**Scottish Athletics Officials’ Commission** 

Minute of meeting

Via Zoom 8/09/21

**Present:** Margaret Brown-MB (Convener) Margaret McInally-MM (Administration)
Joyce Wighton-JW (Track)
Dave Cairns-DC (Endurance) Jason Pender-JP (Time Keepers)
Richard O’Grady-RO (Start Team) Pam Auckland-PA ( Field)
Ally Love-AL (Events Team) Leslie Roy-LR (Track & Field Commission)
Colin Hutchison-CH (CEO ) Shona Malcolm-SM (Development Officer)

 **1 Convener’s opening remarks:**

Welcome once again to another virtual Officials’ Commission meeting.

Many thanks for agreeing to a change of date for this meeting, August just seemed to be too busy and it seemed more sensible to wait until the August Championships had been completed.

Welcome to Joyce Wighton for her first Commission Meeting (without Alistair) and also to Pam Auckland, thank you for standing in for Moira Nisbet tonight.

Could we please record our grateful thanks to Alistair Aitchison for his commitment to the Commission as Head of Discipline for Track over the last 8 years. We wish him well as he continues his officiating duties for the Track Discipline and indeed his final year on the UKA Track Peer Group.

Huge thanks also go to Liz Wilder as she steps down from her role within facilities for Scottish Athletics. The number of years Liz has carried out the role are many. The good news is that she is still very willing to continue to assist as appropriate and as necessary.

Unfortunately, we have to record the loss of three of our colleagues from athletics over recent weeks –

George Sinclair (EAC)

Iain (Rab) Robertson (Glasgow AC)

And

Neil Donachie (EAC)

The Commission members held a brief silence to reflect their own memories of these three important people who greatly influenced athletics in Scotland.

 **2 Apologies**: Moira Nisbet, Rob Dalziel, Dave Finlayson

 **3 Matters arising from Minute of 20/04/21:**

* Covid rates dropped which meant Championships could go ahead. On the rise again but fewer so ill
* Championships completed in July & August went down well with everyone
* Re arranged Diamond League gave opportunities to additional Scottish Officials
* Out of Area reports happened. Field used a visiting English Official and Track & Timekeepers used different Scottish areas. Support required to allow Start Team to have L4 report
* Joint League was a success. Aim was to get athletes competing, was hard work, but paid off. Qualification gained for events and an amazing number of athletes competed. Officials more than happy as more available. Meeting in the near future to look at way forward. MB congratulated LR
* Web – Heads of Discipline need to check own section and liaise with SM re updates.
* Appreciation Certificate ordered, Welcome pack still being worked on, SAMH well received with 35 attendees, Newsletter out soon
* All happy it is an accurate minute. MM submit to SG for submission to web.

 **4 Convener’s Report update**

* Reminder that deadlines must be met for L4 upgrades, 25/26th October to MB as UKA deadline is 30/10/21. MB decides if upgrade is submitted.
* SA Awards Dinner – Glasgow Hilton 9/10/21. Discussion around ventilation, numbers, seating & cancellation arrangements. Must show negative test result beforehand, mask wearing when not seated, personal choice if happy to attend. Table of 10 to include nominees. Let MB know if you are interested in spare seat. Nominee letters out next week.
* Birmingham 2022 update – availability to UK Peer Groups for opinions, final decision with LOC. No one knows its composition. Discussion around selection, Host gets priority for Officials so probably few Scots.
* No names on Reports and when agreed at the following meeting send to SG.

 **5 Discipline Report updates**

* **Track:** JW – minimal update, AA assisting to ensure smooth passage of H of D.
No questions
* **Field:** PA – Query about reminder to return Record of Experience, down to H o f D but SM will send out reminder as season closes. Criteria discussed for gaining kit voucher, use of common sense very much recommended this year particularly. Endurance will have no one eligible unless they have another discipline. Discussion around emailing duty sheets etc and staying within GDPR. AL agreed to put onto password protected pages prior to each Championship event and Leagues via Convener. Aim for 5 days in advance, can be amended on the day. Thursday is AL final deadline.
* **Time Keeper:** JP – Nothing to update. Apology about late notification of L2 upgrade. No questions.
* **Photo Finish:** DF – nothing forwarded to add. No questions.
* **Start Team:** RO – Things are moving on with the Start Team, in a very positive way, group really gelling. MB impressed with Survey idea and other disciplines might consider it. Rule concern is being looked into. CH has discussed with MP & will speak to AS. AL suggests we need to supply names for it to be discussed further. LR wondered if it was just a Scottish thing but seems wider spread. Police Scotland have requested list of all guns that are with SAL Officials.
* **Administration:** MMcI – no updates but reiterated that Amin will need bodies at the Indoor Championships. No questions.
* **Endurance:** DC – no gun starts discussion is still ongoing. No questions.

**6 Track & Field Coordinator:** RD – requested highlight need for winter dates to allow availability to go out. May need to do Indoor League earlier as a standalone. AL intimated awaiting confirmation and will get dates to RD asap. Discussion around numbers indoors, can we deliver, air con etc how Officials might feel. Survey a likely way of gathering info. Agreed. Need this information before going forward. Might need a plan B from Timetabling Meeting in October. AL suggested LR & MB might be the appropriate people to produce Survey pack, as leads.

 **7 Events & Facilities:** AL – Expressed thanks to everyone who helped CW in his absence. She had worked very hard. Watched both Championships online and was interesting to see it unfold from the other side. Debrief planned early October. Working with stadia when required regarding Trackmark. Agreed expenses outline for Out of Area reports.

 **8 Health & Safety:** DH – no report

 **9 Track & Field Commission:** LR

* It has been great to have a 2021 T&F season with Championship events taking place during July and August with both athletes and officials pleased to be back.   The final Championship event will be the relays at Linwood this coming weekend.  Many thanks to officials for their commitment during the season at all events.
* All five Joint League meetings went ahead as planned with restrictions being able to be reduced as covid guidelines eased.  There was a great turnout from officials (helped by leagues combining) with athletes gaining selection for Olympics, European U20 Championships, Scottish U20 Manchester International Team and UK School Games.
* Fixture planning has already started for both the indoor and outdoor 2022 season.  With regards the indoor season dates, these are currently being finalised however what impact, if any, the pandemic will have on indoor fixtures only time will tell.
* The outdoor 2022 Championship dates are looking likely to be:
* 14/15 May – District Championships
* 09/10 July – CE / Masters Championships
* 13/14 August – Senior / U17 Championships
* 20/21 August – U13/U15/U20 Championships

SUPERteams in June and Relay Championships in September.

**10 Officials’ Development Officer:** SM

**Training Courses** – We have been delivering on-line training course which have been well attended. Dates for face to face courses over the winter months at the emirates are now on the website and bookings are coming in. The plan is to have one a month from September to February.
**Level 1 Courses –** Level 1 Virtual Course delivered – thanks to all the tutors for their continued support.
21 – April – Track – 13 Attended
24 – April – Field – 8 Attended
19 – May – Track – 8 Attended
31 May/7 June – Field – 8 Attended
6 – June – Track – 9 Attended
9 – August – Track – 11 Attended – from Orkney & Shetland
16/23 – August – Field – 15 Attended – Mainly from Orkney & Shetland
23/26 – June – Level 4 EDM Course – 6 Attended

A Level 1 Starter/Starters Assistant course will be delivered on 9 September via Zoom by Alan Bell. The first face to face course is planned for the Emirates on the 25 September and will be Level 1-3 Endurance delivered by Dave Cairns.

**National Officials Catch-Up –** We haven’t had an all officials’ catch up since March but we did deliver a Metal Health & Wellbeing Webinar in partnership with SAMH on the 26May via Zoom with 35 attendees.
In the current climate it was felt that we should not hold a National Conference this year. Instead we are holding a training day at Grangemouth on 16 October for any discipline that would like to come along. Feedback from Photo Finish, Starting, Admin & Technical, but waiting to hear from Track & Timekeeping if they wish to be part of it. Grangemouth is booked and programme being put together once response from the other disciplines.

**Website –** Updating of Officials pages is ongoing. Could all Discipline heads please check the toolkit of their discipline and send me any additions or deletion for that page. If anyone has any other Changes for the Officials’ pages, then please pass then on to me for updating.

**UKA Education Sub-Group Update. –** Last meeting was held on 30 June via Teams the main points discussed were-

* Development has begun on the Level 1 Timekeeping course to go online.
* Discussions have started on developing a generic Mentoring programme across all home countries.
* A quality assurance letter is being sent out to all tutors and assessor training will begin before the end of the year.
* There was discussion on the minimum age for attending a level 1 course should be 16 due to the fact that you can’t do a PVG till that age and you then can’t get a licence. This is going to TAG for approval. 14 would still be the minimum age for the Assistant Officials Course. All discussion around name change from “Assistant Official” to “Competition Volunteer”. Still in discussion.
* All Licence application forms are being looked at to strengthen the wording.
* Level 3’s going to Level 4 the out of area report must be from an out of area official. Matt is putting together a list of events that are suitable for a level 4 report to be done at.
* Call Room Module still being built and looking for some video content.
* Introduction to Officiating Module, still being finalised and looking for video content before being put online.
* The Level 5 Exam will take place next year (2022).

**Home Countries Forum –**

* This group covers Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales, England and UKA. The group meet on a regular basis and discus all the UKA courses both on-line and face to face deliver. It checks and standardises all forms and materials for courses. We also look at best practise and share new ideas.
* All home countries have been involved in the UKA Officials Strategy Focus Group discussions which took place with UKA’ Mark Munro in May.

**Recruitment, Retention, Reward Sub-Group –**

* The group hasn’t met since 13th April 2021.
* Appreciation Certificate – have been ordered and the group will look at the criteria for sending out at the end of the summer season.
* Can Discipline heads produce best practise material for the toolkit on the website.

**11 AOCB:**

* Most already covered
* MB - Packed lunches & drink voucher went down well at Aberdeen.
* MB - Propose keep to Zoom meetings over the winter months.
* MB - Articles required for next Newsletter.
* CH – Thanks to all. Very challenging time over this summer, but great to be back.

**12 Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 17th November via Zoom. Allocation meeting will be determined by availability deadlines.

**Reports submitted:**

**1.Convener** – Margaret Brown
While we may still be working within COVID restrictions there does seem to be more of a sense of normality around our August Championships. Let’s hope it is the start of better things to come, especially in 2022.

**Good News - New Arrival**

The Commission is delighted to note the arrival of Rebecca Love to our Events’ Team Leader Ally and his wife Christine. Best wishes to all for a healthy and happy future.

**Sad News – Friends Lost**

While not necessarily identified as ‘officials’ they were still part of our athletics’ community and very good friends to all. Recently, George Sinclair (Edinburgh AC) and Iain Robertson (Maryhill Ladies & Glasgow AC) both of whom in their day, were giants in our sport and most certainly prominent influencers.

Unfortunately, we also very recently lost another of our colleagues – Neil Donachie of Edinburgh AC. Neil had been active in our sport for very many years. He was a popular official who had a wealth of technical knowledge and indeed was Technical Manager at the Commonwealth Games in 1986 at Meadowbank.

Our sympathy and thoughts are with the families of George, Iain and Neil.

**SA Championships 2021**

It was good to be able to hold Championships again this year. The first of which was the Combined Events at Kilmarnock on the 10th & 11th July. While we were still very much restricted it was a good event at an appropriate venue which could cater for our requirements in terms of keeping everyone, athletes, officials and spectators, safe. The weekend incorporated the Hurdles competitions on Day 2.

**Senior & U17 Championships – Grangemouth 14-15 August (Joyce Wighton)**

A warm, sunny Grangemouth was the setting for our first ‘normal’ senior championship for two years.  Superb organisation by our events team, commitment and hard work by all officials and a very encouraging entry of more than 700 athletes led to a busy weekend with lots of great performances, many pb’s and an atmosphere that we have all missed.  Another positive addition was the integration of a series of para events including both track and seated throws.  Our officials were out in force working hard, as always, to provide quality competition.  The championship was not without its challenges.  A problem with a stuck valve at the water jump led to an overflow of water on to the track and javelin run up.  Spectators in that area were treated to the entertainment of the Technical Manager going for a ‘swim’ to solve the problem.  Normal service was quickly resumed.  The brand-new throwing cage looked great but unfortunately teething problems occurred with the gates.  In the interests of safety, the women’s hammer event had to be rescheduled to the end of the day.  Grateful thanks go to those athletes for their understanding and the officials who stayed on, after two long busy days, to make sure the competition could go ahead and still be a positive experience for the competitors.  Yet another reminder of what an exceptional group of officials we have as well as an enjoyable, positive end to a successful weekend.

**Age Groups & U20 Championships – Aberdeen 28-29 August**

Proved to be very successful and, although initially it was thought there would be a massive shortage of officials, the event was adequately covered with newer and/or many local officials. Many spectators attended on both days, however, there was a much better turnout on Saturday than on Sunday. The atmosphere which was created as a result of the numbers attending was quite amazing.

There have been so many positive comments from parents and coaches at the Age Group Championships highlighting how grateful everyone is at being able to successfully hold our events in 2021.

Guidelines and restrictions were followed carefully, and it was really good to see everyone complying with these. There was though a more definite sense of freedom than there has been of late.

Our thanks go to the excellent organisation and logistical support provided yet again by our Events’ Team, even without their Leader as he was on paternity leave! Huge thanks should be recorded to all those who stayed behind on Sunday to assist with loading the van.

**Reporting & upgrading in 2021**

Applying in 2021 – reports valid from 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021. Record of experience forms should be submitted for 2019, 2020 and 2021. Where opportunities are restricted in 2021 the 2018 record of experience may also be submitted. Six positive reports (max two from indoors) are required written by 5 or 6 different eligible officials.

Currently I believe there are three (or 4) possible individuals upgrading to Level 4 in 2021. Confirmation is required from HoD at Commission meeting. There have been four sets of L4 Questions completed so far.

Consideration must be given when submitting documents for upgrading to ensure that suitable time is given for processing by TRNG Secretary. The full set of reports for each candidate, accompanied by the completed application forms and the relevant annual Record of Experience sheets should be submitted in one file or one email per candidate electronically by October 30th 2021 - **required by TRNG Secretary at least a few days prior to this – Monday or Tuesday 25th/26th.**

**You are advised against** **leaving this task until the last minute**! In which case the application may **NOT BE** processed in 2021.

**SA Awards Dinner – 9th October 2021 – Hilton Glasgow**

A face to face event is being proposed in 2021 with possibly up to 400 attendees. The Commissions, once again, are offered a table of 10 each. Places at the table will be taken up by nominees for the Officials’ awards and anyone else who would like to be included. Commission members are invited and encouraged to take up a place. Previously the award evenings have been very much enjoyed by all who participated and are therefore highly recommended.

**UKA Update**

Availability of officials for the Birmingham Commonwealth Games was requested recently, co-ordinated by Malcolm Rogers on behalf of the LOC for the Games. Specific details as requested by Malcolm on the structure of our Discipline/Peer Groups were provided. Further details regarding the task allocated to PG members will be available at the Commission meeting. We await further updates and any information which becomes available will be forwarded to all Discipline Heads.

It is likely, however, that the majority (if not all) of the officials selected will be English as they will see it as their Games. Only time will tell!

**British Athletics Focus Groups**

There have been a number of focus groups delivered over recent months by Mark Munro as he carries out a development exercise towards improving conditions for National Technical Officials. I believe that a number of our officials have been involved. We look forward to hearing further regarding the outcome in due course.

**Officials’ Conference/Training Day 2021**

Following discussions with the Officials’ Development Officer and subsequent follow up with Discipline Heads it is very likely, for this year, that our Conference will be replaced by a Training Day. Further details will be available at the Commission meeting.

**The Future – Athletics in 2022**

Will it be back to complete normal or will it be something else . . . only time will tell.

Those who have performed in the roles of NTD and/or Meeting Manager will have the opportunity of contributing to ‘the future’ when the Events Team holds a de-briefing session before the end of 2021.

**Officials’ Newsletter**

This has lapsed a little lately but it has not been forgotten and all Commission members, especially Heads of Discipline, are asked to consider an article for an Officials’ Newsletter to go out to all at the end of September. There has been plenty of action in athletics recently and there should not be a shortage of items to write about!

**2.Track -** Joyce WightonI am pleased to have taken over from Alistair Aitchison as Discipline Head for Track and would like to record my appreciation to Alistair for his hard work and commitment over the last eight years. I’m very much looking forward to working with everyone on the Commission and the Track Peer Group (Brian Brown, Andy Law and Margaret-Ann MacLachlan).

**Outdoor Season 2021**There has been very good support of championships, league matches and other events by track officials. Everyone has enjoyed returning to some normality, trackside.

**Officials Progression**The fuller programmes at championships this season, so well organised by Ally, Caitlin and the team, have allowed us to get back to writing reports for progressing officials. By the end of the season we expect to have six reports completed - 3 for level 4 (1 official) and 3 for level 2 (3 officials).

 Current position:

 1 official progressing from level 3 to level 4

 1 official progressing from level 2 to level 3

 8 officials progressing from level 1 to level 2

 4 Assistant officials progressing to level 1

In addition, we have done 2 reports for a young level 3 English official who is studying at university in Glasgow. She has been welcomed by the track group and has fitted in well and we are pleased to be able to support her and assist with her progression to level 4.

**Congratulations**The track group would like to offer its congratulations and best wishes to Ally and his wife on the arrival of baby Rebecca.

**3. Field –** Moira Nisbet

It has been a busy summer this year with both Championship and League matches going ahead and being well supported. Not all officials have come back to officiating yet but hopeful that some more will return next season. However, the officials that did return to officiating this year seemed to enjoy being back out on the field of play. Officials all coped well with the additional Covid-19 restrictions as part of their duties when being allocated tasks. The introduction of sending out duty sheets in advance did cause some issues and a lesson learned for next year to ensure clear guidance is given as some officials did not know how to use the blind copy on their outlook and not all officials have everyone’s’ email addresses so important that they are aware who to contact for this information.

The Field discipline peer sub-groups have worked well this year.

* Mentoring - Pam Auckland, lead, has worked with her team and set up everyone that wishes a mentor with a mentor. Good feedback so far, but still a way to go to ensure consistency of approach and information.
* Technical Group - Mark Stringer, lead, allocated duties in discussion with the team and ensured priority given for those officials requiring reports. Accommodated a last-minute change to the technical team when an out of area opportunity arose for one of our officials and this was met with positivity.
* Reporting – Joyce Rammell, lead, worked with her team to identify those requiring reports and this has been successful during 2021 considering the limited number of events and officials to do reports. We engaged Emily Craven to join one of our Championship matches and do out of area reports for 2 of our officials. Several other upgrading reports have been done through the season and these are now with me to review and consider next steps. Almost feel as if we need an upgrading group but this is something I will discuss with Joyce as to next steps forward.
* Allocations – George Sneddon, lead, worked with his team at the start of the season to consider allocations for each match and this worked successfully for this season. Lessons learned this year as some officials did not receive allocation even although they submitted a return and were not aware of the process that they will get something through to confirm allocations and to check Scottish Athletics Live Update. I will ensure a communication is cascaded after the next allocations meeting.

I have had catch up with subgroup leads by Zoom a couple of times during the summer season just to ensure we were aware of numbers of forth coming events and any issues identified. We had to do some last-minute reallocation of duties during the season to accommodate various reports and we kept Scottish Athletics Events informed of any changes.

Consideration requires to be given as to how we retain our fellow officials as I am aware we have had a few officials that have not returned to officiating following the lock down. We also need to consider our recruitment. Shona has arranged several level 1 courses by Zoom and this has proven to be a good way forward. I will chat with Shona as I feel we should follow up after the course by either myself **or someone from the peer group, but not aware who has attended these courses.**

Field officials have all work well together during the season, but as we move forward to the indoor season, we need to consider how we can ensure new officials are being included. As a team we also must remember to be kind and support each other, and if we see something that is not right, we must challenge in a manner that is still respectful to our fellow official. We have had a couple of instances this season where a complaint/comment has been made and have been addressed. However, we need to consider how best to handle this during the next season. It has been a tough year with lock-down which sometimes we forget has impacted officials in different ways – self isolation for some was not easy.

I have been grateful for the support Joyce has given me during my first term in office, lots of learnings gained and lots more to learn as different topics crop up, CWG selection for one.

My apologies that I am not there in person for this meeting as I am away on holiday. I have asked Pam Auckland to attend in my place.

**4. Time Keeper** – Jason Pender

Good to get back at events and be involved in time keeping. We started with the number of timekeepers restricted on the stand which meant some missed out on selections. Starting to relax this depending on available space at each venue.

There is a timekeeping course mentioned for autumn time. At least three people expressed an interested in this. Can we advertise for course now? **Request to S M.**

**Upgrades**

Level 1: 1 confirmed in July 2021 as level 1

There are a 3 new timekeepers coming through currently at level 1.

1 working on Level 3 to level 4

**Active over the summer**

Level 4s:12

Level 3s: 1
Level 2s: 5
Level 1s: 4 (1 level 2 upgrade submitted)
Trainees: 3

**5. Photo Finish –** Dave Finlayson

As of this month’s UKA Affiliated Officials Report we have the following active PF Officials:
Trainee : 11
Level 1 : 14
Level 2 : 7
Level 3 : 2
Level 4 : 9
Inactive : 4

We have successfully supported all the Scottish Athletics Championships (with one still to happen) and introduced the new PF Kit. We desperately need to train Officials in setup, particularly with the new kit. There appears to be a large drop off from the UKA Trainee lists with some not on the list wanting to get to Level 1. This summer season has been difficult to include Trainees in the teams as, other than Admin, we are a discipline that works indoors usually in a close confinement environment.
We have :
2 x Level 3 progressing to Level 4
1 x Level 2 progressing to Level 3
2 x Level 1 progressing to Level 2

We welcome 1 from Shetland to Level 1 and 1from from TEL to Level 2

**6. Start Team** – Richard O’Grady

## Our Survey Said…… Since my last report to the Commission, the Start Discipline Peer Group have run 3 on-line surveys looking at: the uniform, the discipline as a whole and mentoring.

The first survey asked the simple question “To be red or not to be red?” with the unanimous response “To be red” for multiple reasons in and around the field of play.

The second survey went a little deeper, looking at reasons for officials being non-active and asking for comment on ways to improve the discipline. All this information has been fed back into the Peer Group, resulting in some very detailed work around mentoring and upgrading. Both sub-groups have produced plans of action, which are now live. The final survey was delivered by the mentoring subgroup requesting information on current mentoring practices and looking for interested officials wishing to receive training to become mentors. This is an on-going action.

## UpgradingOne of my biggest concerns, since taking on the role of Discipline Head, has been the apparent reluctance in the past, to upgrade officials using the UKA standards for upgrading. I understand the belief was that it must be time served in years, rather than number of experiences, regardless of the quality and number of events an official attended in a season, or their individual qualities. This, over the years has created a huge “choke point” in the structure with a bottom-heavy membership. There were only a few senior officials at the required level able to attend UK and International events with no opportunity for younger officials to progress along the pathway. Now those senior officials have left, this ‘choke point’ has created the present structure, with insufficient L4 Scottish officials to mentor or report on L3 wishing to progress to L4. We only have 3 active L4 start team officials, 2 as a L4p (SA & ST) and 1 (SA & ST). This is being addressed through Shona Malcolm and UKA, but that currently is a complete block on progression to L4 for Starters or Starters Assistants. It was suggested that I approach one of the “non-active” senior start team officials to assist, but this person declined my request, after consulting the other “non-active” supposed senior Start officials, which wasn’t surprising.

In the meantime, we’re actively addressing the ‘choke point’ issue with the Trainees, L1s and L2s. We have initiated a mentoring programme and already observed, reported on, and upgraded several officials from those levels who have met the UKA standard and have been approved by our Upgrading Subgroup & Peer Group.

We have also identified other officials who have indicated a wish to progress along the pathway and will be working with them over the coming months.

There is a Virtual Starters Course on 9th September

## EquipmentScottish Athletics has taken delivery of the latest version of TESS (The Electronic Start System) along with a new SIS (False Start) system. TESS was piloted, very successfully, at the recent 10k & 5k Championships at Greenock. We will be delivering a full training session on both systems in October before the start of the indoor season, along with a gun handling & maintenance workshop for starters.

Please note that the cost of ammunition for starters has risen drastically since Brexit. A box of 50 blanks last year cost £16.50 (0.33p/blank). The same box of 50 blanks from the same supplier, now costs £21.50 (0.43p/blank) and is a limited supply, so it might rise even further in the coming months. The ammunition is manufactured in Germany and must be imported by the UK supplier.

## Rule T16.5.2 ConcernOver the last few weeks, starters have noticed a worrying trend creeping into some athletes starting procedure. The athletes go to their marks on command as required, but on the starters command “set” whilst most athletes rise straight away into the set position as required by rule T16.5.2, some athletes, rise into the set, as if in a slow-motion film, meaning the other quickly responding athletes are up in the set position longer than necessary.

Up until now, starters upon seeing this action, stand up the athletes and request the offending athlete rises promptly and then restarts the race, showing a green card, but this practice is happening far too often now and needs addressing at all levels of competition.

Starters noticed the rise of cases at the recent 2021 Senior Championships and then again at the Dunfermline AC Championship and the Joint League Finals. As an example, during one set of 200m races, all athletes from one club of the same age group started this way.

Having spoken to a Club Secretary and a couple of Coaches, it is believed this trend might be coming from the Scottish Performance Coaching Team, as a way of ensuring a good stable set position? This practice is unsportsmanlike and will incur Conduct Warnings or even Disqualifications under C18.5 if the practice continues.

## FinallyI would like to take this opportunity to pass on my personal thanks to the whole Start Discipline for stepping up to the plate, especially during these last few months with the spectre of Covid still in the air. Their support ensured we were able to provide a start team for every event at all levels of competition this season. I also want to add a special note of thanks to my Peer Group for supporting me in ensuring the smooth running and continued development of the Start Discipline.

**7. Administration –** Margaret McInally
Good to be back to nearly normal championships, with so many happy athletes, delighted to be back competing at their highest level. As usual the Senior/U17 Championships provided an abundance of Officials available for Admin roles, but unfortunately the Aberdeen event was not so lucky. With little or no availability, the Admin roles were always going to struggle. I have to say a special thank you to the SAL staff who assisted in these areas both days. It was not an easy task at the outset, but they coped admirably and on the whole happily. Most even came back day 2. I really am grateful for their support. Looking forward to the Indoor events I can only ask again for as much support as possible from the Discipline Heads to allow Admin to function.

**8. Endurance –** Dave Cairns

**1. UKA Endurance Education Sub-Group**:

1. **L4 Endurance Officials Reporting**: Subsequent to issues raised at the SA Officials Commission meeting on 20/04/2021, DC sought clarification from UKA Sub-Group meeting on the issue of “out of area” reporting for L4 Endurance. It was subsequently confirmed that L4 Endurance reports do not require to be "Out of Area" and we can therefore do these ourselves provided that the competition is at a suitable level e.g. National Championships, International meeting, etc.
2. **Next meeting**: 14/09/2021.

**2. Endurance Officials Action Plan**:

1. Ongoing progress.

**3. Endurance Officials Discipline (Peer) Group**:

Margaret-Ann MacLachlan and I provide West & East District respective representation but no nominations from the North District to date.
**4. Endurance Officials Availability Google Form**:

1. Thanks to Rob Dalziel for the benefit of his experiences with T&F googleform. Nearing completion and will be circulated shortly to ALL officials.

**5.Endurance Officials Training**:

1. Face to face Endurance Officials training course scheduled for 25/09/2021 at the Emirates. At last count we had 10 delegates but Shona can confirm.

**6.Endurance Officials L1-L3 Tutor Training**:

1. 2 have signed up for Tutor Training, provisionally on 4th/5th October 2021.
2. **Start Procedures for Endurance Events**:
3. Alternative proposals to gun starts at **scottish**athletics Championships organised by the Road Running & Cross Country Commission have been reviewed by an appointed panel with Draft proposals prepared; further discussion on ‘’false starts” is ongoing.
4. **Accreditation Upgrade**:
5. One Level 2 Accreditation upgrade approved.