



# Communiqué

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Spring 15

## Letter from the Chairman

As the weather warms and improves so some officials come out of hibernation while others dry themselves off after wet and cold endurance events. Others look forward to the fresh air after an indoor season which seems to get louder each year, or am I an old fogie?! Wherever or whatever you have been doing I hope you enjoyed yourself.

Don't forget that if you want to access the ESSA Rules for this year all the competition pages are in the Members ' area of the

SEAOA website. Our thanks go to Eileen Williams for all her work on this. We have only been able to do this by agreement with ESSA that we will not give the rules to anyone who is not a member of the Association.

I look forward to seeing many of you through our mutual hobby. Enjoy your summer whatever the weather.

Peter Lee

## DBS

There seems to be some confusion with the new DBS procedure especially with renewals. The new system means that you can now renew your certificate on line by going into your Trinity profile. Welfare should now be sending out renewal reminders 5-6 weeks prior to the expiry of your current certificate. You can then apply on line and you will need to select your verifier who will then be advised by Welfare of the link to complete the verification also on line. Your verifier would normally be either your Club Welfare Officer, if you are a member of a Club, or your Cofsec. They will still need to see the usual documents to complete the verification.

Should you not receive a reminder, which does happen, then you should email [dbs@uka.org.uk](mailto:dbs@uka.org.uk) to obtain the link to apply on line.

In order to tidy up the Cofsecs Trinity database a Deactivated List of Officials has been created. This primarily contains all those who have not completed their DBS within 6 months of the expiry of their current DBS or, if they are new Officials, have not applied for their DBS within 6 months of their Course. However, you can be reinstated on the main list if you subsequently apply for your DBS.

To check the situation regarding your DBS

you should log in to your profile at [www.englandathletics.org/myprofile](http://www.englandathletics.org/myprofile) See the 'Personal Details' section at the top of the page once you have logged in. At the bottom of the first column you will see your current DBS status:-

o If you have no DBS check or your DBS check has expired this will be shown in **red** - please click on the link to 'Access online DBS' next to this to complete the online application

o If your DBS check is due to expire shortly this will be shown in **amber** - please click on the link to 'Access online DBS' next to this to complete the online application

o If your DBS check is fully up to date the date and status will be shown in **green** - you do not need to act, there will be no link to access the online DBS process. It is, however, worth noting when your application is due to expire so you can act a few months before this.

Fuller details are on the UKA website and we hope this makes things a little clearer. If you are still encountering problems then contact Welfare on [0121 713 8450](tel:01217138450) or email the address above.

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On the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 UKA Welfare and Performance will be leaving the office at Sportcity, Manchester. The Welfare Team will be relocating to an office in Manchester which will no longer be accessible to the public. On that basis the address will not be circulated unless you require to visit them specifically. The postal address remains Athletics Welfare, PO Box 332, Sale, Manchester. M33 6XL The telephone 0161 223 4246 will be switched off on the 31<sup>st</sup> and they are unable to have a redirect on that number. The new contact telephone number is [0121 713 8450](tel:01217138450).

## SOUTH OF ENGLAND ATHLETICS OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at TVAC

The EDM certificate has to be modified. Nothing re Seeding as yet. Dave Lipscombe to write an article. Paypal still an issue for some Members. The matter of a Webmaster is under review.

ESAA booklet - circulated by Eileen Williams and approved although some parts not there when converting to pdf. Paul Kirkpatrick to put a note on certificate of Membership re ESAA booklets. ESAA Rules books cancelled by Steve Baldwin. EW will hold a small stock.

Caveat on attendance at Committee Meetings. If Member does not attend on more than one occasion without a valid reason then they could be removed from Committee.

No article as yet from G. Jessop re Endurance. As the whole situation is up in the air we will leave for next meeting.

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARIES.** - 175 renewals so far. Two new Members paid but no further details. Paul Kirkpatrick supplied with contact details. Paul has sent new spreadsheet and asks for feedback. Not for circulation due to Data Protection. Suggested we put on Members only section Password protected but concerns. Paul is now issuing Members with Membership numbers which will be permanent.

### **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS -**

Timekeepers - Nothing to report.

Track - no meeting but will be looking at Booklets and Conference.

Field - All in last Communique. Books sent to Nicola Evans for website but no action. Problem raised re Scottish Officials Award as given to Technical Team at Commonwealth Games but no mention of the two English Officials. Raised by Peter Lee with Keith Davies who has taken it on board.

Starters/Assistants - Julian Starkey has now joined the Sub committee. Going to prepare a booklet to try to attract new Starters.

Photo Finish - No Sub-committee

Endurance - No Sub-committee. Problem raised re National Officials Forum at Birmingham in February on a Tuesday.

**ELSE** - There have been problems with the new IMO listings with complaints which are being dealt with by Wendy Haxell. New Policy & Procedures show mileage capped at 300miles at 30p per mile which EA started at beginning of January but should have been 1<sup>st</sup> April. Wendy Haxell has been 'on the case'! Technical Report forms being redesigned for L3 reports. Comments from member(s) of ELSE re Conference as felt AGM too short and didn't allow for discussion. (At SE Regional Cofsecs meeting following day both Chair( Alan Vincent) and Gill Freeman said this was not mentioned at ELSE!) Our feeling was that the idea of AGM at Conference was to get larger attendance and keep it short and a full discussion would not be practicable.

**CONFERENCE** - Peter Lee said that Tamsin had done a good job having been dropped in at the deep end. Feedback was good apart from IT problems. However there were no feedback forms and this will be looked at for next Conference - food option was well received. Lack of L2 Officials! Net

income for Conference was £440 and Expenditure approx. £1700 so loss around £1200. Decided to leave Grant Application to EA and apply at start of next Financial Year, 1<sup>st</sup> April, to cover loss above.

**NEWSLETTER** - Thanks to Paul Kirkpatrick for quick distribution of last issue. Next issue due out 1<sup>st</sup> April. Need articles not all serious. Code of Conduct for Photographers to go in next issue.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS -**

Steve Baldwin enquired whether we wanted another stock of pens. Agreed Yes.

Next Meetings - 27<sup>th</sup> April, 13<sup>th</sup> July and 5<sup>th</sup> October.

## CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS

Press/photographers must be easily identifiable and must report to the Official in charge of the event and should only be allowed on to the competition area with the Meeting Organiser's permission.

Photographers entering the competition area must:

1. Report presence to officials in charge of event
2. Comply with requests from officials to move location
3. Be aware of roped restrictions
4. Take notice of and acknowledge warning horns
5. Look both ways before crossing tracks and runways
6. Not use the centre field as a short cut
7. Not obstruct the progress of any event
8. Not stand between Officials and finish line

We thought this might be useful for you to give out at your meetings. For an email copy please contact the editor.



## AGE GROUP CONSULTATION TIMELINE

The Rules Revision Group has received a request from UK Members Council, UKA Board, each of the Home Country Association's Boards and the CEO Forum to consult with the sport and gain feedback as to whether adopting the IAAF Rule Book should include the adoption of the IAAF Age Groups.

**Age Groups** Under IAAF rules the Age Groups would change to Under 20, Under 18, Under 16 and Under 14 from UKA's current Under 20, Under 17, Under 15 and Under 13.

A specific timeline for the opportunity to provide feedback on this Age Group proposal is as follows:-

-Feedback request posted to UKA Website, available from Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015

-Deadline for feedback from the sport will be Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015

-Feedback update to the sport will be circulated by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2015

-Final decision will be available by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2015

There is a FAQs paper on the British Athletics web-site paper to help give further guidance and clarity behind the Age Group proposal. Please send your proposals for rule changes on the required template to [rules@uka.org.uk](mailto:rules@uka.org.uk) by 27<sup>th</sup> July 2015 and any comments on age group consultation to [agegroupconsultation@uka.org.uk](mailto:agegroupconsultation@uka.org.uk) by 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

### Points for consideration:

It is not possible for Schools to use 31<sup>st</sup> December as a change of age group as this is part way through a school year. Therefore athletes born from September to December who compete for both a club and school will compete in different age groups to the rest of their year group in Track and Field.

In certain Hurdle and Throwing events this will mean that an athlete born between September and December may have to compete with different specifications during the same season. This will give very little opportunity for them to attain the English Schools standard as most events will be using the new age groups.

Reducing the U20 age group to a 2 year age group is hailed as giving more opportunity to the athletes. Is this true in the lower divisions of leagues such as YDL when clubs are already struggling to fill the teams? In any case leagues will have to be revised.

What will happen with the false start rule? At the moment it is U17 but that won't be an age group. Will it apply to all including U14 when a lot of athletes are just starting their career in athletics?

The age group will change half way through a Cross Country season. The suggestion is that leagues take place before Christmas and Championships afterwards. Leagues which have 5 or more fixtures do not have time to fit this in before Christmas.

As only County Championships will have been run in new age groups how do Counties select fairly for representative matches? What happens to an athlete unavailable for these Championships through illness?

What happens to the grass roots athlete who is not good enough to be selected for representative honours? Their season will effectively finish at their County Championships.

If you have an opinion on any of these or other points make sure you do one of these things:

- Put it on the [agegroupconsultation@uka.org.uk](mailto:agegroupconsultation@uka.org.uk) yourself.
- Contact your club so that they can give a Club response
- Contact your discipline sub-committee with your views so that they can put forward a response.
- Do nothing - but then don't moan if you don't like the outcome!

As you will notice we only have 10 pages for this issue and not our normal 12. If you have opinions / stories/ questions or even silly questions you have been asked please send them to the Editor.

Examples of the silly questions we have been asked :recently; We were asked how to programme a Primary School event for 12 small and 12 large Schools which traditionally is a complete nightmare with children rushing from track to field and back and missing events.

We have also been asked how far Year 4 and 5 should run in Cross Country!  
This is your Newsletter and we want to hear from YOU.



Where did the winter go? Spring is here; cross-country will soon be a distant memory; and track and field will soon be underway. So, let's look back, and try and remember some of last year's events and achievements. **All questions relate to events in 2014.**

1. Who was first across the line in the Hertfordshire Cross-Country Championships? [This is not typical of the questions in this quiz, I can assure you!]
2. Which field event athlete beat a long-standing world record, indoors at Donetsk?
3. Who was Britain's only gold medallist at the World Indoors in Poland?
4. Which Briton won a LJ silver at the same meeting?
5. Who set a UK record in the HJ at the National Indoor championships?
6. Where did Greg Rutherford, rather controversially, break the UK LJ record, with a leap of 8.51m?
7. Who won the women's national 10,000m Championship in an Exeter AC vest, which was older than some of her fellow competitors?
8. Who won the 400mH in 48.69 at the Glasgow GP, while taking a break from his main event?
9. Which sprinter ran 9.96 to go third on the UK all-time 100m list?
10. Which Briton won two golds at the World Junior Championships in Eugene?
11. Which other Briton won gold at the event?
12. Where were the inaugural World Relays held?
13. Who, in winning her event at the Diamond League meeting in Birmingham, won her 55<sup>th</sup> competition in a row?
14. Which teams won the BAL and UKWL?
15. At the Commonwealth Games, who beat David Rudisha in the 800m?
16. Which two Welsh athletes missed the Commonwealth Games following positive drug tests?
17. How many golds and total medals did GB win at the European Championships?
18. Which Briton won medals behind Mo Farah in both the 5000m and the 10000m at the European Championships?
19. Who won silver in the 400m behind Martin Rooney at the European Championships?
20. How many British 100m men ended the year in the world's fastest 100?
21. Where did double European Champion, Mo Farah, appear in the top 30 lists for the season, based on times, in the 5000m, 10000m and the half-marathon?
22. What was Mo Farah's time when winning the Great North Run?
23. Which Briton finished 11<sup>th</sup> in the London Marathon on his debut at the distance?
24. In what event did Chris Baker finish top of the men's UK merit rankings?
25. Which 76 year old has run at least one mile every day for the last 50 years?

## SEEDING

David Lipscombe

Since 1927 only two unseeded competitors have won the Wimbledon Gentlemen's Singles Title can you name them ?

Having undertaken seeding for the first time at the Southern Indoor Championships, I have tried to explain what happens.

### Why Seed ?

At open meetings the athletes are split into heats for track races from the fastest times to the slowest times. At the Southern championships the athletes are seeded so that if running to their stated personal bests the quickest runners will progress to the Final.

### How is Seeding achieved ?

The Seeding team receives a list for all track races in the ranking order of the personal best times for those Individuals competing. Once registration has closed for a specific event then all the athletes who have registered are ticked off against the ranking order that the seeding team has.

The Seeding team using a designated Indoor seeding policy, can then work out how many heats are required for each event and accordingly what the qualification will be for future rounds. If there are 8 heats then the quickest 8 athletes on the ranking order will be numbered 1-8, then for next 8 athletes on the ranking order they are numbered from 8-1 and so on until all athletes are given a number.

The draw for the first round is random and can be done either by using playing cards or a similar method. Once the seeding has been undertaken then a list can be given to all those who need a copy i.e. Call Room, Photo-Finish, Starter's Assistant and Track Referee. The Call room may then have an athlete who was not ticked off on the registration list but has turned up with their number. At that point if a lane is vacant in any of the heats they can then be inserted into that heat or the heats may need to be completely redrawn.

When the first round is completed for any subsequent rounds the ranking order will be based on the positions and times for the preceding round. Heat winners, in time order, are given favoured lanes. Then second placed athletes in rank order, followed by 3<sup>rd</sup> placed Athletes. The allocation for favoured lanes is a random draw. In the 200m Indoors after the first round only 5 lanes of the track are used.

The favoured lanes for the 60m and 60m Hurdles are 3 and 4, then 2 and 5 and then 1 and 6.

This is slightly different for the circular races where the favoured lanes are 5 and 6, then 3 and 4 and then 1 and 2.

Finally the only two unseeded players to win the Wimbledon Gentlemen's singles title since 1927 are, Boris Becker (1985) and Goran Ivanisevic (2001)

## TRACK CHAT

By the time you receive this I expect some of you have started your Outdoor programme and if not you are about to start shortly - that means the weather will no doubt change!!!!!!!!!! We have been considering updating the booklets we used to have under the old system but after careful consideration we have decided to leave this large task for a while in view of the pending rule changes coming into force in 2016. The Track booklet which England Athletics 'highjacked' from us has not been kept up to date by England Athletics and really needs redoing but by who?

Planning for Conference 2015 is now on the way and we will be meeting shortly to look at Track content. We really need all your input as to what you want so please send me an email and we will look at what we can incorporate. Don't forget we are here for you and not ourselves so we need your help with this.

Finally, I hope you all have a good and enjoyable season and if there is any help or advice you require please do not hesitate to get in touch with me or any of my Track sub-committee.  
Happy Officiating  
Terry Williams

### TRACK TIP

How many times have I had an athlete, coach or parent come up to me and complain about the start of the race, question too difficult. Solution is one of the easiest as the Track Referee. Refer them to the Chief Starter, or Starter of there is only one, as **the Start is the sole responsibility of the Starter**. Don't get involved and definitely don't offer an opinion.  
Terry

## STARTERS / STARTERS ASSISTANT

Jemma Bates

It is the beginning of the outdoor track & field season with meetings most weekends & some during the week. This means our discipline is going to be very much in demand with the number of actual starters reducing. In some areas one or maybe two starters available which makes it hard for learning. This season as a discipline we need to try & recruit more people otherwise some local meetings, league matches & schools meetings may not happen which is a shame for the athletes. In Dorset last year the county schools championships nearly was a field only meeting as the two Dorset starters were unavailable. Luckily one starter from Hampshire was able to rearrange other commitments to help out.

I know from talking to some of you that this is not an unusual occurrence. Therefore, as an official to ease the load, let's try & encourage more people to take up starting & marking.



## MEMBERSHIP

(Play) Acting Membership Sex Report.

Whilst innocently tearing up raffle tickets at the AGM, I was approached by two shady looking characters, Steve the D(ispatcher) and Peter (the Bruce) Lee. I should have vaulted the tables and bolted like a shot, but cornered as I was, any chance of a 200m PB to my getaway car was out of the question. A "job needed doing", your "co-operation" was expected, no need to discuss, or it would be the high jump, followed by measuring my length in a pit....

So, that is how I took on the acting membership secretary role until Steve Davis was able to take over in April.

I had the membership database, and details of members that had paid before and at conference, so update those first. Then Eileen sent me the latest "Communique" to distribute (about 450 in total!). At this point, the learning curve went up like a Pole Vaulter, as I discovered that there was a limit on how many email addressees I could put in one email..... I think I sent seventeen emails in total to get out to the 450 addressees, printed off another 15 "Communiques" and posted those.... At that point "Outlook" stopped working (?), and I switched to Mozilla Thunderbird as a mail handler.

Renewal emails then dropped into my inbox like a waterfall, indeed my cup runneth over.... I was replying to those that needed BACs details, or to where to post a cheque, and updating the database. At that point I realised I should have included the weblink to the renewal page in emailed Communiques, and, as pointed out by a postal Communique recipient, should have put a renewal form in the post for those members. Things to remember for next year. Checked that members had rule books, which Steve Davis has since been posting. Steve Baldwin has been notifying me of Paypal (a few bugs) and Bacs payments completed, so confirming payment for renewal. In two months I have sent and received something like 600 emails, plus some postal renewals, with over 200 members having renewed for 2015.

So if your renewal and payment has not gone quite as smoothly as in the past, you can blame me! My thanks to Steve Baldwin, who has answered my questions for the Treasurer, and you can also thank previous occupants of this role for their efforts, as I have spent a lot of time on this over the last few months, and this has not even been a "rule book year". Going forward, I think Steve Davis and I will be sharing the workload as Joint Membership Secretaries to try and give a good service to our members.

Happy Easter!

Paul Kirkpatrick

Dear official/friend/colleague,  
Hopefully you have read the article from Paul Kirkpatrick concerning membership matters.

Both he and I have agreed to share the role of membership officer, particularly in the short term, but hopefully as a permanent matter!

I would like to thank Terry and Eileen for nominating me for this position, but there again I am not sure that 'thanks' is the word I should be using!!

Having received a handover of all the membership paperwork from Jess Lacey at the M4 services at Chieveley, (real James Bond cloak and dagger stuff), I noticed her laughing and a visible weight lift off her shoulders; it suddenly dawned on me as to how much work is involved.

For myself, I am nearing the end of an Open University degree course, which is taking up more time than I would care for and is getting in the way of athletics and membership officer duties. Hence the assistance from my hero and saviour Paul Kirkpatrick.

With two of us being involved in membership duties, we are hoping that we will be able to move from being an administrative function, to a more proactive role and this is where I need your help!

Firstly, you are all much more experienced and knowledgeable than me with regards to recruiting and retention of members. You also know what has been tried before, what worked and what did not and also why that was so. Unfortunately I don't. Can I therefore ask you to share your ideas and thoughts with me on these matters and at the same time please don't assume that I already know X or Y, because I don't! If you have a suggestion, I would rather hear it 50 times than not at all.

Please can you email me with your opinions as to how membership could be expanded. What do you see as the crunch issues that are preventing people from joining and how do we target different people/age groups and enthrall them to want to become an athletics official.

I look forward to hearing from you on

[membership@SEAOA.co.uk](mailto:membership@SEAOA.co.uk)

Steve Davis

## CALLING ALL FIELD OFFICIALS

## ESAA Track and Field Cup Final 2015

The ESAA Track and Field Cup is the largest individual schools' competition in the world and this year nearly 900 schools have entered. Many of you will have officiated at early stages of the competition and will know what a fun event it is.

The Cup Final for the top teams (12 Girls' teams and 12 Boys' teams in each of the 2 age groups) will take place at Bedford International Stadium on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July. There are a number of other matches taking place on that day so we are in need of Field Officials who would like to judge at the Cup Final. Anyone is welcome to volunteer whether you are Level 1 or Level 2 Club or above. Even if you have recently completed your Level 2 course and are a trainee official you are still very welcome. Indeed it is an excellent opportunity to officiate alongside experienced officials and gain valuable competition experience.

Details are as follows:

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Bedford International Stadium

Arrival time 9.30am

Approximate finish time 4.30pm

Lunch will be provided and travel expenses can be claimed (sharing travel to cut costs would be appreciated)

If you would like to volunteer or would like more information, please contact the Editor.

Many thanks, look forward to hearing from you

Alison Friend

Jill Wright

Field Referees

If you would like to help please contact the Editor who will pass on your details to the Referees



Jackie Tobin has been able to get some Staedtler 4B pencils, if any one would like to buy 1 they are 99p each. If anyone wishes to buy one then please can they email

[jjhr@talktalk.net](mailto:jjhr@talktalk.net)

and she can liaise.



## UPDATE FROM FIELD SUB-COMMITTEE

As promised in my update sent out with the Winter Communique, the updated versions of the "Oh no, you've been asked to be the Field Referee" and "How to be a Technical Manager" booklets are now on the SEAOA website, available for download (go to "Management roles" and "Technical roles" under "Duties" on the main menu). I also mentioned in that connection the changes to the UKA facilities assessment scheme, and had said that I understood that those would be posted on the UKA website at <http://www.britishathletics.org.uk/governance/facilities/track-certification/> in the New Year. Looking at the website today at the time of writing this article, it still says "A new system of track certification is to be introduced in January 2015. Please check this section of the website in January for details of the new scheme." It is my understanding that, pending an update of that statement, steps are being taken by UKA to renew any 5 year certificates that are expiring prior to commencement of the new scheme.

Tony Shaw has been continuing to work with Steve Marshall on an on-line, self-study module on using a wind gauge. That is nearing readiness and Steve expects to have a version that can be looked at (initially by SEAOA members) at the UKA Officials conference on 19<sup>th</sup> April: find me or Steve on the day if you are attending and want to take a look. My own county (Surrey) has plans to run some out-of-competition wind gauge training sessions for Field officials, in conjunction with some local EDM "play" sessions, so we may use some of Steve's material for those. This also looks like a potentially useful workshop session at our next conference.

The next scheduled meeting of our Sub-Committee is on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April, when we plan also to discuss:

**The upcoming UKA 2016 Rule Book changes:** you may well have seen reference to the consultation process on the UKA website at <http://www.britishathletics.org.uk/media/news/2015-news-page/march-2015/10-03-15-rules-change-consultation/>. Note the early cut-off date re Age Group possible changes. In that respect I am concerned that the pros and cons of any changes are clearly laid out before any decision is taken. I'm still not sure that the costs of changing implement weights for female age groups were fully balanced against the potential benefits and am anxious that we don't face a similar situation here. On the wider (and, I'd say less contentious) issue of bringing UKA Rules (and the structure of the Rule Book) more closely in line with IAAF Rules, we (as your Sub-Committee) will wish to consider what IAAF Rules might (from a Field perspective) not be appropriate for use in grass roots UKA competition. Hammer cage specifications are an obvious point, but beyond that, if you have strong views on any Field-related IAAF Rules that you wouldn't want to see here, please drop me an e mail before 20<sup>th</sup> April, and we will consider including your views in the

SEAOA response to the Consultation.

**Level 2 Field Judge Tutor disc:** follow up from the Chris Stott led session at the conference.

Finally, as I've said many times in the past, the door is always open to new members of the Sub-Committee: if you'd like to join us on a no-commitment basis at our next meeting to see what is involved, please drop me an e mail.

Peter Crawshaw  
Chair, Field Sub-Committee

E mail: [field@seaoa.co.uk](mailto:field@seaoa.co.uk)

22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2015

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2015 saw the ECCA National Champion-

## THE DAY THE NATIONALS CAME TO THE SOUTH

ships return to Parliament Hill Fields, London. Record entries we were told, and a team of officials and marshals ready and waiting, made up of Southern officials in the main. Would the South of England live up to the hype? Of course we would! The course was muddy (understatement number one!) and testing, hills that maybe some of our Northern athletes did not expect. I was working in the Finish area, directing athletes away from the Finish Line (Dispersal it was called), removing their chips when they were unable to do so (the younger athletes were better at this) and guiding them out of the area to make way for more athletes.

Now, if you have never removed chips from athletes' ankles imagine the scene: You are ankle deep in gloopy mud, splattered by the finishing runners. The athletes are covered in mud, some of the younger athletes you couldn't see for mud (head to toe mud packs) and doing what athletes at the end of an Endurance race normally do- spitting, frothing/foaming at the mouth and throwing up on or near you (Lovely!). Your job is to a) find the strap holding the chip in place around the ankle, b) find the end of the strap, c) tear the Velcro strap apart and d) remove the strap plus chip from the athlete. All the while dodging the spit, froth/foam and vomit!! Oh and you have to smile and be patient all this time, congratulating the finishers on their performance.

Rubber gloves were the order of the day, but frankly I could have done with some of those gloves used by vets when delivering calves/foals/lambs/piglets etc. up to the shoulders! But, no matter, we did it. The South lived up to the expectations, athletes succeeded, winners presented with an English rose at the Finish and we had the knowledge that it had been a job well done. Would we do it again? Give me the gloves and bring it on!!

Pam Rogers



When Chris Cohen took over as ESAA Secretary last year it was on the condition that other people took on some of the work which David had previously done. One of these was the production of the handbook. For some unknown reason I opened my big mouth.....

First I received an enormous file - did I have to type all this? Fortunately there was a stick with all David's files - at least I thought it was all! **Bright idea**—why don't SEAOA produce just the Rules to be downloaded and save ourselves some money. All agree & Treasurer beams! Get approval from Chris.

Downloaded to the PC and looked over. OK most of it was in word and just needed updating but some was in PDF and I don't have adobe writer. However, I was able to copy to a word doc. Last year's proof was there but I couldn't do anything except re-type from that!

I put right the errors from 2014 and then, at a Committee Meeting I asked a silly question! Could people tell me what was wrong with their sections - I was inundated with change of details/ wording/omissions/mis-spellings etc. Did all this. Received the new standards - had to draw up a chart and type all these. Spotted a few errors so double checked.

AGM produced new rules - a lot of changes in the organisation. Put these right and had to contact my technical friend - how do I put the line down the side to denote new rules? I can do this now.

Chris sent me what he had received from Counties as to their Officers. Surprising how many Counties do not reply! Chris will try again.

Contacted the printers who offered help but started talking about "bleeds" and special PDF which I didn't understand.

However, I looked at what had been sent the previous year and it seemed an ordinary document so will try that.

Received a list of "Award Agents" from Chris who said he had sent it to the Organiser who doesn't have email. I kept waiting for a phone call but didn't happen!

Need some photos for the centre pages. Various people offered and sent but I was short of a Field event photo for the Track & Field Championships. Never mind - I know a photographer who was at the Championships. Emailed him and got a reply- "sunning myself in the West Indies - will sort when I get back in 10 days". He did, after a reminder.

Started to put everything together but it made my head hurt! No I was going down with this winter's bug. Time to leave the Handbook and enjoy a sniffing Christmas!

More emails and updates from Chris and others some updating the update! Started to put the pages together. Oh ..... I haven't updated the CBPs and nobody mentioned it! Thank God for the ESAA website with all the results.

Time to contact my Technical friend again as the gaps between lines were too large - A common problem with "Word" I understand. Who taught computers to have a mind of their own! I can do that now too and have even taught Terry how to do it! Still short of County details - agreed that if they cannot be bothered to reply then we leave as last year.

Another meeting - more updates especially for Award Agents. I offered to make the necessary phone calls as it seemed silly for someone else to do it and then have to phone me. More chance of errors.

Put an index in the front as opposed to the back (requested by Committee members) but difficult to put page numbers as don't know how many pages there will be. Printers will do that but I will need to check it.

That done - time to send it to Chris for "bedtime reading". He prefers a good detective story!

OK from Chris but I have spotted some more errors. For a Track person it is surprising what I have learnt about implement specifications!

Finally it is time to PDF each individual page, put it in a zip folder and send to the printer. I wait with baited breath - would it be acceptable? After a few days I got a thank you - everything is ok.

Eventually I received the proof to check. Found a few errors and sent them back. Finally said "Go for it". As soon as I had done this I got an email saying "Has it been printed yet as we have changes to some representatives." So there were errors even before it came out! Now to copy and paste the relevant pages into the booklets for SEAOA! Of course they wanted 2 different formats!

There will be further changes next year! I have already started correcting omissions!

The moral of this story - Keep your mouth shut when there is a job to be done and don't mention bright ideas!

This is the reason we have a shortened version of the rules on the website as I now have all the information in a format which I like and can use. I hope you find the booklet useful.

For "old fashioned" Officials who like the complete book I do have a few complete copies of the Handbook for anyone who would like one. £2.50 or £3.50 including postage and packing. Just let me know.

## SEAOA

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### Membership Secretary

Steve Davis

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Why not have your Communiqué sent by email so that you can receive it in colour?

We are sure that a lot more Officials could do this. Please let the membership secretary know.

Also, please don't forget to let the Membership Secretary know if you change your email address.

### Membership Secretary

[membership@SEAOA.co.uk](mailto:membership@SEAOA.co.uk)

## Quiz Answers

- 1 Snowy, the dog – may have been dqd for not completing the whole course and not wearing approved numbers!
- 2 Renaud Lavillenie.
- 3 Richard Kilty.
- 4 Katarina Johnson-Thompson.
5. KJT.
- 6 Chula Vista, California.
- 7 Jo Pavey.
- 8 Ashton Eaton.
- 9 Chijinda Ujah.
- 10 Morgan Lake.
- 11 Dina Asher-Smith.
- 12 Nassau, Bahamas.
- 13 Valerie Adams.
- 14 City of Manchester & Edinburgh AC.
- 15 Nigel Amos.
- 16 Rhys Williams & Gareth Warburton.
- 17 12 & 23.
- 18 Andy Vernon.
- 19 Matthew Hudson-Smith.
- 20 13.
- 21 Nowhere, nowhere and 29<sup>th</sup>.
- 22 60:00.
- 23 Chris Thompson.
- 24 HJ.
- 25 Ron Hill.

If you have trouble logging in to your profile via

<http://www.englandathletics.org/myprofile>

contact England Athletics as your account details may need to be re-set. Ben is very quick to help with this.

## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Date and venue of Conference:

**Sunday 15th November 2015**

### Wimbledon College

Conference Committee will soon start planning. If there is anything you would like to see covered please get in touch with your Discipline Chair or the Conference Secretary as soon as possible.