



2014 Season

The Yeovil Olympiads Report



Issue 3

NATIONAL STANDARD BEARERS

We're delighted to be able to congratulate six of our athletes who have won selection for their counties to compete in the prestigious English Schools Athletics Championships in Birmingham on 11 and 12 July. All six have achieved National Standard performances in their chosen event, and three are in the top five in their Power of 10 rankings. Let's hope we have a medal or two to celebrate in our next edition!

Our Somerset representatives (*all pictured*) are Jordan Davies (SB Shot), Brett Harrison (IB 200m), Emily Smith (SG 1500SC), Sam Sommerville (IB 1500SC) and Matt Trickey (IB Shot), with Tamsin Miller (JG Javelin) representing Dorset.



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Somerset Schools

The Somerset Schools Championships were held at the newly named Bill Whistlecroft Arena in beautiful weather on 14 June. Numerous YOAC athletes competed in many events. We had 13 county champions in 16 events in all, plus many others achieving PBs and standards and/or gaining selection for the Somerset team. Leaving aside those who we now know have made the Nationals team or who feature in other reports in these pages, these champions include Ziana Azariah (SG Shot), Abigail

Barton (SG 200), Matt Dickinson (SB 1500), Luke Prior (IB 3000) and Elise Thorner (JG 800).

There were strong performances from our athletes all through the card. There is too little space to list these here but to take the example of the Inter Girls alone there were PBs from Cara Azariah, Amy D'Arcy (800m champion), Emma Denham, Lottie Garratt, Chloe Hunt, Skye Sauter and Georgia Silcox. Well done to them and to all our athletes, male and female, in all age groups.



Above: Dylan Dukes (80) battling hard for 4th place in the JB 1500.

Far left: Ben Lloyd JB 1500 winner, with a County Standard time.

Left: Elise Thorner (468) JG 800 winner, also achieving County Standard.

Dorset Schools

The Dorset Schools Championships took place at Bournemouth on 14 June. YOAC had two champions among the small group of our athletes competing. Tamsin Miller won the JG javelin with a National Standard throw and Charlotte Baker (*below*, 277) took the IG 3000m title. Performance of the day was perhaps from Natasha Jones (*below*, 278), 3rd in IG 3000m, who took more than 30 seconds off her PB. Georgie Lane and Rebecca Bowles both won silver medals and Michael Biss just missed out with 4th in the IB 800.



YDL Round-Up

In among the top-level schools competitions there have also been YDL matches, for the U13/15 team at Bristol and Cwmbran and for the senior age groups at Swindon. (The third U17/20 match at Telford was cancelled because the host club couldn't find a starter!)

The leading competitor for the U13 Boys was Ben Hoskins with 2 PBs at Cwmbran, where debutant Innes Davidson also registered 3 determined performances.

In the U15 Boys we welcomed Sterling Wilder to the team at Bristol, while regulars with PBs included James Derrick, Toby

Sauter, Ollie Thorner and Josh Thorne.

Dylan Dukes put in a sub 5 minute time at the 1500m and also introduced a few people to one of his favourites, a peanut butter rice cake sandwich - not for everyone :-)

A strong girls team turned out for the U17 match at Swindon which helped the team to 2nd place overall. Considering there weren't many boys that day the girls did us proud!

We had 7 first places overall. Amy D'Arcy posted a PB in the 800 and our steeplechasers Jess Morris and Natasha Jones won their races and are getting ever closer to that 6-minute mark.

South-West Schools Track and Field

Twenty of our athletes competed for either Dorset or Somerset in the South West Schools Championship at Yeovil on 21 June. Most of them were with the Somerset team who were overall champions and also won nine of the eleven age group and other category trophies.

Our members recorded many great performances but a special mention should go to our five South-West champions: Phil Bridge (SB 2000 SC), Jordan Davies (SB Shot), Matt Dickinson (SB 3000; *right, leading Ollie Fox*), Ben Lloyd (JB 1500), Emily Smith (SG 1500 SC). Despite his inexperience compared to the others, Ben's

achievement stands out: he ran a strong Entry Standard time that saw him take 12th position in Power of 10, but end up very unlucky not to make the trip to English Schools when several athletes he beat have been selected for their (weaker) counties. Unlucky in a different way was Emily who breached the magic 5-minute mark in her race, only for the time not to count because one of the barriers was wrongly positioned.

There were plenty of PBs too for other Yeovil/Wells competitors, including for Cara Azariah (*below right*), Ziana Azariah, Amy D'Arcy, Brett Harrison and Skye Sauter.



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South-West Schools Combined Events

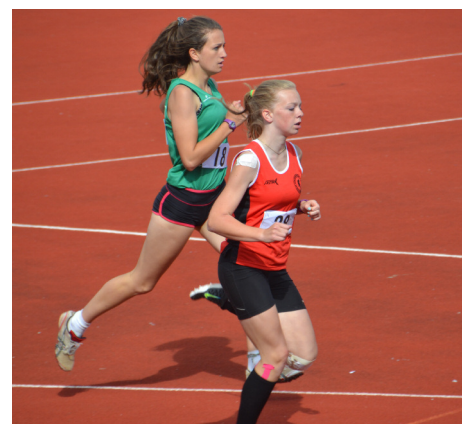
There were lots of thrills and spills at the South West Combined Events on 28/29 June. YOAC athletes competing were Ollie Thorner in Junior Boys, Lauren Rousell and Vicky McCabe in Junior Girls, Matthew Trickey in Inter Boys and Georgia Silcox (*above at SW Track and Field*) in Inter Girls.

Lauren (*seen right, patched up in the 800*) picked herself up from an horrific tumble in the hurdles to score PBs in shot and high jump, and finished in 18th place. Georgia battled a hip injury to achieve PBs in hurdles, javelin and a 7-second PB in the 800m. Vicky

was a late addition to the Somerset Team, but she acquitted herself well and finished in a creditable 13th place. The girls showed grit, determination and great team work and were a credit to the club.

Ollie will progress to the National Finals in Boston as part of the Somerset JB team after himself achieving PBs in four out of the five events. Matt will also progress to the Nationals as SW Champion, with a score of 4949 points, which puts him 8th on the SW all time list.

Good luck at the Nationals!



British Athletics League

This season got under way with the first match at Yeovil in mid-May. It was a very tight contest with YOAC winning by 2 points. Good results were achieved by all athletes with high scores particularly from Ben Gibb with 50 points.

There was a quality and promising performance by the team in the second match at Victoria Park despite arriving just thirty minutes before the start. A second-place finish just shy of Bournemouth was highlighted by a new 4x100 club record from

Talent Gukwe, Peter Shand, Nick Clements and Andy Faulkner. Shand also provided 100 (10.94) and 200 (21.98) victories. Wins also came from Harry Lane in the 1500 and from Clements in the Long Jump. Personal bests came from Lewis Guest in the High Jump and Ben Thompson in the Hammer. Ben and Chris Hewitson scored a multitude of points.

We look forward to taking a yet stronger team to the next match in Newquay where we can hopefully pick up our second team win of the season.

Events Coming Up

5 Jul	Men's British Athletics Lg.	A
6 Jul	South-West League	H
11/12 Jul	English Schools	A
12 Jul	Southern League	A
12 July	Southern Men's League	A
19 Jul	Youth Dev Lg U13/15	A
20 Jul	South-West League	A
27 Jul	Youth Dev Lg U17/20	H

Southern Athletics – Lewes

YOAC took a strong combined team to try to boost our chances of promotion and duly won the match by a large margin to move to second place in the league with two difficult matches to come. A special mention to two of our senior athletes, Jill Harrison making her season's debut in the 3000, and Val Bovell who has shown amazing commitment and match after match competes in all 4 throws with consistently high performance.

Chris Hewitson, Ben Thompson and Ollie Pilton led the way on the men's side, picking up large numbers of points, but all our men performed well, winning 24 out of 34 events! Oliver Dickinson made a good debut and there was a real family feel to this match with Steve and Andy Faulkner and wife Jodie Platt along with Jill and Rocky Harrison competing. Rocky was awarded the official man of the match for his 800 in 1:57.6.

Southern Men's

A small, but perfectly formed, men's team ventured into the Royal Naval Base in Portsmouth along with our intrepid official Emma Trickey. Lewis Guest, Chris Hewitson, Paul Guest, Tom Dukes and Ben Thompson had all competed at Lewes the day before and the inevitable fatigue gradually took its toll as the day wore on.

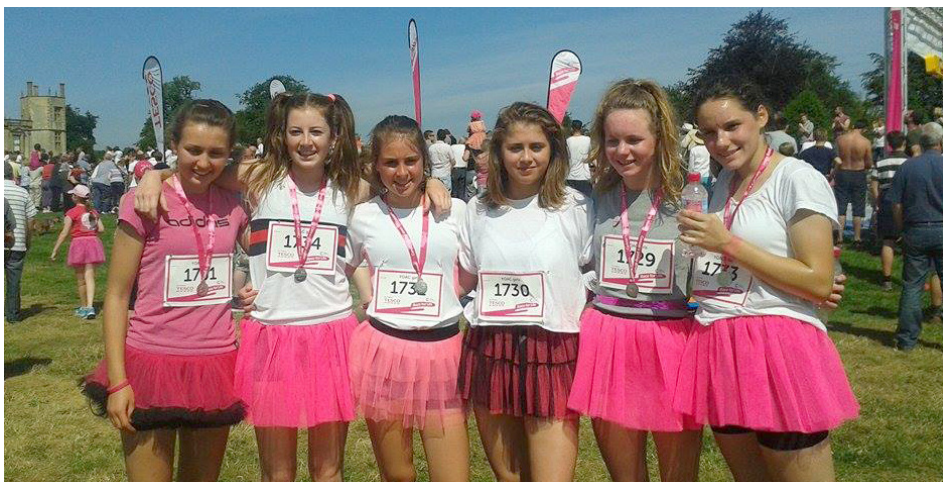
Best individual performances came from Dan Huntley with a new triple jump PB of 11.87 and Jamie Croucher smashed his high jump PB with 1.84. Net result was 4th place in the match and an enjoyable day.



Above left: Some of our competitors in the SAL at Lewes.

Above: The intrepid few who made the trip to Portsmouth.

Left: Away from the competition arena members of our middle distance group abandoned their Yeovil orange vests for something pink to take part in the Cancer Research Race for Life.



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