics this year as the Cerebral Palsy (CP) Games is being hosted at Derby on August 10th. The usual ‘Availability’ list will be sent out to all T&F Technical Officials which will list all events provided by ‘Derbyshire Athletics’ plus all events being ‘Hosted’ at Moorways Stadium for those who are willing and able to assist.

Without suitably qualified Technical Officials in all disciplines competitions cannot take place. It is also worth noting that the Highest level of officiating is Level 4 and this can lead to Travel to interesting places all over the World if you have the desire to do it.

Unfortunately it has been brought to our attention that from 1st March there will be a Car Parking charge introduced by Derby City Council at Moorways for events of £2 per car the Good News is that Technical Officials Officiating at the event will be exempt from this charge. How this will be administered is not yet known but as soon as we know we will let you know.

**Endurance (Road & Cross Country)**

In spite of trying to encourage members of clubs to train to be Endurance Officials few have taken the opportunity to learn to become (better) Officials. Unfortunately I see many well intentioned Endurance Officials struggle with the simplest of tasks and ignore the advice of a more experienced Official who operates at National level and is one of ten Endurance Tutors in the UK! No-one can Referee any race legitimately without attending a Risk Awareness module because that Official would not be covered by UKA Insurance. Other bodies exist but are not recognised Governing Bodies of the sport in the UK. Be Safe Be Aware.

From the autumn of 2019 any Official renewing their Officials Licence will need to complete the Safeguarding and Protecting Children Module which can be completed online. It costs £10 but without it Licences will not be re-issued; therefore, you will not necessarily be covered by UKA Insurance. In the event of an incident and you are proved negligent can you afford to lose your house? That could be the risk you take. I am not intending making people panic but that could be a strong possibility.

If anyone has any comments or items to be included in Issue 12 of Up-date it will be going out around June 2019. Any ‘Feed Back’ is always welcome so that we know it is being read by those it is intended for. Again, we have not been inundated with questions so either everyone knows it all or you are just not reading this update which is wasting our time.

**Mike Heffernan (T&F Secretary)**

**Barry Parker (Endurance Secretary)**