

## 10 Things I Learnt From my 'work experience' day as a Track & Field Official

- 1 On reflection the decision by the SAC T&F officials not to wear fancy dress (based on the theme of The Jungle Book) was the correct one.
- 2 Gardening is the ideal development ground for raking the Long Jump pit
- 3 Even for two responsible adults the temptation to have a mock fight with the rakes is too great
- 4 No matter how well things are going you can trust John Turner to point out something you're doing wrong.
- 5 It surely isn't right for officials to hope for a 'no jump' so that they can get to roll flat that strip of plasticine.
- 6 It's surprising how nervous you get when the T&F Referee walks past.
- 7 It was exciting when one competitor fell back leaving a hand mark close to the edge of the pit which meant I could observe the practical application of Rule 126 (8)
- 8 Helping the senior official to fill in the results is no guarantee that it will be done correctly or tidily – especially as rubbing out ball point pen isn't an option
- 9 Even with all those helpful marks and numbers on the tape measure it helps to have someone to double check the distance.
- 10 Concentrating is difficult when you are 5 yards from the steeple chase water jump and the Club Chairman is swimming in it every two minutes.

Hopefully the fact that I enjoyed being an official for the day comes out in the above article. On a serious side the club needs officials to ensure that the club is properly represented at the various leagues we compete in.

Tony Jackson Stratford-Upon-Avon

*Edited by Andrew Hulse - all contributions gratefully received*

# MAFEO Newsletter



*Jan 2010*

### ENCLOSURES

1. Most of you who have paid will have received your membership cards in the post and some are enclosed.

Unfortunately if you decide not to rejoin this will be **THE LAST COMMUNICATION** that you will receive from MAFEO.  
**IF I HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR PAYMENT THIS WILL BE HIGHLIGHTED.**

**PLEASE REMEMBER ONLY PAID UP MEMBERS FOR 2010 WILL RECEIVE A COPY OF THE NEW UKA RULE BOOK THIS YEAR**

### WATERPROOF PENS.

- The enclosed pens have been given a good test in adverse conditions and the results were impressive so we decided to send everyone who was a Member in 2009 one of them. Hope you find them as good as we think they are.

## CONGRATULATIONS

The following MAFEO Members have been successful in attaining the new Level 3 National status.

### Field

Alan Ferguson Maggie Walton, Gordon Ainsley, Liz Pearson

### Track

Noel McKakly

### Timekeeper

Simon Evans

## Is it me?

We have probably all had one of those meetings where things haven't quite gone to plan and we've been left wondering 'Is it me'? I seem to have had more than my fair share of those moments this season and on more than one occasion have found myself turning into a younger version of Victor (or should I write 'Victoria'?) Meldrew and found myself muttering the immortal 'I don't believe it!' So where should I start?

Firstly, this year, quite unfairly if you ask me, I have acquired a reputation for being able to make photofinish systems go wrong. I don't even have to be on the PF team, just in the stadium! Surely, though, I can't be blamed for transducers being blown apart? It is an undeniable fact that I am a starter's daughter, but when it comes to transducers being destroyed, I'm not the person with a gun in my hand.

Technology aside, my first 'Is it me?' cum 'I don't believe it!' moments happened quite early in the season, at county champs in fact. I had been asked to help an out of region county by acting as track ref as they were very short of officials. All the necessary information would be e-mailed to me. Actually, the e-mail never arrived and I had to download the timetable from a website. When I looked at it, I was left wondering if the meeting organiser had ever looked at rule 116. Age groups and distances didn't match and apparently the grand total of 7 athletes (both m & f) entered in the 400mH would all be going in one race .... I don't think so. Eventually I got things sorted and the meeting went fairly smoothly until just before the last event. The ground staff decided to bring the trailer onto the track to collect the hurdles. They were just turning the trailer to leave the track when suddenly you heard the sound of something snapping, saw a lone wheel roll across the track and watched in disbelief as the trailer gouged a hole in lanes 7, 8 and 9. The hurdles and trailer were manhandled off the track and the damage inspected. I spoke to the

athletes and agreed with them that everyone would be moved in to use lanes 1-5, and was asked why this was necessary by the organiser. According to him, all I had to do was press the damaged track surface back into place, tape it down and it would be fine to run on. As my chin hit the floor, it was time to welcome the arrival of 'Victoria Meldrew' with the line 'You've got to be joking'. Unfortunately, he wasn't. Needless to say, I got my way.

I left the stadium that day thinking that it was only early May and wondering what else the season had in store for me. It didn't take long for me to find out. Here's hoping that next season will be less eventful!

'Victoria' (aka Alison Jordan)

*(Apologies to Alison—her article was 'stuck' in my email for 3 months before I was able to retrieve it—Ed.)*

## Your Committee 2010

Chairman - Margaret Afford

Vice-Chairman - Andrew Hulse

Hon. Secretary - Kate Michell

Assistant Secretary - Cedric Michell

Hon. Treasurer - Noel McKakly

Maureen Bullen, Pete Afford, Cathy Briggs,

Nick Reade Stuart Paul, Janice Pryce

Co-opted members: Maggie Walton, St Claire Thornhill