



The Olympian



2014 Season

Issue 1

WELCOME!

Welcome to the first edition of *The Olympian*, the newsletter for members and supporters of Yeovil Olympiads AC. We hope that this will be a regular publication providing you with news, results, photos, information, and whatever else YOU would like to see included. We have already had a busy start to the track and field season with two very successful open meetings in April starting off the year in style. Despite the poor weather forecast, the open meeting on 6 April attracted over 100 athletes from 16 different clubs.

The inaugural Bill Whistlecroft Memorial Hurdles Festival was held on 21 April. This was all about celebrating the athletic events that Bill loved most and we are sure he would have enjoyed this meeting. There was a good entry of athletes from 14 clubs and some excellent performances in lovely weather conditions (*as seen below in the U15G 75m*). We hope that this will become an annual fixture and look forward to seeing more teams take up the challenge of the 4 x 100m hurdles relay at the end!

Following our successful campaigning, we hope that next year's hurdles festival will take place at the 'Bill Whistlecroft Arena'. A fitting tribute for all Bill did for the club and athletics over many decades. More on this in future newsletters!

Geoff Cole, YOAC Chairman



Events Coming Up

10 May	British League	H
11 May	South-West League	H
13 May	Schools Disability Competition	H
17 May	Southern Men's League	H
17 May	Southern League	A
17 May	Somerset AA Champs.	H
18 May	Somerset AA Champs.	H
21 May	Yeovil Area Schools	H
31 May	Youth Dev. League U13/15	A

The Olympian Team

The staff of *The Olympian* spare no effort to bring you all the news that's fit to print and more, and to prove it here's our intrepid special correspondent hard at work on her report (see page 3) from a wet Gloucester YDL match.



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London Calling

Yeovil and Wells were strongly represented in the London Marathon and Mini Marathon last month, with half a dozen runners in the full-distance event (including Sam Baker, U13 Boys team manager, pictured), a strong contingent in the Mini-Marathon representing South-West England, and two entrants in the junior wheelchair races. Highest placed of the Mini Marathon runners was Isobel Glaisher, 9th, in the U17 race (pictured with Harriet and Oliver Fox, Sam Sommerville and Luke Prior), while Jamie Edwards (right) and Esme Salter both put up excellent times in their first appearances at this prestigious event.

Well done all of you.



Combined Events Successes

Yeovil Olympiads featured strongly at the County Combined Events at Millfield on 26 and 27 April.

The swirling winds and occasional downpours made achieving PBs very difficult. However, our athletes all competed very well, and five are now in a strong position to be selected to represent Somerset Schools at the South-West Competition in June.

Likely County representatives include:

Junior Girls: Lauren Rousell (3rd Somerset)

Inter Girls: Georgia Silcox (3rd Somerset),

Junior Boys: Oliver White (2nd Somerset),

Ollie Thorner (3rd Somerset)

Inter Boys: Matthew Trickey (1st Somerset)

Matt and Georgia, pictured right.



Wet but Glorious in Gloucester

Well what can I say?! Total domination in the 800s (three 1sts, courtesy of Amy Darcy, Sam Sommerville and Emily Smith and 2nd place for James Bridge) and in the steeplechase today! Lilly Hawkins, Natasha Jones and Jess Morris (*pictured RtoL*) braved the weather and the water jump and came back victorious and smiling.

Charlotte Baker ran a well-judged 1500m and finished 2nd after a busy day doing 300m H and 300m flat race.

There were 11 PBs today. Jordan Davies was 1st in both shot and discus with 14.33, and 41.91 PBs (respectively an English Schools national standard and an entry standard). He was our only official U20 male today. Sam ran up in that age group and won the 800m going out in 62s and coming back in 58 for the second 400!

Ila Burton did what she does best and got us maximum points in the high jump with a very creditable 1.55. She came back nearly as wet as the steeplechase girls! Sam, James and Joe Matthews all achieved PBs in the 400m and 200m so they were happy.

Ziana and Cara Azariah had excellent hammer throws today and Cara came away with a new PB of 30.56.

Finally a special mention to Skye Sauter, who went about her business very quietly and earned us some good points. She must have wondered what had hit her surrounded by the rest of the rowdy girls! Sam seemed to enjoy the journey home, being the only boy amongst a minibus-load of giggling girls. We even had poetry recitals and singing on the bus home. Special thanks to Paul Darcy for driving us there and tolerating the noise!



Southern Athletics League

The Plymouth match was YOACs first venture into the SAL, combining women and men into the same team. It was a successful start with the team being controversially pipped into third place.

For the women's group our match started off with an unexpected minibus malfunction. But thanks to our supportive senior men's team we managed to arrive safely and on time! This is a very new team with lots of athletes who have moved up from the U15 age category. We managed to fill the programme allowing us to gain maximum points available. All athletes performed well, even across events that are not their specialism. Our athlete of the match was Lilly

Hawkins for her tremendous effort in both relays, 400m, 1500m and 1500m steeplechase. The general vibe of the day was great and everyone really enjoyed themselves.

In the men a small, but select, team meant everybody doing more than one event with Ben Thompson (7 events), Paul Guest (5), Nathan Baker (4), Paul Allen (4), Andy Faulkner (4) and Geoff Cole (4) doing the donkey work! The standout performance came from Matt Dickinson who won the 5000m by over 1 minute. Luke Prior, Simon Prior, Jonny Pardoe, Phil Bridge and Steve Faulkner all contributed well to a good team effort and an enjoyable meeting with the promise of more to come.

Southern Men's

An excellent team performance saw YOAC open their season's account in the Southern Men's League at Guildford with a second-place finish, behind Windsor and ahead of Cornwall. The team scored a total of 200 points with Ben Gibb and Ben Thompson covering 12 of the 16 field event slots and contributing nearly half of the team's points with Gibb having a particularly good day, YOAC's athlete of the match. The standout performance of the day came from Sam Sommerville who was second in the 800m with an English Schools entry standard of 1:57.3. Nick Clements and Ollie Pilton both won both of their events and Kyle Wheaton performed admirably at short notice.



U15 Girls at Yate

The sun shone on the U15 girls in Yate on 3 May. There are a number of new athletes to the team this year. Ellen Parry who improved her PBs in long jump and 200m, Caitlin Carnegie, who is normally a good cross country runner, improved her PB in 800m. Callie Bloy, making her debut, ran the 800m and had a very strong race and a good time.

For the other girls, Elise Thorner had a fabulous day with a 20cm increase to 1.30cm in high jump and a PB in a good 1500m. Tamsin Miller had a strong day in her throwing, PBs in discus and javelin. Lauren Rousell had a great day, a high jump PB of 1.45, and won all three of her events while still sporting a three-month gastrocnemius injury.

Well done girls a great start to the season.



The U15G Relay team: LtoR Ellen Parry, Elise Thorner, Caitlin Carnegie, Lauren Rousell.

U13 Girls – A Club Record!

It has been a very encouraging start for the U13 girls team with some early season PBs in open, combined & club meetings. The girls put in a good performance and showed a great team spirit at the first YDL meeting of the season held at a very sunny Yate athletics club on 3 May.

(Pictured: Emelia Macdonald in the 1200m and Lily Clarke in the sprint relay.)

The following are only some of the great early-season PBs:

- Holly Paine achieved 12.6 in the 70m hurdles and a 2.50.01 in the 800m.
- Ella-Mae Wright achieved a 2.42.09 in the 800m and 1.31m in the high jump.
- Daisy Davies achieved 2.31 in the 800m (**New YOAC Record!**).

Well done to the U13 girls team!



Next Issue . . .

Unfortunately, due to pressure on space, we haven't been able to include reports in this issue on the U13 and U15 Boys at Yate or on the achievements of the Inclusion Group athletes who have been busy at the Open meeting and the Yeovilton 5k among other places. Watch out for the next *Olympian*!

Millfield BMC

More than two dozen Yeovil and Wells City athletes took part in the annual May Bank Holiday British Milers' Club fixture at a wet and breezy Millfield on 5 May. Despite the difficult conditions there were plenty of PBs and even more tough competitive running. Probably the best improvement was by

Michael Biss who shaved 'only' about 20 sec. off his 1500m time from last year. Also notable were English Schools entry standards from Isobel Glaisher and Sam Sommerville in their 1500m races and a AAA Grade 2 U13B 800m time of 2:23.77 from Luke Macpherson. Grade 1 next time Luke!

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