

Derbyshire Athletics.
County Officials Up-date 6.
June 2016

Dear all

Here we are again halfway through yet another busy Track & Field season, with I am sure all of us having witnessed many memorable performances already, with plenty more to come hopefully.

Sad News.

It is with Great sadness that we have lost, after a short illness one of the unsung volunteers of Derbyshire Athletics in Irene Larder. Irene (although not officially a Technical Official) was a great support to the County in that she was a very valuable asset at Mini-league, County Championships and I'm sure many more meetings as a Timekeepers Steward, as well as supporting Brian her husband and Chesterfield & District AC. We extend our heartfelt sympathies to Brian and his family in their very sad loss.

Good News!

After many months of hard work including negotiations with suppliers, filling in of bid forms, negotiations with clubs etc. we have finally purchased and are using our very own Photo-Finish system for the benefit of our County Athletes. The total cost of the system was about £18.5k.

The County Association has formed a Technology Sub-committee which at the moment is Barry Parker, Paul Smith, Nigel Smith, Karl Ponty and I (Mike Heffernan). We have a commitment to increasing the use of available Technology in Derbyshire for the benefit of Athletes and Technical Officials. The next major purchase we are targeting is an Electronic Distance Measure (EDM) the likely cost of this would be in excess of £4000.00

The PF system is also available for hire to outside parties but therein lays the problem! We need more volunteers to learn how to Set-up and use the system, they initially don't need to be qualified Technical Officials, they merely need to be reasonably Tech savvy (able to drive a computer,) the setting up can be taught easily and there is also a written and pictorial guide to set up.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in working with the system please let anyone on the Sub-committee know, we will be only too happy to see them at any meeting where the equipment is in use. Please note that this role is free of any remuneration.

County T&F Championships.

Our County Track & Field Championships in conjunction with Nottinghamshire AAA this year held at Harvey Hadden Stadium, Nottingham was again a very reasonable success given the Field event limitations at Harvey Hadden. Whilst well supported by our County Officials generally the Sunday was noticeably short of Derbyshire officials. The staging of this Championship is very difficult particularly if there is a lack of Technical Officials, as it is a very tight Timetable and fewer officials have to do more and more work with very little time between events to gather thoughts and get ready for the next event. Fewer and fewer people are coming forward to help organise the event and more and more work is being loaded onto the willing, shrinking organisational team. This year we were particularly short of Ancillary helpers on the day. The organising committee need help in the future as none of us are getting any younger, the whole organisation needs younger blood to come in and that is just not happening. So once again a plea to anyone who has an interest in Athletics (particularly at County level) please come forward and make yourselves' known. To all Technical Officials at any level from Trainee upwards please don't be put off because it is a Championship it is the ideal meeting to gain valuable experience. It is the only time that all age groups from both genders compete at the same meeting. Again if you know of anyone who has an interest in helping to organise either the Track & Field or Cross Country Championships please ask them to make themselves known to any member of the County Athletics Committee. ALL volunteers gratefully accepted.

Availability.

Well before the start of the T&F season I send out an availability list to all registered active Technical officials. I do expect a reply on the form I send out, as I compile a spreadsheet of all meetings on the list. This year I sent to 63 registered officials of all levels. I received 35 replies, some of which were just in an email, not on the form I sent out! The form I send also has space for Name, Discipline, Level, and email (just in case you have changed your preferred email address,) 15 returned minus this information. Can I just ask all officials to send a FULLY completed form electronically to me to make my life easier when sorting availabilities out. Next year I will endeavour to publish the availability list on the County web site.

If you indicate that you are available for a meeting then take it as read that you are appointed to that meeting unless I inform you otherwise. **(Rant Over!)** To all who have sent me their availability I thank you very much.

Annual Record of Experience. (ARE)

The Annual Record of Experience is an important tool to both Barry and I as we see from this, who is doing what, where and when. It also demonstrates to us who we should be encouraging to go a little higher with their officiating experience. We both believe that all Technical Officials (but particularly Field officials) should aspire to at least being level 2 (County level) Officials as it is at this level, Field officials can be the Lead official in the event (particularly important for Long Throws) for a Club event.

The date for submission of the ARE is 1st October of each year. The competition year, for Track and Field, being 1st October (current year) to 30th September the following year. Endurance is slightly different dates. The ARE should be received on 1st September (the competition year being 1st September to 31st August). Last year Barry received 6 ARE's for Endurance (there are supposedly 25 Active Endurance officials). Barry states 'supposedly' because when he contacted the 25 Endurance Officials re their level of activity only 16 replied. Thank you for helping us to help you. Mike received 19 ARE's from 60 Active T&F Officials. I will say no more.

Officials Forum.

Barry and I are thinking of trying to organise an Officials Forum for Derbyshire Technical Officials. It will be held around October on a Saturday at a venue to be decided. It will be an opportunity for all Technical Officials in Derbyshire (Track & Field and Endurance officials,) to air their views / gripes, ask questions and generally help us to improve things for you in the world of officiating. If you have a view or problem or an idea, we cannot do anything about it if we don't know about it. We want to be inclusive not exclusive. If you would be interested in attending such a Forum please let us know so that we can organise it and put the notice out in good time. If you have a topic for discussion / information required, again let us know. It will be your Forum not ours - you will drive the Forum, we will facilitate it.

Officials Education.

In November a Level 1 course will be organised which will be a one day event, on a Saturday or Sunday. It will be for any new officials and for established officials who want to take on a new discipline. The specific disciplines will be Track Judging, Field Judging, Timekeeping, Starting / Marking, Photo-finish. These disciplines will only be included if enough interest is shown. It is possible that the Health & Safety module and the Generic Module will by then be completed on-line which means that the discipline modules will be the only part which has to be completed with a Tutor, may be more practically orientated and only needing a 3hr attendance. More information on this will be made available nearer the time and as it becomes clearer to us what is happening. If you know of anyone interested in becoming a Licensed Technical Official please (encourage them to do the course and the discipline in which they are interested) let either Barry Parker or Me know so that we can gauge interest before booking the course with England Athletics.

Congratulations.

Our congratulations go to the following Technical Officials for achieving accreditation at their new level; Andrew Baker and Paul Bean Level 2 (County) Field Judge. David Harker level 1 (Club) Field Judge. Mark Hazlehurst Level 1 (Club) Track Judge. There should be many more to congratulate but Licensing Applications seem to be rather slow at coming in. If you have any queries concerning Licensing, up-grading or any other question about officiating and the officials' pathway please contact either Barry or Me as we are only too willing to help and advise anyone. It is after all our job as Officials Secretaries to help you to achieve your goal.

Finally!

A very big Thank you, to all officials in whatever capacity who have contributed in any way to what so far has been a very busy but successful season, please keep it up. The next up-date is due in December let us have anything that may be of interest to other officials before then.

Mike Heffernan. Track & Field Secretary.

Barry Parker. Endurance Secretary.