



## March 2025

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## **A day in the life of an athlete steward at the Keely Klassic – Kate Hotchkiss**

On Saturday 15th February 2025, it was the first ever Keely Klassic competition at the Utilita Arena in Birmingham.

At the start of the day, when the officials arrived, we went to the registration desk to get an official 'Keely Klassic' lanyard and accreditation.

Then, I had a wander around and got my Keely Klassic officials polo shirt, kitted out, I strolled around the track with Yasmine Al-Daftary, who was the Call Room Manager, to orient myself and to know what to do when I went down to collect athletes from the warmup area. Now that I knew my way around the track and building, we had the call room judge's and athlete steward briefing in the call room, this highlighted which way to take the athletes, either left or right when I got out and which person I had to give the track start lists to.

My first event that I had was the 400m National Women – with this event I went down to the first call area to collect the athletes and brought them up to the main call room area. Once the call room judges had completed their checks, as the Lead Athlete Steward, I led the athletes out to the left and waited for each athlete to be presented to the crowd. Once this had been completed, I walked round to provide the starters assistant with the start lists. I then had to wait until the race had finished in case there were any false starts.

I was also lucky enough to be put on the Pole Vault Women where Molly Caudery was competing, so my job was to be there for the welfare of the athletes and to chaperone them out of the competition area.

After that, I had the job of being the lead athlete steward for the Women's 300m Tour, where Ama Pipi & Lina Nielsen (two British athletes that competed at the Summer Olympics 2024) were competing and Lina got a new British record of 36.53 seconds.

Then, I was put on the 1000m Tour and Neil Gourley got a new British record of 2:16.74. I was fortunate to get Molly Caudery's autograph & a photo and autograph of Keely Hodgkinson.



The meeting manager (Chris Blyth) having a well-earned rest break



Kate Hotchkiss & Keely Hodgkinson at the Keely Klassic

## Meet the MAFEO Official

**Name:** Margaret Afford  
**Officiating Qualifications:** Level 4 Timekeeper  
Level 4 Photo-Finish



I became an official almost by accident!

Our son Marc became a member of Telford AC, and Pete and I were asked if we would like to help at the club. With an 11 years old son and 7 years old daughter we felt only one of us could become an official. I accompanied Pete to the Indoor Arena at RAF Cosford for his practical timekeeping test, to record his times. On the way in I was persuaded by Ray Lucas to also take the test, protesting that there would not be anyone to record times for both of us and I did not have a stopwatch. Ray said he would record for us both and loaned me a stopwatch. The Master timekeeper against whose times ours would be judged (no photo-finish) was Alan Tomkins. I still have a copy of the book he wrote entitled 'Timekeeping', the definitive handbook about how to become a good timekeeper. I am glad to say we both passed. We also had to pass the preliminary written test. We then became Grade 4 timekeepers from January 1990.

That was the start of an exciting journey which continues today. We also became photo-finish officials, using the 'wet' system. The film was developed in a chemical solution, the black and white negative washed, wiped dry, the image then read by being placed on a glass slide on a light box. The negative was then hung to dry properly on a washing line - a far cry from the sophisticated computer and camera systems in use today!

During the past 35 years I have been fortunate enough to be appointed to several national and international events including European, European Cup and World Championships. I have been selected to be Chief Timekeeper at two Diamond League meetings, including last year's meeting in London, and numerous other high-profile meetings. This does not mean I neglect grass-roots athletics; I love timekeeping at Sports Hall events and local leagues too.

Throughout this time, I have been a strong supporter of MAFEO, being a committee member for over 30 years, including a time as Chair – thank you Maureen for all the times you hosted the meetings in your home.

I have made many friends from all over the country, people I would never have met if it were not for this great sport of athletics.

Currently I mentor three other timekeepers and will be part of the new EA Officials' Support Programme when it launches.

It's not just being a Technical Official – I am the COffSec for Shropshire, a member of the Midlands Advisory Group for timekeepers, Tri-Regional Group member and now also Peer Group member.

All down to being persuaded to take the practical timekeeping test all those years ago - Ray Lucas had a lot to answer for!! (But I wouldn't change a thing!)

## **Life Beyond the Funnels – Margaret Murphy**

As an Endurance Official my role is usually that of a Start Marshall, a Funnel Steward, Line Judge or a Recorder. At the 2024 Warwickshire County Cross Country Championships I experienced the event from a totally different perspective. As current President I would be presenting medals and trophies to winning athletes and teams.

When the event was being planned, I had walked the courses, but a fractured ankle kept me in or near the gazebo on the day. All I could see of the racing were athletes making their way uphill to the finish funnels. Colleagues arrived to sign in and were not seen again until the end of the day.

The patience of the Registration Steward was to be admired, with the competition numbers well organized for collection. The trophies awarded the previous year had all been collected back in and engraved where necessary. The medals and trophies were all set out ready for presentation with sheets to be signed where a trophy was awarded.

We had hoped to receive the results by e-mail, but the Wi-Fi signal was not strong enough, so we had to resort to having someone walk them across. Maybe we can go paperless in the future. Most people waited patiently but a few were asking for results before the race was actually finished.

As the sun disappeared, and the day became colder, people were anxious to receive their awards and make their way home. The senior races have more age groups to sort, and the event was run in conjunction with Worcestershire who have different award categories, which meant these took longer to finalise.

A day doing something different and seeing other aspects of the event.

## The Athletics Quiz – Thanks again to Margaret Murphy

- 1 What is the significance of the name St Leo in the world of athletics?
- 2 How many gold medals did Jesse Owens win at the 1936 Olympic Games?



- 3 When was the first Paralympic Games held?  
1956, 1960, 1970, 1972
- 4 In road races of 10K and above at what interval must a Competition Provider supply drinks?
- 5 Who achieved fame in 1984, aged 17, by unofficially breaking the 5000 metres world record?
- 6 In Race Walking how many times may a Judge show an athlete a yellow paddle?
- 7 How many flights of hurdles in the men's hurdle for 400m hurdles?
- 8 In which year was the International Association of Athletic Federations (IAAF) founded?  
1912, 1924, 1956
- 9 Which track & field event is not part of the decathlon?  
110m hurdles, 800 metres, 1500 metres
- 10 What do the following classes signify in Para Athletics?  
T20 and F 11-13
- 11 Who was the first woman to win 5 individual Olympic track and field gold medals?
- 12 What is the length of the Long Jump runway?
- 13 How many times did Paula Radcliffe win the London Marathon?



- 14 If any part of a road used for a road race is open to traffic at the same time as the event is in progress, which side of the road must the runners remain?

- 15** Who was the first athlete to break the 9.80 seconds barrier in the men's 100 metre sprint?
- 16** In which athletics throwing event is the women's world record further than the men's?
- 17** What are the distances in a full Ironman Triathlon event?
- 18** Who was the first British woman athlete to win an Olympic gold?
- 19** What is the order of events for a U18 women's heptathlon?
- 20** In which year was the Pole Vault introduced for women at the Olympic Games?



Answers on the last page

## Age Groups – Derek Redfern

### Are you ready for the next era in Athletics?

I will try to keep the summary brief, with only a minimum of alerts. The link to the EA document will expand the detail, but for some aspects they have not exactly said how is to be done, however, more detail is to come they say.

There is a period in the next indoor season to try out any changes.

So-

- The age groups for young athletes in UK athletics will change from odd to even numbers in **April 2026**.
- The new age groups are:
  - Under 12
  - Under 14
  - Under 16
  - Under 18
  - Under 20
  - Senior
  - Masters

**This means that the age groups in which young athletes compete will change from**

- **U13, U15, U17 and U20, as is currently the case, to U12, U14, U16, U18 and U20 from 1 April 2026.**
- The change was approved by the UK Athletics board in December 2023. Competition providers can test the new age groups during the 2025-2026 indoor season.

We are moving to WA expectations.

## KEY INFORMATION

- ▶ New rules will be effective: **1 April 2026**
- ▶ An athlete will compete in the same age group as they began the competition year, even if the competition finals go past the end date.
- ▶ All licensed competition providers must adopt the new age groups.
- ▶ The rules of competition will include U10 and upwards.
- ▶ U10-U18 cut off dates will be 31 August within the competition year (note – for international competition, the December cut off will apply, as is currently the case)
- ▶ U20 upper cut off date will be 31 December in the calendar year of competition (as is currently the case).
- ▶ Senior athletes are aged 20 or over on the 31 December in the calendar year of competition.

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Do try Athletics' Weekly for information.

# AGE GROUPS, RECORDS & RANKINGS



- U12 and U10 athletes will have profiles on Power of 10 but will not appear in ranking lists.
- Historical ranking lists for the current age groups will be retained.
- All time lists for the current age groups will be retained up to 1 April 2026.
- From 1 April 2026 new ranking lists will be published for the new age groups.
- All time lists for the new age groups will be published from 1 April 2026.
- Competition providers and/or other bodies may include historical best performances in the new age group all time lists if they so wish. The competition provider, club or Association will have the ability to determine their own stance on record keeping based on their own individual needs.

There are a few changes that will influence the makeup of what is offered to our athletes. Each discipline will have their own “adaptations” to take on board.

New implements may be needed in the field.

There are several field events that are not described in detail how they are run yet, or they are described as optional.

I have included the links to sites that can be more specific.

<https://www.englandathletics.org/about-us/age-group-changes/age-group-changes-transition/#:~:text=The%20new%20rules%20will%20be,%2C%20U20%2C%20Senior%2C%20Masters.>

Download the EA document called Age Group Rules Change Event progressions & pathway August 2024 for extra advice and information.

## **MAFEO Support and Mentoring**

MAFEO has put together a list of initial contacts should you need to talk to someone about officiating in your discipline. This could be technical or event-based questions (e.g. where should I go to officiate). The following MAFEO members would be happy to receive an email from you and hopefully they will be able to answer your questions.

Field Queries	Andy Hulse	<a href="mailto:andrewhulse2017@gmail.com">andrewhulse2017@gmail.com</a>
Track Queries	Noel Mckakly	<a href="mailto:makie_2@hotmail.com">makie_2@hotmail.com</a>
Timekeeping	Steve Webb	<a href="mailto:steve_webb@icloud.com">steve_webb@icloud.com</a>
Starting	Yasmine Al-Daftary	<a href="mailto:mafeopayments@gmail.com">mafeopayments@gmail.com</a>
Starters Assistant	Stuart Paul	<a href="mailto:staurt.paul@usa.net">staurt.paul@usa.net</a>
Young officials (under 30)	Kate Hotchkiss	<a href="mailto:katehotch@btinternet.com">katehotch@btinternet.com</a>
Photo Finish	Adie Pottinger	<a href="mailto:adiepottinger@hotmail.com">adiepottinger@hotmail.com</a>
Endurance	Chris Hitchman	<a href="mailto:chitchm1@gmail.com">chitchm1@gmail.com</a>
Ancillary roles	Barry Parker	<a href="mailto:parkerbarry47@gmail.com">parkerbarry47@gmail.com</a>

**The MAFEO Committee is (Nov 2024 – Nov 2025):**

Chairperson	Fiona Hancock ( <a href="mailto:Chairman@mafeo.net">Chairman@mafeo.net</a> )
Vice-Chair	Kenny Ebanks
Hon. Secretary	Derek Prince ( <a href="mailto:HonSecretary@mafeo.net">HonSecretary@mafeo.net</a> )
Hon. Treasurer	Yasmine Al-Daftary ( <a href="mailto:HonTreasurer@mafeo.net">HonTreasurer@mafeo.net</a> or <a href="mailto:mafeopayments@gmail.com">mafeopayments@gmail.com</a> )
Hon. Life President	Maureen Bullen

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

Website Admin: Yasmine Al-Daftary and Andrew Hulse

# MAFEO



## 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](mailto:mafeopayments@gmail.com)

## **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 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	

## **Quiz Answers**

- 1** It is the middle name of Usain Bolt
- 2** Four - 100m, 200m, 4 x 100m, Long Jump
- 3** 1960 in Rome
- 4** Intervals of not greater than 5k
- 5** Zola Budd
- 6** An athlete cannot be shown a second yellow card by the same Judge for the same offence
- 7** Ten
- 8** 1912
- 9** 800 metres
- 10** T20 Intellectual impairment  
F11-13 Vision impairment
- 11** Fanny Blankers-Koen
- 12** 40 metres
- 13** Three times
- 14** The left-hand side unless directed by police or a race marshall
- 15** Ben Johnson
- 16** Discus (however men's discus is 2kg / women's discus is 1kg)
- 17** 2.4 mile / 3.9 km swim  
112 mile / 180.2km cycle  
26.2 mile / 42.2 km run
- 18** Mary Rand
- 19** Day 1 100m hurdles, High Jump, Shot Put, 200 metres  
Day 2 Long Jump, Javelin, 800 metres
- 20** 2000 in Sydney, Australia

## **NEXT NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2025**

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](mailto:Chairman@mafeo.net).