



2015 Season

The Yeovil Olympiads Report



Issue 2

SPRING SUCCESSES — AND CLUBHOUSE NEWS

The track and field season is now well and truly under way with the opening fixtures in three of our leagues now complete, and featuring in these pages, along with our two early-season Opens and the Somerset Schools Combined Events. The club's senior-school athletes have already recorded numerous quality performances, with at least two having already reached the highly demanding English Schools National Standard in their event. Reports also follow on the final races of the winter season and there have been great performances, too, in other one-off events, like Jamie Edwards's massive 6-minute PB in the Junior Mini-Marathon in London (below).

There are also important developments afoot for the Club as a whole. We are working with South Somerset District Council on plans to refurbish and upgrade the clubhouse so that these can go forward in a few weeks' time in an application for grant funding. Works envisaged include changes to improve accessibility for the disabled, better heating, improved storage, and more. If (and yes it's a big IF) all goes well, we hope that the 'new' clubhouse will be in use by this time next year.

Right: This month's quiz – can eight U13 girls all jump at the same time and if they do can Darren get them all in the picture? See page 5 for the answer.



Club Trip to **Diamond League Meeting** **Alexander Stadium, Birmingham**

Sunday 7th June 2015

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Open Meetings

Our track and field calendar for the year began with our Spring Open on 12 April. We were delighted to welcome some 160 competitors from a wide range of clubs from as far afield as Torbay and Swansea, with one even from Cambuslang (just outside Glasgow). Plenty of our own members took the chance to get their seasons started, with half a dozen U13 boys and girls making their competitive debuts and a range of PBs from our older, more experienced athletes. There was decent competition in almost every event, with many of the field disciplines being very busy indeed. A notable feature of the day was the high standard of competition

in some of the disabled throws, with some top-class distances being achieved.

Unfortunately, although it too was blessed with fine weather, this year's Bill Whistlecroft Memorial Hurdles Festival was not as well attended as we hoped, though we were pleased to welcome a strong contingent from St Laurence School, Bradford-on-Avon. We did see some very high quality steeplechasing, however. The best performance of the day by a YOAC athlete (and our outstanding track performance of the season so far) was by Caitlin Carnegie in the U17 1500m SC. Caitlin achieved a Schools National Standard in only her second-ever

steeplechase – and she is in the younger half of this age group. In the same race Katie Lloyd (also bottom of age) reached County Standard in her first steeplechase. In the U20 2000m SC Sam Sommerville achieved Schools Entry Standard, but had to settle for 3rd, with the race winner, Will Battershill of Erme Valley, breaking 6 minutes and going in at the top of the Power of 10 listing.

As always, a special thanks go to all the officials and all those who assisted, especially in the chore of adjusting hurdles. At least one volunteer was a parent who turned up to move hurdles even though neither of her kids was able to compete.



Georgia Silcox in action in the sprint hurdles.



Caitlin en route to her club record time.



The joy of steeplechasing 1: Abdul Kadir Kuscus of Bristol AC in the men's 3000m.



The joy of steeplechasing 2: Will Battershill sprinting for the line in the U20 race.



The joy of steeplechasing 3: Sam Sommerville strides away from the water.

YDL U17/U20 Gloucester

When the U17/U20 team set off for the first Youth Development League fixture of the season in Gloucester we were concerned that we were low in numbers, because of various other commitments for our athletes, but we ran out winners on the day. With a home meeting, with we hope a fuller team, as the next fixture we should be set well for the season in this league.

We welcomed Dimitrios Gkoutzourelas, scoring good points for the team in three events on his club debut in the U17M, while team-mate Michael Biss won his 1500mSC (*bottom*). Brendon England-Frost, Jordan Davies (*right*, with two National Standards on the day!), Matt Trickey and Sam Sommerville won ten A or B string events between them in the U20M.

The highlight of the U20W performances was Ellen Barber's PB and Entry Standard javelin throw. All three athletes, Ila Burton, Zi Azariah and Ellen, took part in events which were not their usual ones with smiles on their faces and displayed great team spirit.

The U17W achieved two Entry Standards, from Georgia Silcox in the long jump and Tamsin Miller in the javelin. Amy Barlow and Ellen Parry, both bottom of age group, ran hard in the 100m and 200m, while Amy D'Arcy had a good early-season time in the 800m. Skye Sauter ran well in the 300 (*below right*) and 300H. Most of the girls also picked up valuable points in additional events. Oh, and Caitlin Carnegie won her first steeplechase, but that's old news now – see page 2.



YDL U13/U15 Cardiff

Although we have such a large and enthusiastic training group of younger athletes we found that many had other commitments that prevented them competing in the first lower age group Youth Development League fixture in Cardiff on 2 May. The absentees managed to dodge a day of horrid weather – but they missed some excellent competition too.

A wet and windy day in Wales could not dampen the spirit of the enthusiastic U13 girls team who put in a powerful performance. Harriet Tuson started us off with a strong win in the 70m hurdles and another win in the 800m A race later in the day, Lily Clarke followed by winning the 75m and 150m sprint A races and a 3rd place in the shot A, Abbie White won the 800m B race, Alice Milton won the Javelin A and was 2nd in the 70m hurdles B race, Elise Bloy

won the javelin B and was 2nd in the long jump B event, Jemima Cheleda (*below left*) won the Shot B, Kai Snell was joint 3rd in the high jump A and narrowly missed 3rd place in the 1200m A race & Amy Northam was 3rd in the 1200m B race (Kai and Amy, *bottom left*). In total the girls had 17 PBs across all events by the end of the day, including 9 event wins. To finish a great day Harriet, Jemima, Abbie and Lily (Abbie and Lily, *below right*) had a sensational run in the 4 x 100m relay winning by half a second.

Despite the miserable weather the U13 boys team had excellent results, with wins in both the hurdles (Will Carr, *bottom right*) and 800m races, while Archie Tyler jumped 4.17m in the long jump and Ethan Bloy and Sam Wright also scored well for the team. All the boys gave 100% throughout the day and did themselves proud.

We had a small team of U15 boys available, but between them they managed to amass 7 PBs on the day. Luke Baker achieved a PB in all three of his events (800m, long jump and discus), Toby Sauter got a PB in the 80mH, Chris Ellis got one in the 300m and Lewis de Torres got two, in the 200m and javelin. The boys came together at the end of the day and finished 3rd in the 4 x 100m relay. It was a great start to the season for all of them.

The U15 girls team was unfortunately very thin on the ground with only two athletes, Holly Paine and Ella-Mae Wright, available to compete. Both girls put in cracking performances given that it's their first year in the age group and the weather was less than ideal! Both girls achieved PBs, Holly in the 200m and the 100m and Ella-Mae in the long jump and javelin. So it proved to be a fantastic start to the season!





Quiz answer: of course they can. Well done girls and nice photo Darren.

Events Coming Up

9 May	British League	A
10 May	South-West League	A
16 May	Youth Dev. League U17/20	H
20 May	Yeovil Area Schools	H
23 May	Somerset AA Champs.	H
24 May	Somerset AA Champs.	H
39 May	Youth Dev. League U13/15	A
30 May	Southern Ath. League	A
31 May	South-West League	A

Southern Athletics League

A new season, a new division (after last year's promotion) and a new venue for YOAC and Wells for this first match in Division 2 at Woking on 25 April. The standard of the competition was high (noticeably higher than in the lower division last year) but our athletes did themselves justice by coming in 3rd, only seven points behind 2nd. We took a large team, with many new faces, which was very encouraging. Even so we missed various of our high-scoring regulars who were busy with the Somerset and Dorset combined events, detailed below.

The undoubted star of the show was Jordan Davies who was nominated male athlete of the match for his 15.13m shot put (with the senior men's shot rather than his more usual U20 weight), a new club record, as well as a comprehensive win in the discus.

There were also A string wins for Ollie Pilton (110H and 400H), Nick Clements (LJ), Lewis Guest (TJ), Katie Geddes (400), Cicely Hunt (400H), Eve Carrington (shot) and Ziana Azariah (hammer). B string

winners were Sam Harding (800), Brendon England-Frost (110H, PV), Henry Isaacs (HJ), Nick Clements (TJ), Jess Morris (2000 S/C), Ziana Azariah (shot) and Val Bovell (hammer).

A number of athletes set new PBs. Men: Jordan Davies (shot and discus), Henry Isaacs (100), Luke Prior (1500), Oliver Dickinson (1500), Richard Gilyatt (javelin and PV) and Calum Eley, new to the club, who produced a PB in the 400 in the race of the day and also in the 200; Women: Eve Carrington (shot) and Louise Webster (100m).

Also a big well done to all the athletes, who did extra events outside of their field, to gain the team more points.

Many thanks also to our officials, Paul D'Arcy, Geoff Cole, Matt Cole and Mel Holmes, busy throughout the day as usual. All in all a good start to the season and we look forward to climbing the league table with the help of our returning multi-eventers!

Schools Combined Events

Many of our YOAC athletes took part in the Somerset and Dorset Schools Combined Events Championships at Millfield on 25 and 26 April. Taking part in the U13 quadrathlon was Jemima Cheleda who finished in 12th place. In the Junior Girls pentathlon Vicky McCabe set a championship best performance to take the title, with Elise Thorner finishing 3rd. In the Junior Boys pentathlon Ollie Thorner took the silver medal with Toby Sauter coming 18th and Dylan Dukes in 29th place.

Georgia Silcox (right, with Jane Yandell of Somerset Schools) became the Inter Girls heptathlon Somerset champion, with Lottie

Garratt coming 3rd, Chloe Hunt 19th and Caitlin Carnegie 21st. YOAC were represented in the Senior Girls heptathlon by Ellen Barber who became county champion and Alice Hannan who was 2nd.

Matthew Trickey won the Senior Boys decathlon and Ben Gibb and Ben Thompson were first and second respectively in the Senior Men's decathlon held alongside the schools event.

All athletes took part in many athletics disciplines including hurdles, distance, jumps and throws demonstrating their versatility and their enthusiasm for athletics in a packed two days of competition.



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English Schools Cross-Country

The last issue of this *Report* appeared just before the English Schools Cross-Country Championships in Blackburn, Lancashire, in which a healthy group of Yeovil-based athletes were competing, both for Somerset Schools (in red) and for Dorset Schools (in green). It was a particularly successful event for Somerset with the team winning both the boys' and girls' trophies for the C Group

counties. Many of our friends from Wells City Harriers were also competing for Somerset, with the best individual performance being Oliver Fox's well-deserved 2nd place in the Senior Boys race. Three of the pictured YOAC runners achieved top-40 places (in fields of well over 300) – Caitlin, Sam and Charlotte – and all our athletes scored well for their teams.



Michael in action in the Inter Boys race on the difficult hilly section of the course.



Caitlin and three of her teammates well placed in the early stages of the Inter Girls race.



Charlotte Baker and Michael Biss.



L to R: Caitlin Carnegie, Ben Lloyd, Chris Ellis, Sam Sommerville, James Bridge, Luke McPherson.

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