

MAFEO AGM/MCAA CONFERENCE 2023 REPORT

On Sunday 26th November, the 40th Anniversary AGM took place at Light Hall School in Shirley, Solihull. Unlike last year, there was some challenges with the heating system. Some of the rooms used (including the main hall) weren't as hot as others. Despite this, everybody still had an enjoyable day and took a lot of new knowledge away with them and appreciated catching up with other officials on a social level without the constraints of competition. The event marked the end of Kenny Ebanks' term in office as MAFEO chair. Fiona Hancock, the Vice-Chair was elected as the new Chair of MAFEO and Kenny agreed to take on the Vice Chair role. The rest of the committee were re-elected en bloc. However, Jack Lambert decided to step down from the committee to concentrate on his studies at university.



MAFEO members taking part in the AGM

The new MAFEO Committee are;

Chair – Fiona Hancock

Vice Chair - Kenny Ebanks

Hon. Secretary – Derek Prince

Hon. Treasurer – Yasmine Al Daftary

Membership Secretary – Maureen Bullen

Margaret Afford

Stuart Paul

Andrew Hulse

Stewart Barnes

Maggie Murphy

Noel McKakly

Derek Redfern

Barry Parker

Chris Blyth

1 Vacant Position (contact Fiona or Derek Prince if interested in joining the committee)

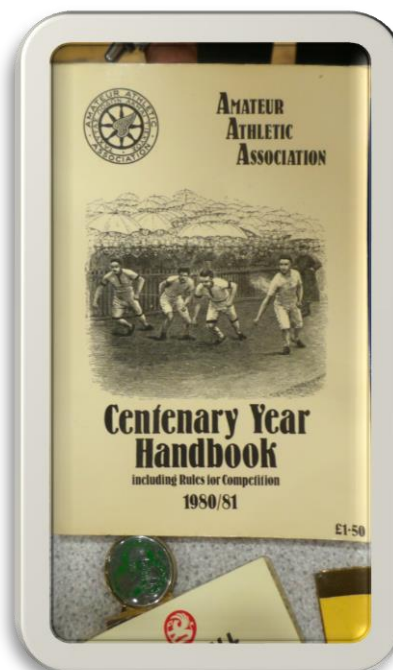
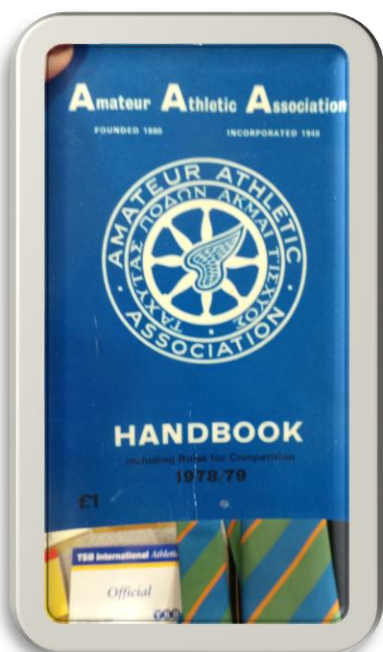


Committee members Derek Prince (left) and Noel McKakly

Following the AGM the MCAA Conference took place. The special guest speaker was Les Barnett who was the first MAFEO Chair and a founding member of the organisation. He explained how MAFEO was founded and brought in a selection of equipment and uniforms that he used throughout his illustrious career as an official.



Les Barnett talking about the history of MAFEO.



Old AAs handbooks that Les brought in. They were used by officials during the late 1970s and early 1980s.



MAFEO's first Chair from 1983, Les Barnett with the outgoing Chair of 2023, Kenny Ebanks

Les was followed by Marc Ritchie. Unfortunately, Chris Jones (CEO of England Athletics) who was supposed to be attending, was unable to make the event, but Marc gave an update on Official Developments and he explained part of the changing role of England Athletics.



Marc Ritchie from England Athletics giving his Officials Update

After this, the conference delegates went to their first workshop selection.

These were,

- Operating cameras on the take- off board with Andy Hulse
- Start Information System (SIS) with Mark Purser
- Track & Field Licensing with Jacky Brett (co-ordinated by Stuart Paul)
- Upgrading made easy– how to fill out the forms with Sally Delgado



Andy and the group explaining how the long jump camera works



Mark explaining to his group how Start Information Systems work.



Unfortunately, Jacky was unable to attend the event, but she did prepare a video about the licensing process with Nichola Skedgel. This video will be uploaded onto the MAFEO website, The workshop was co-ordinated by Stuart Paul who co-ordinates the licenses for the West Midlands Region.

Following Workshop 1, everybody tucked into a buffet lunch, and everybody was also given a 40th Anniversary cup cake.



After lunch, the session second workshops were.

- Using Technology for Athletics Administration with Yasmine Al Daftary
- Setting Up an EDM with Andy Hulse
- Call Room and Athlete Steward with Wendy Kane
- An Introduction to Photo Finish with Mark Delgado

The feedback from the conference delegates was very good. Members seem to enjoy the venue (except the heating issues in some rooms), the food choices, the workshops offered, the quality of the presenters and the format of the day. Overall, the average feedback score for the day was 4.9 out of 5. All the individual workshops received equally high feedback scores by members who attended them. From the feedback forms, remarks about the day included,

“it was all worthwhile”,

“the day was informative with excellent subjects which enhanced my learning”

“it was nice to connect with people!”

On departure, to celebrate the 40th Anniversary, all members were given a special commemorative pin badge.

