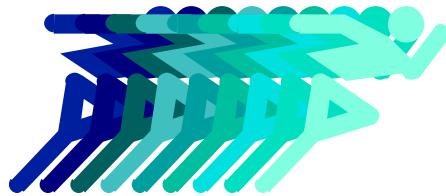


COMMUNIQUE

NEWSLETTER OF THE SEAOA

SUMMER 2007



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Editor:

Ian Booth

www.seaoa.co.uk

Letter from the Chairman

Another outdoor season is over and indoors and cross country (for some!) to look forward to.

Level 3 Courses are now in the pipeline and Application Forms and dates/places for the courses are on the UKA Website at <http://www.ukathletics.net/officials/education-and-training/>. If you don't have access to the Internet, I am sure that a friend or a member of the SEAOA Committee would be only too pleased to help.

The AGM of the Association will be held at the Thames Valley Athletics Centre in Eton on Sunday 18th November 2007 at 10.00. Before the meeting, there are workshops for each discipline where the sub committees report back on what they have been doing during the year and discuss any topics that are of interest to the members. It's a good opportunity to meet up with other officials and talk over any discipline specific matters and everybody would be delighted to see you there. Please try to attend if you can.

As this is my last letter of the year I would like to thank all members of both the main and sub committees for their hard work during the year, they give up their time willingly to help run what is a very successful association. They are always looking for new ideas and if you think that you could contribute to the development of our Association, please come along to the workshops and AGM and make your views known.

Stan Burton

E-Mail Addresses

If you have asked for electronic copies of the newsletter and haven't been receiving them it is probably because we do not have your current or correct e-mail address in our records. If this is the case can you please advise both the Assistant Treasurer – Membership and the Newsletter Editor of your correct details.

Also, if you change your Internet provider can you please advise both of the above people.

SOUTH OF ENGLAND ATHLETICS OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

In accordance with Article 5.1 of the Constitution, notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 18 November 2007 at Tames Valley Athletics Centre, Eton

Timetable

10.00 -10.30	Coffee
10.30 - 12.30	Discipline Forums and AGMs
12.30 – 1:30	Lunch
1:30 – 3:30	Annual General Meeting

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting Held on 19 November 2006 (Minutes circulated with the Spring 2007 Newsletter)
3. Secretary's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Election of Officers of the Association and General Committee Members:
 - Chairman
 - Vice-Chairman
 - Honorary Secretary
 - Assistant Secretary (Minutes)
 - Honorary Treasurer
 - Assistant Treasurer (Membership)
 - General Committee Members (4)
6. Appoint two Honorary Auditors
7. Confirm election of Sub-committees
8. Amendments to the constitution

Notes:

- ❖ Nominations for Officers, General Committee Members and Sub-committee Members must be received in writing by Ros Alterman by **10 November 2007** and contain the names of the proposer and seconder together with the signed consent of the Nominee.
- ❖ A nomination form is included at the end of the newsletter
- ❖ Bar Snacks will be available at lunchtime for those who require them.
- ❖ Tea and coffee on arrival will be provided free of charge.

CONSTITUTION

With the recent changes in England Athletics and the introduction of Levels instead of Grades for Officials, it was felt that the Association's Constitution was in need of updating. This has been discussed at the Main Committee meetings and the proposed new constitution will be put to the November 2007 AGM for approval.

The proposed new constitution follows, with changes in italics. If you have any comments please either attend the AGM or make your views known to a member of the Main Committee or your discipline chairman.

SOUTH OF ENGLAND ATHLETICS OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

- 1.1 The Association shall be called SOUTH OF ENGLAND ATHLETICS OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION.

2. AIMS

- 2.1 To act at all times in the best interests of its members.
- 2.2 To maintain the high standard of officiating.
- 2.3 To raise the status of Officials.
- 2.4 To speak with one voice on issues affecting Officials.
- 2.5 To monitor and raise the standard of facilities provided for Officials and to monitor and raise the safety of facilities.
- 2.6 *To produce a magazine and distribute it in printed or electronic format as requested by the relevant members.*
- 2.7 To endeavour through liaison and communication to ensure that athletic events are adequately staffed.
- 2.8 *To promote in conjunction with UK Athletics and the relevant Regions of England Athletics the technical training in all disciplines.*
- 2.9 To represent the views of the Officials Association on Official's examinations and upgrading.
- 2.10 *To maintain the Association Website*

3. MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 *Membership shall be open to all levels of Officials on the acceptance of an Application Form and payment of the Membership Fee.*
- 3.2 *The Membership Fee and Annual Subscription shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting and become due and payable on 1st January in the following year.*

4. COMMITTEE

- 4.1 The Committee shall consist of:
 - (a) Chairman

- (b) Vice-Chairman
 - (c) Hon. Secretary
 - (d) Hon. Assistant Secretary (Minutes Secretary)
 - (e) Hon. Treasurer
 - (f) Hon. Assistant Treasurer (Membership Secretary)
 - (g) The retiring Chairman shall be eligible to sit for one year in an ex-officio capacity
- Plus nine (9) Committee to include one (1) Representative from each of the Sub-Committees, i.e. Track, Field, Timekeepers, Starters/Marksmen, Photofinish and four (4) General Members.***
- 4.2 The Committee shall deal with all matters concerning the Association.
 - 4.3 The Committee shall have the power to co-opt.
 - 4.4 The Committee shall meet at least three (3) times each year.
 - 4.5 A Quorum shall consist of seven (7) Committee Members including two (2) Officers.
 - 4.6 The Committee shall set up the Magazine Production Team and such other Working Parties as deemed necessary.
 - 4.7 In case of emergency the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer may act collectively on behalf of the Committee.
 - 4.8 ***The Committee will elect three of its members, one of whom must be an Officer of the Association, to represent the Association at meetings of the National Athletics Officials Federation.***

5. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 5.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be held in November of each year.
- 5.2 Annual General Meeting and the Annual General Meetings of the Disciplines shall take place on the same day.
- 5.3 Non-members may attend but will not be permitted to speak at the meeting. Voting will be limited to paid up members.
- 5.4 A quorum shall consist of not less than thirty (30) members. The Business of the Annual General Meeting will be:
 - (a) To receive the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.
 - (b) To receive the Annual Report
 - (c) To receive the Annual Accounts
 - (d) ***To set the Membership Fee and Annual Subscription for the following year***
 - (e) To elect the Officers of the Association and the four (4) General Committee Members and to appoint two (2) Honorary Auditors for the ensuing year.
 - (f) ***To confirm the election of the Sub-Committees for Track Judges; Field Judges; Timekeepers and combined Starters/Marksmen. Each Sub-Committee shall consist of not more than six (6) Members, one of whom should be a Level 2 or 3. If such a person is not nominated the positions shall be left vacant and such a person shall be co-opted by the elected Sub-Committee. Each Sub-Committee to be elected by the paid up Members of those Disciplines prior to the Annual General Meeting.***
 - (g) ***To confirm the separate Sub-Committee for Photofinish consisting of 2 Timekeepers, 2 Track Judges and 1 Starter/Marksman nominated by their relevant discipline Sub-Committee to deal with matters concerning Photofinish.***
 - (h) To consider alterations to the Constitution.
- 5.6 Constitution amendments passed at an Annual General Meeting will remain in force until changed either at an Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose.
- 5.7 ***Notice of the Annual General Meeting together with its Agenda shall be notified to members in the issue of the Newsletter preceding the date of the Annual General Meeting.***
- 5.8 Nominations for Officers and Committee Members and Sub-Committee Members shall be submitted to the Honorary Secretary in writing not less than seven (7) days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. Names of Proposers and Seconders must be included together with the signed consent of the Nominees.
- 5.9 Proposed amendments to the constitution must be received by the Honorary Secretary in writing no later than 31 August in any calendar year. The Proposer and Secunder must sign each proposed amendment.

5.10 That provision shall be taken at the Annual General Meeting for any other business, which has been duly notified to the Honorary Secretary in writing not less than twenty-eight (28) days prior to the Meeting and shall bear the signatures of a proposer and seconder, who shall be members to that/those motion(s).

6. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- 6.1 A Special General Meeting will be convened by the Secretary on receipt of a request, in writing, signed by not less than thirty (30) paid up members.
- 6.2 Members shall receive not less than twenty-one (21) days notice of a Special General Meeting stating the purpose of the Meeting. No other Business will be discussed.
- 6.3 Voting at a Special General Meeting will be the same as for an Annual General Meeting.

7. FINANCE

- 7.1 All monies accruing from the activities of the Association shall become the property of the Association.
- 7.2 *All expenditure shall be authorised by the Committee. The Treasurer plus Chairman or Secretary or the Authorised Signatories for the time being in force shall sign cheques.*
- 7.3 The Financial Year shall end on the 31st August in each year.

8. DISSOLUTION

- 8.1 *In the event of the Dissolution of the South of England Athletics Officials Association any assets remaining shall be transferred to England Athletics or its successors for the benefit of Track and Field Officials in the Regions of England Athletics covered by The South of England Athletics Officials Association.*

(November 2007)

TRACK CHAT

Well by the time you read this the Track & Field season will be well and truly over and some Officials will now be turning their mind to the Winter Endurance events although like our Association Chairman I tend to stay fairly well clear of these!!

Since our last Track Chat the sub-committee met at Peerless Point and have now amended the original "Welcome to the Judges Stand" booklet to reflect the new Levels and this should now be on the website in place of the original. This will go out to all those new Level 2 Officials on completing the Course, provided the Regional Managers advise our Association!!

Following from this we will be looking into the format of the remainder of our booklets in the light of UKA's course content for the new Levels.

I hope that you have all enjoyed what has been a rather damp season and any reports under the old system were to your liking. Mind you there will still be reports under the new system but we don't know of the format as yet.

We have one article from Robin Elford which I think sums up the weather this season. Well done on the day Robin although I must say you did look a little damp but kept smiling.

Terry Williams
(Track sub-committee Chairman)

Rain? What Rain?

According to the Guinness Book of Records, Cherrapunji has the highest daily rainfall total on Earth, but on the 13th May 2007 Mountbatten Stadium, Portsmouth made its bid for this record. In 3 seasons of officiating it was the wettest day I had experienced, actually in 43 years of life it was probably the wettest day I had endured!

This day happened to coincide with my first appointment as Clerk of the Course for the Hampshire County Championships, and I arrived in good time to familiarise myself with the stadium. As recommended I had tried to do a bit of prep, and made a list of the initial items I had to organise, and a brief timetable of what was required, when and where during the afternoon. Fortunately, I met up with Steve Snodden whom I know from the Track Sub committee, and despite the very heavy rain he very kindly walked me around the soggy in-field to highlight certain features I needed to remember, and also offered some excellent advice for the afternoon's proceedings. Many thanks Steve.

Despite Steve's best efforts I still failed to notice that the lap board was missing until he pointed it out! After meeting my stadium team of Hayley and Steve, we were then into the thick of the action. The 400m and 300m hurdles went smoothly, and other than watching the track for obstructions it was time to get indoors to try to dry out, as the 100m, 3000m, 200m, 800m and 1500m heats took place.

The weather by now had tried to halt the proceedings, and with large pools of standing water forming, particularly on the inside lanes, the hunt began for a brush to attempt to clear the track. I managed to borrow the brush that was being used to clear the throwing circle and set about the task of moving the standing water from one location on the track to another! Filling the water jump for the Steeplechase was made easier and a lot shorter in duration due to nature's help, and removed any fear of loss due to leakage!

After organising the placement and removal of the Steeplechase barriers, the running of which was in doubt due to more than one jump per lap resembling the water jump, I had a welcome break during which I could drip dry in the officials' room. With the rain continuing to fall and the distant rumble of thunder, it looked for a moment as if Terry might have to call a halt, but during the 1500m there were signs that perhaps the soaking was finally easing up. The reduced competitor numbers resulted in the chance to consolidate some of the hurdle races and run different classifications concurrently, and it was now that my ability to rapidly check toppling weights, track markings and hurdle heights was tested to the full.

Following the completion of the hurdle races my main work was done, and all that remained was to thank my stadium team for their help and await the final races to complete, before gathering up all the wet equipment and heading home. In such atrocious conditions my first time as Clerk of the Course was, well.....umm interesting! It was not so much a Baptism of Fire, more like a dunking in the Font!

Robin Elford. (Dorset)

Notes from the Main Committee Meeting – July 2007

- ❖ A letter had been received from a Field Judge, complaining about the time & money wasted by UKA with the change to Levels.
- ❖ There is still confusion at SEOC. However funding for 2007 competitions is complete. Neither David Littlewood nor Keith Davies (both on UKA Technical Committee) are aware of the future for SEOC so there is no forward planning as such for 2008. EA will only fund 2 SEOC Committee Meetings, which are used for National Nominations etc., and not the present 6. Unaware of how Competitions are to be funded in the future.
- ❖ Format for AGM – Track suggested that Discipline AGMs be held during lunch break at Conference with main AGM at the end. Timekeepers suggested a workshop aimed at attracting new Officials to the AGM. Field said that a carrot was needed and no response from S/M. There were concerns that if we were not careful AGM would turn into a 2nd Conference. Decided to leave for another year.
- ❖ TW said that following recent comments to him re another Official he would like to propose the creation of a Welfare Officer this to be more of a reactive role than a proactive role.
- ❖ IB suggested that we open a Forum on the website. Hold at present.

And finally.....

After 13 years as a member of various committees and having been Editor of Communiqué for 11 years, I am stepping down, as some of you are aware, as I intend to move permanently to Spain in the next few months whilst I am still young enough to enjoy it!!

I have enjoyed my time as Editor having overseen the development of electronic newsletters despite the odd problems with e-mail addresses! and despite the lack (on occasions) of articles.

The Newsletter is for YOU and the way you can help it continue and improve is for you to contribute articles through your discipline chairmen or direct to the new Editor.

Ian Booth
