



## **Officials and Volunteers Day on 13<sup>th</sup> March a huge success**

**Despite miserable weather, it did not stop a group of budding officials and volunteers braving the elements to learn all about officiating and what it takes to run an athletics meeting.**

We were very lucky to have four very experienced officials, who have judged at the Commonwealth, European and Olympic Games, leading each of the different sessions. In the morning, everyone split into three groups with two groups having the opportunity to learn about judging the jumps and throws events and the third group exploring aspects of being a Clerk of Course and Technical Manager.

Jackie and Simon led the jumps sessions, looking at each of the four jumps from an athlete's perspective, whilst teaching the different officiating roles within these. This also included having a go at placing the Pole Vault bar back onto the uprights using the lifting arms, which we all discovered was a lot harder than it looked!

The throws event group was led by Tamsin who explored how to judge the four different throwing events, the potential issues that may occur and how to keep everyone safe. It wasn't all serious though as Tamsin told numerous stories about her officiating journey and the fun that she has had along the way!

The final group was led by Steve who showed how to measure and weigh the different implements needed for the throws events, how to set up and calibrate high jump to ensure that the measurement was accurate. Steve also told stories of his officiating career which is in its 40<sup>th</sup> year and what his role will entail at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham this year.

After a delicious lunch and break from the rain, everyone braved the weather once again to look at how to set up for an athletics meeting. Everyone learnt and had the opportunity to have a go at setting up the sector lines for the different throws events, and when laying sector lines, the importance of setting them in the correct places for correct measurements for athletes throws. This task can take a while to complete at a home meeting, however, one group were particularly quick at completing this and they are looking forward to testing their skills in the Spring Warm Up Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> April.

The final session of the day enabled everyone to explore an electronic measuring device or an EDM for short. Jason from F2 showed everyone how to set up and use an EDM in a competition setting.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day and can't wait to put their new skills to the test in the up and coming season.

Thank you to the Rachel Kerr and the organising group for putting on a fun and interactive day.



