



The Yeovil Olympiads Report



2014 Season

Issue 6

A VERY SPECIAL YEOVIL GAMES

This year's Yeovil Games on 14 September were particularly special as they marked the formal renaming of the track as the Bill Whistlecroft Athletics Arena. We were very pleased that Ann and several other members of Bill's family were able to be present, along with representatives of South Somerset District Council, who have been most supportive throughout of our suggestion to mark in this way Bill's enormous contribution to our club and athletics in our area and beyond over many years. In

his comments at the unveiling ceremony Nigel Groves reminded us that without Bill's hard work, enthusiasm and foresight neither Yeovil Olympiads nor the track would exist as they do today.

The day's events were also successful with good competition across the programme in the usual relaxed and friendly manner. We had over 120 individual entries on the day from 27 different clubs from as far afield as Swansea, Cornwall, Portsmouth, Gloucester and even Bingley in Yorkshire! The pole vault was

particularly well supported with a large contingent of competitors arriving from Wimborne AC.

Finally the day was rounded off in style with a massive order of takeaway pizzas in the clubhouse, thanks to a great suggestion from Mel Holmes. We should make this a tradition to follow in future years.

Once again we would like to thank Yeovil Town Council for their generous financial support which helped us to run the meeting to its usual high standard.



Ann and Nigel at the unveiling of our new identity.



Sam Harding leads James Bridge and Michael Biss into the home straight in the 800m. (Sorry that your name was wrong in the last issue of this newsletter, Sam. Hope this makes up for it!)

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Awards Evening & Other Club News

Tickets are now on sale for the annual Awards Evening, to be held this year at the Westland Sports and Social Club on Friday 31 October at 6.30 p.m. We've had a good season, with much to celebrate, so let's do it in style!

As well as the awards for outstanding performances in all age groups and other contributions to the club, the evening will once again feature a Trickey Family Quiz, prize draws and much more.

We're going to run a Kit Swap table so you can clear out the bottom of that cupboard

and get rid of the things you or the kids have outgrown. Bring along and donate any unwanted athletics kit, spikes and so on. If you're lucky enough to find something you want then a small cash donation to the club would be very welcome.

We are of course already planning events, matches and so on for next season and will be continuing with a full winter training programme as usual. Once again we would like to put out a call for assistance in running all aspects of our activities. Coaches, officials and team managers are especially valuable

but we would like to hear from any parent or friend of the club who has particular skills that may be useful or who is able to help in any way. The club will assist with costs of coaching and officials' courses for those who are interested in these.

In particular there is an Officials Course (for potential field and track judges, starters, timekeepers) being held in our clubhouse on 15th November – details can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/owjknco>. Although this is a Level 2 course no previous experience is required.

Yeovil Olympiads Annual Awards Evening

Friday 31st October 2014

6.30 p.m.

Westlands Leisure Complex

Tickets on sale now!

Adults £10 / Juniors £5 / Family £25

Including buffet supper & free draw entry
Prize Quiz • Raffle
and more!

100 Club

Win monthly cash prizes and help raise funds for the club. Just a few extra lucky numbers available!

Full details are available on the clubhouse noticeboard or contact Ian Slade on ian_and_jenny_and_toby@hotmail.com.

Kit Swap

Find a good home for unwanted, outgrown clothing or spikes. All types of kit in decent condition wanted.

Bring it along to the Awards Evening and see if you can find something better. If you are lucky enough to find something you like then a small cash donation to the club in return would be greatly appreciated.

Cross Country

A strong contingent of the club's middle distance group (*right*) got their winter going at the first anniversary Montacute Parkrun on 13 September. Over 260 runners and several dogs enjoyed this event (and the celebration cake afterwards).

The cross-country season proper is now under way with the first matches in both the Gwent and the Wessex Leagues having taken place. A full report on the Gwent League will appear in the next edition of this *Report*, but some of our members also took part in the first Wessex fixture at Avon Heath Country Park. We'd like to welcome Bradley Glover and Kameron Ridler, making their first club appearances in the U11s and U15s respectively, with Kameron gaining 3rd place. Michael Biss was 2nd in the U17M and Deborah Glover won the SW.



Southern and National Road Relays

First competitive event of the winter season was the Southern Road Relay Championship at Aldershot on 20 September, with our teams now entered as Wells City Harriers, but with many familiar names appearing in these different colours.

YOAC members featured strongly in all the junior races on the Saturday, with all those who had appeared in this event before knocking substantial chunks of time off their previous bests on this course. Getting there in the first place had its problems, however. Amy D'Arcy and Harrison Jones were both stung by hornets when walking through the park towards the race area, Harrison badly enough that he wasn't able to run later!

Our best-performing team was the U15 girls (Caitlin Carnegie, Elise Thorner and Sophie Hamilton, *pictured right, LtoR*) who won bronze, from an entry of 101 teams. The U13 Girls (*below right*) were as enthusiastic as ever and the U17 Men also had plenty to celebrate with a 5th place finish.

Following their strong performances in the Southern Championship the U15 Girls and U17 Men were chosen to go forward to the National Championship at Birmingham's Sutton Park on Sunday 5 October. Oliver Dickinson unfortunately missed out when the U17 team was cut from 4 members to 3.

Both teams recorded impressive performances on this tough 3.86km hilly circuit. In the U15G Caitlin ran 14:48 for 21st position. Elise ran 14:20 to bring us through to 8th and Sophie ran 14:04 seconds (3rd fastest on her leg and 8th fastest on the day) to finish in 6th place overall. In the U17 Men's race the team of Luke Prior, Felix Rusby and Sam Sommerville (*pictured right, LtoR*) achieved a very creditable 12th place finish, with Sam running the fastest of the team's legs in 12.25.



Officials' Course

Qualified officials are obviously essential if our athletes are to compete and the club is obliged to supply officials to many of the competitions our teams participate in.

If you think you would enjoy helping in this way, then why not take an officials' course? The next Somerset County AA course is being held in the YOAC clubhouse on 15 November, full details available at <http://tinyurl.com/wjknco>. No previous experience required.

Combined Events

Yeovil and Well members enjoyed well-deserved successes at the English Schools Combined Events Championships at Boston, Lincolnshire, last month.

In the Inter Girls Heptathlon, Ellen Barber scored a points PB of 4,775 and individual PBs in four of the seven events, and was rewarded with a bronze medal (*below*) and selection to represent England at the home international in Glasgow in December.

In the Inter Boys Octathlon Matt Trickey (*right*) was unable to replicate his PB from June of 4,949 which saw him achieve eighth place in the SW all-time rankings. He finished the competition in sixth place individually but won a podium place with the Somerset IB team who finished third.

In the Junior Boys pentathlon Ollie Thorne (*below right, 36*) finished with a new PB of 2,275 in 26th position individually. Scoring new PBs in long jump and shot, he helped the Somerset junior boys team to third place in the team event.

Exeter Combined Events Meeting
After a disappointing fall in the schools championship earlier in the season, Lauren Rousell was only able to reach 18th place. She was determined to get a more accurate score and entered the Exeter combined events and came away with a very well-deserved first place (*bottom right, holding trophy*) and a total of 2,721 points – a great way to end the season.



SW Athletics Team, Belgium

Three YOAC members proudly represented the South West Athletics team at the International Antwerp Athletic Gala in Merksem, Belgium on 23 August. Ben Gibb competed in the javelin and 100m, Ben Thompson competed in the javelin and won the 110m hurdles and Lewis Guest competed in the 100m and finished second in the triple jump with a personal best and new YOAC club record of 14.29m. The team, managed by Sonia Ellis, had a successful trip and a good time was had by all!



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