



# Communiqué

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A new edition

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## Letter from the Chairman

There has been a lack of information about the development of officials following the transfer from Grades to Levels, but that does not mean that nothing has been happening. In order to get some idea about what has been going on, I met with Ed Warner, Niels de Vos and Roger Simons from UK Athletics, together with Chris Cohen from the Technical Committee. Here is a Summary of some of the matters that we discussed. Some of these matters are still under consideration and therefore there is a possibility that some details may change. However, I thought that it was important for you to get an overview of where we are.

Following the sidelining of the old Territories, I attach a flow chart (separate document) showing what the way forward is perceived to be, incorporating what is being called Tri-Regions. This divides the 9 Regions of England into 3 Tri-Regions, of 3 Regions each. The difference between the old South of England Territory and the new South Tri-Region is that the South West has moved to the Midlands & SW Tri-Region. Officials Committees will be formed for each Tri-Region to perform similar functions to the old South of England Officials Committee. These Committees are not yet in place. The members of those Tri-Region Committees will be appointed by each Region's Officials Committee.

As some of you may be aware, there was some heartache and discussions involving some South West Officials and UK Athletics, as the South West Officials had not been invited to Southern Territory indoor meetings, and neither had they been invited to Midlands Territory indoor meetings. This was partly on the basis of cost and partly on the assumption that the new Tri-Regions were effectively already in operation, which they were not. This situation is now being addressed by the Southern and Midland Territories so that the same situation does not happen again for the summer 2008 outdoor meetings.

The affiliation of Officials to Counties, Regions and Tri-Regions is important to the individual Official and this has been recognised. A new Database called Trinity is in the course of development. This database is already being used for other functions within UKA and it is going to be extended to Technical Officials. When it is up and running, an individual Official will be able to go online and change their address, County, Region and Tri-Region affiliation. It may also be possible to have "second claim" membership as well as primary membership. Access will also be available for

County Officials Secretaries so that they can assist those without Internet access. This is a major step forward and is to be welcomed. However, implementation will not be until later in the year and needs to be accelerated if at all possible. Forms are likely to be issued in the first six months of 2008 to Officials to gather the data, and their preferences.

Under current proposals, at some point in 2009/10 there will be two types of Level 3. Those transferred from Grade 3 and those who have gone through a new Level 3 course. There will need to be a distinction on the new database between these two, because the new Level 3s will be on the National List and will be invited to apply for major meetings. This could give rise to confusion and I have alerted UKA to this possibility.

Also under current proposals, in 2011 the transition from Grades to Levels will be completed by broadly transferring Level 5s to Level 3, Level 4s to Level 2 and "old" Level 3s to Level 2. Before that time, all level 5s will have had to complete all or part of a Level 3 course to maintain their qualification. The intention is to make this as convenient as possible so that all Level 5s can be transferred to Level 3. At that stage, Level 3 will be the National List, as previously populated by Grade 1s.

One result of the transfers to Level 2 is that the vast majority of Officials, possibly 90%, will be in that Level. I have made my view known to UKA that those Officials who do not wish to progress to Level 3, possibly 80%, should have different qualifications within Level 2. This could provide those who do not wish to proceed to Level 3 with an incentive to improve their skills or ability. I suggested that there should be 3 sections within Level 2, which would roughly equate to the old Grades 4, 3 and 2. I would be interested in your views as to whether you agree with my suggestion or if you think that it is acceptable for there to be effectively only two Levels of qualified Official, Levels 2 and 3. This is bearing in mind that Level 1 is simply an assistant official and Levels 4 and 5 will be for those people who wish to progress to major meeting management. Please email me with your view, one way or the other.

Stan Burton

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***Have you renewed your membership this year?***

***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**

**Chris Lamport**

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## Reports from the AGM Discussions -Timekeepers

This is a summary of the unofficial business at the AGM.

Discussion ensued on the topics listed below:

The requirement of timekeeper's to act as and be reported upon as Clerk of the Course, either track or field. It was felt that it would be most helpful to have a "crib sheet", prepared by an experienced Clerk of the Course to assist timekeepers in such matters as the various requirements relating to hurdles. It was felt that, assuming that most timekeepers would opt for the track rather than the field, the presentation by John How at the next conference would be of great value. Discussion also took place, firstly on opportunities to shadow an experienced Clerk of the Course at a meeting and secondly to act and be reported upon at an appropriate level of meeting. It was felt that, due to the overall shortage of officials opportunities may not be too readily available.

Concern was expressed and discussion ensued as to the lack of clarity and direction from UKA on future developments for officials across all disciplines and also what the role of England Athletics would be, not to mention the regions. There appeared to be a distinct scarcity of information in these areas.

There was also a discussion on the subject of photo-finish, particularly as experience, as yet to be defined, will be a future

requirement at level 3 and above. Specific points were how to gain experience, in what is perhaps wrongly perceived as something of a "closed shop". What level of expertise will be required for the qualifying experience and following on from this, as photo-finish is not a specific discipline, who one should gain reports from. Additionally in addition to the basic operation of the system, will any knowledge of the role of the technician be required, this being relevant to those meetings not covered by the external service providers, Seiko and Swiss Timing.

Finally, if it proves necessary for work reasons, that Doug Weir relocates and such relocation precludes him from continuing in his current role, the committee needs to look at the issue on succession. This would need to be actioned as soon as Doug's work situation crystallises.

### Conference Change

1000 – 1120 Timekeeping off the Track – Graham Bentley

1130 – 1245 "Ask Dave" followed by "Where do new timekeepers go?" A chaired discussion on what we can do to attract more new timekeepers and retain them.

1510 – 1615 Dispelling the Fears – Clerk of the Course (Track) for Timekeepers - John How

## Track: After the Chairman's Report which caused a lot of discussion

### The following points were made.

We have heard rumours that the SW will become part of the Midlands.

We need to get the information of all those attending courses. Payment for courses is often made by the Club although some clubs have the excellent idea of refunding when the Official has done a certain number of meetings.

There is a problem that people take the Level 2 course but do not get their log books in for assessment raising the question of how long you can remain a Trainee. When they attend a meeting do they mention that they are a trainee and therefore cannot lead an event. Leagues should be made aware of this. A discussion followed the AGM on how we could attract more people to the AGM. The main points were:

Include in Conference by cutting down lunch – lunch is an important social occasion . The Conference can include those who are not members and therefore not eligible to attend the AGM

Hold a workshop/guest speaker at the AGM but this makes it similar to Conference.

Hold a session for worries and concerns about upgradings and promotions – a mentoring session.

Make it a social event with food, quiz etc.

Hold it at Brunel or Lee Valley with the Manager or Performance Director showing people round – possibly in conjunction with a meeting where people could Officiate indoors

### WHAT DO YOU THINK? SEND YOUR VIEWS TO TERRY

## Starters

Prior to the AGM Denis Murphy sent out 56 letters asking for the Starter Marksman fraternity to support the AGM. Of these 56 letters, 19 responded via email and another 5 by phone, 24 in total, none of which were able to attend! Attendance on the day was 4 people. A very disappointing result.

The members present were unable to elect a committee. It is hoped that the AGM Election of Officers item could be combined into the Conference somehow so the requirement to attend a poorly attended AGM was done away with and those present in numbers at the Conference could make a decision on the day.

### Are you willing to help?

The following items were put forward for Starter/Marksman at the Conference

:"Ask Dave" followed by 'Where do we go from here?

DaveVidler followed by:

Working with Seiko at the 2007 European Cup Final - Denis Murphy

A short session from Mike Stubbs on Seeding will also be provided as this is something that athletes often ask Marksmen at higher level meetings. Viz - "How is the seeding being done today?"

Sessions being held elsewhere that will be appropriate for Starters & Marksmen to attend are:-

Clerk of the Course, given by John How and Mentoring by Alan Bell

These two items should be interesting for those interested in progressing to Level 3 and beyond

## Field

Jim Kent raised a question regarding the timing of athletes being permitted into the cage where EDM is in use, as he perceived there to be two schools of thought and felt clarification is needed. John Boucharde had similar concerns, essentially with regard to the point at which the leader can proceed. Peter Nicholson stated that the Code of Practice must still be applied, with Health & Safety considerations paramount: he also recommended that attention be paid by the leader to the movements of the judges in the sector

There was universal support for the role played by both Peter Lee and Tony Sach in promoting the use of EDM. Tony Sach sought views regarding one problem that he and Peter Lee had regularly encountered: people “playing” with the EDM equipment after it had been properly set up for the competition. Darryl Quinn suggested putting on a sign “Set for competition” to discourage this. This received general support and Ros Alterman also suggested that a reminder be put in the Communiqué.

Darryl Quinn asked whether it was intended for 2008 that EDM duties would be more widely spread, on the basis that it could now be seen as one of the regular field duties. It was noted that this had worked well in the minority of 2007 meetings where the practice had been adopted. Peter Nicholson said that it had been agreed that this will be practice for SEAA promotions in 2008, with an EDM leader / co-ordinator appointed to ensure that the equipment was present and properly set up. There was general approval for this, though Tony Sach recommended that for some meetings (e.g. Throwsfest) more than one co-ordinator might be needed. John Wright asked that procedures be put in place to ensure that Referees were informed on a timely basis which officials are EDM trained, so that duties sheets can be prepared accordingly.

“Get alongside” Level 2’s. Peter Lee commented on the link with mentoring. Ros Alterman said that there is a (track organised) workshop at the conference (“Who’s your friend?”), being run by Alan Bell, who is also writing the related material for UKA. Alan will be at the conference from the start, and his workshop will also be open to field officials

## AGM OPEN FORUM

**Mentoring** – Darryl Quinn brought up the question of Courses and when they would occur. At present they are still under discussion but it was felt that mentoring was not difficult and just needed the right marrying up of the two people.

**Reports** – Darryl Quinn asked when there were going to be courses on report writing and when would the new forms be available. Peter Nicholson said that the last date for upgradings to be considered by SEOC under the old system was 7<sup>th</sup> January 2008. Peter also said that due to funding constraints the number of the old ‘Territorial’ Meetings would be down but the number of reports required would increase thereby causing problems. The point was raised as to whether it would be appropriate for ‘short’ reports to be done on Officials for advice which appeared to be accepted as a possibility but what forms would be used. What is still not known is where do the reports on prospective levels 3s go?

**Regional Meetings** – Query raised as to whether there will be Regional Championships. Peter Lee (Eastern Region) said that there has been talk of amalgamations but nothing has gone much further as yet.

**National Appointments** – How are nominations to be made and by whom? Are there to be Regional Committees formed to deal with this and how are they to be formed? There was quite a strong feeling that the formation of any Regional Officials Selection Committees had to be transparent.

**Regional Representation** – Jeanne Coker raised the point as to whether there should be a SEAOA contact for each Region to replace our present rep to SEOC. General feeling was that this should be pursued.

*Full minutes of all meetings will be provided in a separate document.*

## SEAOA Conference

**Sunday 3rd February at St Mary’s College, Twickenham.**

- **Guest Speaker: Peter Matthews**
- **Mentoring will be presented by Alan Bell**
- **Remember appropriate clothing for the outdoor sessions.**

**Can you write an article for this magazine?  
Any subject—the choice is yours.**

**Please email your article to the editor.**

# World Masters

## Stories from the World Masters in Riccione, Italy September 07

There were a dozen of us went as officials from the UK and about the same number from the USA with a handful from other countries. As well as the Italians, of course.

It started with a parade of athletes to an arena on the beach with a variety of interesting performers. The parade was led by the "tax police" which was emblazoned on their fluorescent jackets!

Now this is the calm, warm season on the Adriatic coast but on the first day we got drowned and blown away. There was so much debris from the storm we had to postpone the cross-country. The second day we got wet and blown away again. I was on the track lap recording the 5000m Walk. The wind took everything – DQ boards, lap counter, lapboard and bell, etc. At another track the high jump bed did somersaults.

Back to the lap counter. Athletes wear a chip (as we do in major road races and inter-counties cross country) and an electronic scoreboard shows "laps to go" displayed against the competitor number. There were cries of "what's my number" in various languages from competitors seeing the board for the first time. It was wonderful provided a) it didn't fail as in the M45 10000m or b) the ambulance didn't back into it as it did in the 10k road walk!

The officials were in a hotel which faced the sea at the front (and the railway at the back). It claimed to be 4 star but the general appearance was less. We heard that it had gone into liquidation and been bought by Romanians. The cleaners were Romanian and kept the place spotless.

They fed us superbly. Breakfast from 06:00 for those of us on the early shift - most of us for most days for the 07:00 bus - depositing us at three different stadia. Dinner was at 19:30 with 2 pasta dishes and an ENORMOUS selection of everything else all beautifully prepared and presented, then lovely Italian desserts and fresh fruit (not forgetting the wine). Some nights we returned at midnight, still to a sumptuous spread.

We were put into teams of 4 labelled A to Z and allocated to a set of events. For some events two, sometimes three, teams were put together. I was in a track team and most days we had very few gaps in our "shift". Perhaps the most concentrated effort was eleven 5000m races. As one race finished and we were collating the result the next race was waiting on the track. Lap recording was done in pairs, usually with people speaking the same language. For one event I was the only English speaker so I was paired with an Italian who knew the numbers in English (my Italian is almost non-existent). As the races got exciting and more difficult he would lapse into Italian!

Language is a problem but not between the British and the Americans, surely. Wrong! At dinner each evening we would catch up on what everybody had been doing for the day. One of the Americans declared she had been "shagging the shot". The Brits fell off their chairs! I think the word we would use is "retrieving"

Perhaps the most difficult task was recording the 1500m. 15 in a race with four-figure numbers. You cannot physically write down 60 figures (4 x 15) in the time it takes them to cross the line! We tried writing the last two figures only but it was surprising how many duplicates there were in one race. We tried using leg numbers but athletes are generally careless about putting them on securely (women are better than men!) and don't realise how important they are in all races not run in lanes.

My final task was directing (Italian) traffic for the marathon. It was my most difficult task in finding out what I had to do. I was number 29 on the list with 40 beside my name (this transpired to be position 40 on the marathon map). First task, find your team leader and stick to him like glue. I had sussed out the course in advance which was just as well. We were taken by bus to our marshalling point but abandoned at the end and left to find our own way home. I had to stop traffic from a side road (with one crash barrier and a red flag) then turn them left on the wrong side of the road when there were gaps. Now not speaking Italian was probably an advantage as I suspect some of the answers I got were rather rude. In fact, it was quite like home. I think next time I am a marshal I will talk to the drivers in French.

Jeanne Coker

### Why should I attend a Level 3 Course?

#### **KEY FACTS**

- The old grades and new levels do not equate in any way. Thus the levels allocated at transfer do not fit the actual requirements of the new levels.
- The New Level 3 is the level at which officials will go onto the National active list and be eligible for selection for National/International events in the UK. They will be treated in the same way as the Grade 1 officials under the old system.
- There is a very big step up from New Level 2 to New Level 3 and this needs to be taken into consideration. There is an even bigger gap for officials who are Level 2 by transfer.

#### Which modules do I need to do?

Except as mentioned everyone needs to do the Generic, Discipline specific and Technology modules

#### Technology Modules

##### **Track Judges and Timekeepers - Photo finish Starters & Marksmen — False Start Equipment Field Judges - EDM**

- However, some officials have been using the technology competently for some time and where that can be verified they can be exempt from that module.
- In addition all those who have not previously attended a Health and Safety Course must do so. The revised course has just become available.

#### What reports are needed for Level 3?

Two as a team member **and**  
One by an out of Region reporter **and**  
One as Clerk of Course  
One using the technology **and**  
One as Referee at County or league level.

#### **All reports must be from level 5 officials**

*It has not been stated how many reports can be carried forward from 2007*

#### **Current level Reason for attendance and other requirements**

##### **Level 2 by transfer**

If you wish to progress to the New Level 3 and onto the UKA National List

- (a) A Logbook
- (b) Annual worksheet for at least 2 years (2007 is the first year that will count)
- (c) Total of at least 30 meetings.
- (d) 6 reports

You may find it beneficial to first attend a New Level 2 course as knowledge from that will be assumed by Level 3 Tutors.

It is recommended that officials at this level seek advice from their County Officials Secretary.

You need to be gaining experience at a variety of levels – e.g. club/school/county/territorial.

##### **New Level 2**

As above. You need to be gaining experience at a variety of levels – e.g. club/school/county/territorial

##### **Level 3 by transfer**

As above

##### **Level 4 by transfer**

(a) If you wish to progress to New Level 3 and the National List.

To be better able to mentor new officials.

- (1) Annual worksheets for at least 2 years (2007 is the first year that will count)
- (2) Total of at least 30 meetings.
- (3) 6 reports

(b) As a refresher course and to learn the skills associated with the technology of the discipline. To be better able to mentor new Officials. No wish to be on National list.

Keep enjoying your officiating! Please continue to submit your annual worksheets.

**Level 5 by transfer** As a refresher course and to learn the skills associated with the technology of the discipline. To be better able to mentor new officials.

Those wishing to remain on the National list when the levels are realigned for licences in 2010/11 will be expected to have attended the Level 3 course in addition to the existing requirement

- (a) Attend all the modules of the L3 course with the following exception:-
- (b) Track judges and Timekeepers who do not wish to work as photo finish judges can miss this module.
- (c) Submit annual worksheets.

As places on photo finish courses are limited a decision has been made that because it does not form an essential part of the duties of these disciplines it can be missed. EDM and FSE are essential to operating as Field Judge and Starter/Marksmen so these are not optional.

# SEAOA

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**Stan Burton**  
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Committee**  
**Mike Scott**  
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**Starters**  
**Vacant**

## Uka Club Awards—Officials Congratulations to the Winners

### Newcomer to Officiating

South West	Albert Gardiner
South East	Anne Fletcher
East	Matt Witt
London	Not awarded

### Track & Field Official

South West	Dick Edwards
South East	Wendy Haxell
East	Keith Flint
London	Eric Nash

### Services to Officiating

South West	Richard & Janet Rowe
South East	Michael Carrington
East	Richard Powell
London	Roy Stratton

### Off Track Official

South West	Not awarded
South East	Nick Folwell
East	Keith Waite
London	Ron Hopcroft

Wendy Haxell and Keith Flint were nominated for the National Award.

**Winner: Wendy Haxell**

**Runner Up: Keith Flint**

**Special award for meritorious service to Athletics: Keith Davies**



## Recent Upgradings

### Appointed to Referee/Chief within Level 5

**FIELD**—Michael Enever, David Holder, Tony Sach  
**TRACK**—Alyson Harvey, Jane Scott, Eileen Williams  
**TIMEKEEPER** -Steve Baldwin, Ian Booth

### To Level 5

**FIELD** -Mike Eastmond, Mike Hardy, Paul Rutter, Rick Thompson, Robin James  
**TRACK**—Graham Acott, Tony Fairclough, Keith Reed  
**TIMEKEEPER**—Gaye Clarke, Roger Fitzgerald, John Jackson  
**STARTER**—Ray Gladman, Martyn Harvey, Colin Stiff  
**MARKSMAN** - John Dowsett

### To Level 4

**FIELD**—Julie Awde, Chris Dowsett, Danielle Gray, Brian Harlick, Becky Lee, Melvyn Smith, Lorraine Vidler, Jacqueline Wright, Simon Wright  
**TRACK**—Malcolm Bowen, Diane Wooller  
**TIMEKEEPER**— Simon Bailey, David Stubbins, Barrie Woolcott  
**MARKSMAN** - Pam Dalby, Marian Stiff

**STARTER/MARKSMAN**—Chris Berry

### To Level 3

**FIELD** - Tony Bradley, Liz Brandon, Richard Carter, Catherine Davidson, Gill England, Claire Gillard, James Graham, John Gill, Rebecca Gray, Liz Haynes, Janice Hindle, Mike Linstead, Chris Llewellyn, David Mackintosh, Philip Martin, Cameron Merry, Pauline Mills, Sue Moles, Marilyn Morgan, Margaret O'Connor, Mary Pierre-Harvey, Bruce Pointer, Tom Popkin, Les Sampford, Maureen Stevens, Colin Stroud, Colin Thompson, Bob Willows

**TRACK** - Nicola Fleet, Jill Mapp, Danny Mullane, Sharon Terry, Sophie Toomey, Sheila White, Liz Brandon

**TIMEKEEPER**—Maurice Ault

**STARTER/MARKSMAN**—Paul Dolan, Martin Goodway, David Clarke, Bob Purkiss