



AUGUST 2024

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Save the Day!

MAFEO will be hosting its AGM and the MCAA conference on

Sunday 20th October 2024

**The event will be held at Light Hall School in
Shirley, Solihull.**

Midlands Officials at BUCS

Over the May Day Bank Holiday Weekend, the British Universities and Colleges Sports Association (BUCS) had their annual National Championships at Sport City in Manchester. Traditionally, most officials who attend the event are drawn from the local region (in this case, the North). However, this year quite a few Midlands Officials were asked to attend.

Jane Pidgeon was Chief Track Judge



Paj Valley, Fred Pidgeon and Bemigho Etuwewe were all Field Judges



Adie Pottinger and Dave Watson were on the Photo Finish team



Wendy Kane was Chief Starters Assistant.

Kenny Ebanks and Yasmine Al Daftary were Starters Assistants



Karen Davies and Colin Palmer were part of the Timekeeping Team



MEET THE MAFEO OFFICIALS

Name: Maureen Bullen

Officiating Qualifications: Field Judge L4; Track Judge L2

Roles: MAFEO Founder member in 1983 also Secretary later
Midlands Officials' Committee Secretary from 1991 then Midlands T&F
Officials' Coordinator after MCAA became only a Competition Provider, to
2024
Chair of UKA Facilities Track Assessors Group
Member of National Officials Committee representing Midlands
Tutor Field Officials
President Worcestershire AA
President MCAA
Chair West Midlands Schools AA

Hometown or City: Sutton Coldfield

1. How did you get involved in Officiating?

I married an athlete and would rather do something than sit and watch. You could say that I couldn't beat them, so I joined them!

I qualified as a AAA Field Official in 1968 at a time when WAAA was a separate Association with a separate rulebook, and there were some events which women did not do. I think the associations joined in 1991. Grading of officials was different when I started in 1968, and the numbers worked in the opposite direction – I think I should explain:

Grade 4: by preliminary exam (pass mark 65%) or by at least one year experience

Grade 3: after at least one year and 1 positive report to County Association for upgrading

Grade 2: after at least two years and 2 positive reports to Area Association for upgrading then Advanced Exam (pass mark 85%.)

Grade 1: after a minimum three years at Grade 2, and 3 positive reports National Association for upgrading

Grade 1 Referee: (if selected, and with positive reports) after a further two years at Grade 1. This was not considered as a higher grade, but as an appointment within Grade 1.

So, eight years minimum to get from Grade 4 to Grade 1R.

2. Where are you in your officiating journey?

I am at the end of my officiating journey. My licence expires in December 2024, and I do not intend to renew it. I am now finding field event judging a bit physically taxing, and I do not like to cause any problems for referees with duty sheets. I might have lasted longer if I had followed my track qualification, but to be honest, I only took that because I was being appointed as referee for Combined Events meetings.

3. What is your favourite moment as an official?

There have been so many good moments and amusing moments over the years that every time I think of a favourite, I think of an alternative, so I am bound to make a mistake in choosing just one. I have many memories.

4. What do you love most about officiating?

None of us can do the job alone, so it has to be the friendliness of the teamwork, certainly in the Midlands. We also have a generally friendly association with most athletes.

5. Do you have a favourite event or venue that you really enjoy (or have enjoyed) officiating at?

As a judge, I really don't have a favourite event. Duties where I am standing in more or less the same place tend to make my back ache in the last few years.
As a spectator, I like to watch High Jump and Pole Vault. I think this is because the target is known and visible for the whole attempt.

6. What are your ambitions in officiating?

For me, I think it is too late to have ambitions. In fact, ambition has not played a part in my officiating. For my own satisfaction, I did have the ambition to pass the exams I took, (very bad for a teacher to fail exams) but apart from that it was out of my hands. As I was moving through the grades in the 1970s, there was really no place for ambition.

The various committees at different levels arranged reports for candidates they had noticed. As a woman in the Men's AAA, I suppose I got noticed fairly easily and can't have made too many mistakes. I have no idea what the reports said about me as in those days the reports were confidential and for the information of the officials' committees at various levels (county, area and national). So, I just went merrily on doing what I was doing –no formal mentoring.

I had reached Grade 1 when one day Liz Doyle (who was then MCAAA Officials Committee Secretary) said to me "By the way, I have put you forward for Referee." While I was saying, "But, but, but...." as I had no ambition to reach that position, her reply was "Too late. I've done it". That meant that I was given a National appointment as Referee the following year, and then appointed as Grade 1 Referee. The reports were confidential to the National Officials Committee.

There were no major multi-national meetings in England that I can remember until the 1990s, so opportunities were not as they are today.

7. When not officiating or being involved in athletics, what do you like to do?

I like beautiful gardens (not so keen on gardening), so I like to visit them where the weeds are someone else's problem. I also undertake the usual range of crafts – knitting,

sewing clothes and other items. I think my biggest project was to make a banner for West Midlands Schools because, being one of the new counties, they had nothing to march behind at the ESAA Championships. I didn't waterproof it, so I don't think it has stood up well to the weather it has encountered over the years.

8. What type of sandwich and crisps do you choose for your packed lunch, when officiating?

I would usually go for cheese as it stands up to hot weather better than meat or fish. Plain crisps as they go with anything. I admit that I have been tempted by a bacon roll at Nuneaton on occasion.

9. What would you tell others about becoming an official?

If you are unsure about anything, don't be afraid to ask someone with more experience – they have all been there. Rather than look too far into the future, concentrate on doing a good job in the present. Never stop learning. Most of all, enjoy your officiating. This has worked for me.

10. Do you have anyone who you would like to thank who has supported you in your officiating journey?

There have been many from whom I have learned over the years, but to choose one it has to be my husband, John. He was two years ahead of me as an official. There was no formal mentoring when I started, and you could say I had a live-in mentor for my first few years and someone to talk things over with until he died in 1994. I carried on, partly because he would have been disappointed if I gave up. Also, I carried on because there was always a job someone asked me to do.



Maureen receiving her UKA 40 Years Service Award from Katherine Merry

VHF Radio Procedure for Athletics Events

VHF radio is an important means of communication between officials at many athletics events. Just as with any technical equipment, knowing how to use it properly can avoid confusion and contribute to effectiveness.

At many meetings, there will be several officials with different roles using the same channel, hence the need for radio discipline. World-wide protocols exist for use of VHF radio on land, sea and air, governed by international regulations¹. The following notes provide a quick overview of key points.

Before calling:

- Think about what you plan to say – be concise and clear
- Listen – ensure the channel is not in use so you don't block other transmissions
- Remember that most hand-held sets are simplex (when you hold down the PTT² button, you cannot receive)

The initial call:

- Press the PTT button.
- Say "(the identity of the station called) twice, THIS IS (your identity)³, OVER⁴"
eg "Competition Director, Competition Director, this is Call Room, Over."
- Release the PTT button.

ENSURE THAT THE PTT BUTTON IS PRESSED *BEFORE* YOU BEGIN SPEAKING OTHERWISE THE RECEIVER WILL NOT HEAR YOUR FIRST WORDS

Subsequent calls:

- Press the PTT button.
- Say the identity of the station called once, followed by your identity. Then give your message, speaking at normal conversation level. Repeat any numbers to avoid doubt. Finish the call by saying OVER (except your final transmission – see below).
- Release the PTT button.

To end the transmission:

- At the end of your transmission, finish your final message with the word OUT⁵

To broadcast a message to all users on a channel:

- If you need to broadcast a message to all users on a channel, say "All Stations, All Stations, THIS IS (your identity), OVER."

¹ The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Radio Regulations.

² Press to transmit.

³ This follows the principle of addressing emails or letters. From childhood, we develop the ability to recognise our own name even in a noisy environment. Conversely, we tend to switch off when other names are called.

⁴ OVER is short for "Over to you" – the invitation for the station called to reply.

⁵ OUT indicates to other users that your transmission has finished, enabling them to access the channel without interrupting you.

ATHLETICS TRIVIA QUIZ

1. In which town would you find Paula Radcliffe Stadium
2. In 1912 when it was founded, what did the IAAF stand for?
3. In 2001, the letters stayed the same, but name changed – what did the IAAF stand for now?
4. How long in the exchange zone in a 4 x 100m relay
5. What is the maximum allowable wind speed for a running record to count
6. Which club does British 400m record holder Matthew Hudson-Smith represent
7. Who was the first British woman to win an Olympic gold medal in track and field competition
8. Which decathlete was the youngest to win a gold medal in the Olympics
9. Which city hosted the 1998 European Outdoor Athletics Championships
10. Who is this British athlete from the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris



The World's Biggest One Day Athletics Meet

By Kenny Ebanks

On Saturday 20th July, athletics returned to the London Stadium. It was the largest crowd in the venue since the 2012 Olympic Games with 60,000 spectators packed in to watch the final Diamond League event before the Paris Olympic Games. I was fortunate to be appointed as one of the starters. I had previously worked as a starter or starters assistant at other large, televised events before, but it was by far the largest event that I had ever been a starter at.

I was lucky in that I was working with officials whom I knew very well, having worked with many of them before, but it was still nice to have familiar faces from the Midlands around such as Wendy Kane in the Starters Assistant team and Margaret Afford as Chief Timekeeper (who was positioned directly in front of the start team at the 400m



The Start Team of Mark Purser, Andrew Hopkins and me with Start Referee, Gordon Staines

starts).

When you started to look around the packed stadium, I was initially a little nervous. However, it was nice to have some Club Connect relays at the start of the day before the main programme began. It was nice to become more familiar with the Omega electronic starting gun and being aware of where you could place the starting rostrum so that there wasn't a scoreboard or fixed television camera rails in the way. The start

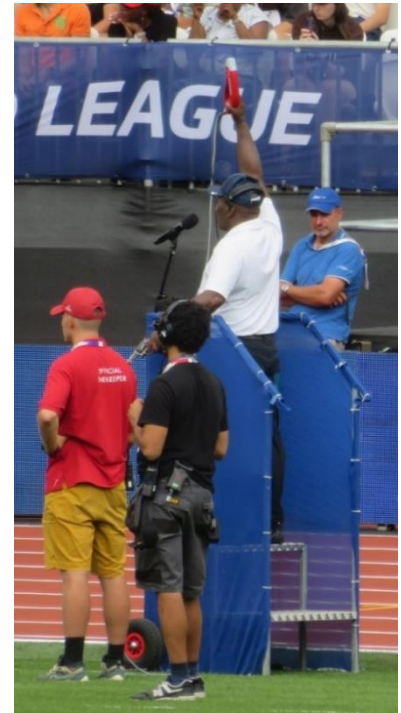


team also had to use a normal gun to recall races with, as the Omega system doesn't have a recall button like some other electronic start systems.

It was obviously a highly pressured meeting bearing in mind the amount of people in the stadium and the potential worldwide audience, but I just remembered to do my normal starting

procedures that I would use at any other event. Having said that, there were a few little different nuances that do exist at televised meetings that don't exist at an England Athletics event. These include not wearing red polo shirts or a red hat. Not whistling to the timekeepers and only starting a race when the Start Referee gives you the OK after they have received it from the Competition Director.

I was most anxious at the meeting at the lateness that the Omega Start Technician handed over the headset / microphone and the starting gun. He would only do it halfway through the stadium announcer introducing the line-up of athletes. Sometimes I didn't get it until the announcer was talking about the penultimate athlete in the race. I just had to take a couple of deep breaths before I started the race to calm down.



Overall, the day was a fantastic experience, The weather was great and there were some exceptional performances. I ended up having to sign paperwork for six National Records or Area Records, which is a pleasurable thing to do. The presentation team were very happy with how everything went and the Omega Start Technicians who travel around the world for the Diamond League said that London was their favourite event on the world tour.

Your MAFEO Committee Members 2023 – 2024

Chairman – Fiona Hancock (Chairman@mafeo.net)

Vice-Chairman – Kenny Ebanks

Hon. Secretary - Derek Prince (HonSecretary@mafeo.net)

Membership Secretary - Maureen Bullen

Hon. Treasurer - Yasmine Al-Daftary (HonTreasurer@mafeo.net)

Margaret Afford, Stuart Paul, Andrew Hulse, Maggie Murphy, Noel McKakly, Derek Redfern, Barry Parker, Chris Blyth, Mark Marshall, Cathy Briggs, Kate Hotchkiss

Committee Meeting Dates 2024

Wednesday 25th September

Proposed AGM: Sunday 20th October

If you have any issues you wish to be raised at a committee meeting, please let us know.

ATHLETICS TRIVIA QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Loughborough
2. International Amateur Athletics Federation
3. International Association of Athletics Federations
4. 30m
5. 2 m/s or less
6. Birchfield Harriers
7. Mary Rand (Long Jump, 1964)
8. Bob Mathias (1948 aged 17)
9. Budapest, Hungary
10. Eric Liddell



MAFEO STOCK PRICE LIST

MAFEO clipboard	£5
Landscape weather writer by Paperdry	£20
Portrait weather writer by Weatherwriter	£30
Large (A4) band	£2.50
Small (A5) band	£2.50
Pens	£1.80
Pen Refills	£1.20
Rule books	£5.50
MAFEO Mug	£4.50

Should you wish to order please email:

mafeopayments@gmail.com

NEXT NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2024

If you have any suggestions for articles or information you wish to share with other MAFEO members in the next newsletter, either pass it on in person to a member of the committee or email it to Chairman@mafeo.net.

MAFEO OFFICIALS' DEVELOPMENT GRANT

England Athletics have very generously given MAFEO a fund which is to be used for the training and development of officials. Any fully paid up MAFEO member may apply for a grant of up to £75 for individual purposes. If they are applying on behalf of an athletics club or association, where two or more MAFEO members will be attending, a grant of up to £150 may be awarded.

Full details of the MAFEO Officials Development Grant Guidelines are below.

If you would like to apply for an individual or club/association grant, please complete the attached grant Application Form and send it to Derek Prince, Hon Secretary of MAFEO (derekprince22@gmail.com).

Once the England Athletics fund has gone, no further Official's Development Grants will be awarded.

GRANT GUIDELINES

Only fully paid up MAFEO members may benefit from a grant.

For Clubs/ Athletics Associations

A grant of up to £ 150 may be awarded to an organising Athletics Club or Athletics Associations who are hosting a training or educational event which directly benefits **TWO OR MORE** fully paid up MAFEO members. The grant may be used for activities which include the hiring of officiating equipment so that MAFEO members are able to use equipment to broaden and develop their officiating knowledge and understanding.

Receipts for costs incurred must be provided and the names of fully paid up MAFEO members attending must be provided

For Individual MAFEO members

A grant of up to £75 may be awarded to a fully paid-up member to support them in their officiating journey. The grant may be used for MAFEO members' transport and accommodation cost to travel out of area in order to obtain reports. Receipts of all costs incurred must be supplied and car transport mileage will be at 25p per mile.

Alternatively, the grant can be used to purchase items that will enable a member to officiate more efficiently, or at least work comfortably to the best of their ability.

Members can only be awarded one individual grant but are free to attend training or educational events which have been supported by MAFEO.

The recipients of both Club/Athletics Association grants and Individual grants will need to provide an impact statement explaining how the club/official has benefitted from the grant, and how it will enhance their officiating career.

If possible, the recipients should provide photographic evidence of the events/ items purchased being used, which could be used by both MAFEO and England Athletics for publicity purposes.



Midland Association for Athletics Officials

OFFICIALS DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Name	
Address	
Telephone	
Email	
License Number	
Date of Application	

Individual or Club/Association Application (Please specify Club/Association)	
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Please outline in the box below how much you would like to apply for and how you propose to use the grant.

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For Office Use only

Date Received	
Application Code Number	
Outcome	