

UK Athletics Announces New Chairman

UK Athletics (UKA) today announces that Edmond Warner, a city businessman, will take up the newly created post of Chairman with immediate effect. Warner, 43, is also a leading commentator on financial issues and a keen amateur runner, and will help lead UKA through its next phase of development into 2012.

Ed will act as a part time non-executive Chairman. His role will be equivalent to that of the Chair of a public company. He will lead the Board of UKA and ensure it is effective. He will work closely with, mentor and monitor the performance of the Chief Executive in delivering UKA's objectives. He will lead the development of the organisation's vision, play a key role in its communication, and ensure that key stakeholders in the sport support UKA's strategy and direction.

One of the UKA non-executive directors who managed the recruitment process, John Taylor said today: "We are delighted that Ed has agreed to become our Chairman. Athletics is the UK's premier Olympic sport and we need world class people operating throughout our organisation. In Ed we have got a world class leader who has vast experience in managing complex organisations. He is passionate about athletics and as a club runner himself has a perspective of the sport from its grassroots.

"Ed was by far and away the outstanding candidate for the new post of Chairman of UKA. His experience speaks for itself and he is exactly what UKA needs to take it to the next level. He is a leader with a track record of success. He makes things happen, he is a winner in business and will help provide real leadership to the sport."

Warner successfully sold the financial trading company IFX Group in 2006, having been its Chief Executive for three years. Previously he was CEO of Old Mutual Financial Services UK. A competitive local runner, he has completed seven marathons over the last five years and is an active member of the Fittleworth Flyers, a running club based in West Sussex.

He said, "I am hugely excited by the challenge of leading the sport of athletics through to 2012 and beyond. As a keen athletics fan, I know there is talent out there to enable us to achieve great things at our home Games in 5 years time. But we need to work together to ensure that this talent is nurtured and developed and I look forward to leading the UKA team towards this goal

"I am also very aware of the need to continue the modernisation of the sport started by Dave Moorcroft. He has done a tremendous job in bringing together our sport and that's something I'm keen to build on."

As a committed club member, Warner already plays an active role in athletics. "None of my achievements in our sport allows me to stand shoulder to shoulder with Britain's leading athletes, but I believe that they give me some insight into their motivations and the commitment necessary for them to achieve excellence in their chosen fields. At a grassroots level I also understand the commitment of those volunteers on whom our sport depends and the pleasure we all get seeing youngsters competing and I am excited by the prospect of working with colleagues from all levels of the sport," Warner said.

Lord Sebastian Coe, Chairman of LOCOG, was consulted during the recruitment process with UKA President, Lynn Davies and Peter Radcliffe, Chairman of England Athletics playing a full role. Coe believes that Ed Warner can take athletics in the UK forward.

"I am delighted that Ed has agreed to take up the new role of Chairman of UK Athletics. I have already had the pleasure of meeting Ed and I am looking forward to working with him as he leads the sport through its next stage of development as we prepare for 2012 and beyond. His track record in business speaks volumes and his vision will be a welcome addition to the athletics community" Coe said.

The post of Chairman of UK Athletics was created following the resignation of Dave Moorcroft as Chief Executive and his replacement will be appointed in due course. Warner said today. "We are at an advanced stage of the recruitment process for a new Chief Executive for UKA. This is something I have been involved with over the last few weeks. We have had some outstanding applicants for the post and I am confident that we will be in a position to announce Dave's successor in the coming weeks."