

coached

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2021

NEWS FROM THE COACH EDUCATION TEAM

INTRODUCING THE TEAM

A WELCOME FROM MARK MUNRO – DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

First of all, I would just like to thank all coaches across the UK. This has been a very difficult period for the sport, but particularly for athletes, coaches and clubs. Without your patience and energy the sport would not be recovering to the point at which it has so far (and appreciate there is a long way to go). Along with the home countries, we will continue to do all we can to support a return to the sport. Secondly, I would like to thank those who have supported and welcomed me into my new role as Development Director at UKA. I come into this role determined to change UKA's approach to supporting coaches (from transactional to supportive) and recognise the value of all coaches working at all levels within the pathway. The new coaching strategy will form the foundation for change and again, I'm grateful to everyone who has contributed to that process to date. We will have reviewed all the coaching survey responses, and over the next week or so will have completed over 30 hours of focus group discussions. This information, coupled with previous reviews (including Malcolm Brown's performance review) and desk-based analysis of athlete and coaching statistics, will enable us to move towards the drafting stage of the strategy. The draft should be completed around September time and this will be communicated accordingly.



Jackie Newton – Head of Coaching Development

Following an extensive recruitment process, UK Athletics can confirm the appointment of Jackie Newton as the new Head of Coaching Development. Jackie will leave her role as Director of Coaching and Athlete Development for Athletics Northern Ireland to take up her new position within the UKA Development Team on August 10th, allowing her to fulfil her commitments, particularly with Northern Ireland athletes who are competing at the Tokyo Olympics.

Jackie is well known within UK athletics circles and competed internationally for GB & NI at the half marathon and marathon distances, having begun her career with Stockport Harriers & AC. She has played an important role in coaching and team management with international cross country and mountain running teams for GB&NI, as well as managing the athletics team for Northern Ireland at the Commonwealth Games in the Gold Coast.

An active coach, Jackie has been a key figure in discussions over the last 12 months as part of a UK-wide steering group which has influenced the recent direction of travel, and the prioritisation of a new coaching strategy for the sport in the UK. As well as being a qualified education tutor, she also holds a Master's degree in Exercise and Sport Science with Coaching Studies with several published academic papers to her name.

We considered a number of individuals for this role from various backgrounds and successful CVs within the sport and out with as well. Jackie was certainly the stand out candidate, not only because of her experience within the sport as an athlete, coach or within her current employment, but because she has a great attitude and strong personality, and because she absolutely understood the state of coaching in the UK, the challenges facing coaches and had a clear vision and excellent understanding of how to start to re-build the coaching system.



Mark and Jackie are supported by:

Georgina Williams

Job role Coach Education and Qualifications Lead

Describe your job in one sentence Great coaching is integral to the development of the current and future athletes in our sport and my role is to ensure that everyone involved in coaching and growing the sport is appropriately trained and qualified to coach at their chosen level.

What are you working on at the moment? Reviewing feedback and using this to refine the qualifications that we moved online or to a blended format enabling the continuation of learning during the Covid-19 pandemic. Developing our online learning support systems to ensure access for learners is as smooth and accessible as possible.



Ellen Butcher

Job role Coaching and Coach Development Coordinator

Describe your job in one sentence My main role is to facilitate and support the Recognition of Prior Learning pathway, manage the Safeguarding in Athletics course, and offer technical support for coaches and the Home Country Federations.

What are you working on at the moment?

I want to promote more widely the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) process that we offer. It is such a great way to bring coaches from other sports into Athletics, as the RPL process recognises, assesses, and confirms competencies that a learner has obtained from other sources. Each application is different and I plan to develop some case studies to demonstrate learner's journeys and outcomes.

Kylie Ferguson

Job role Coaching and Coach Development Coordinator

Describe your job in one sentence Supporting the UKA Coach Education programme, whilst working with all Home Country Coach Education staff to ensure effective delivery of coach education and qualification programmes.

What are you working on at the moment?

I have been reviewing our course resources to make sure they are accessible to all users. This has included adding subtitles to all our videos and working with a consultant to create PDF readers for our interactive courses. This will enable to courses to be more widely assessable to a broader spectrum of leaders and coaches who may have an additional needs when accessing our resources.



COACHING SURVEY GRANT WINNERS

When we communicated the coaching survey, we mentioned that there would be a draw for 2 x coaching grants of £350 to be used as the individual saw fit within their coaching role. Following a draw I am delighted to announce that those winners were Neville Facey (Birchfield Harriers) and Lorna Simpson (Linlithgow AC). Congratulations to both Neville and Lorna and good luck with your coaching

Home Country Coach Education web page links



For any Coach Education enquires please contact the team on:
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