

2011 Athletics Facts

ABAC Fact File 9

Elite and Funded Athletes

Introduction. The Olympics of 1996 was considered to be a poor one for British athletics with only 6 medals won. Following a *post mortem* the newly elected Labour Government of 1997 set about changing the way athletics was run in the UK. As part of the new plan it was decided that substantial lottery funding would be made available for Olympic sports. Athletics was encouraged to host the 2005 world athletics championships at the Lea Valley stadium but when it became clear this was not feasible athletics was granted funding of £40million by government for this lost "legacy". As a result after 2005 lottery support was boosted by tax payer funded aid distributed from the DCMS via UK Sport to UK Athletics Ltd. Grant aid from government for athletics now totals around £10million per annum.

When lottery funding was first introduced in 1998 the stated aim was to increase the medal total from 6 to 12 by the 2012 Olympics. The present World Class "podium" funding scheme operated by UK Athletics has been created to allow promising athletes to train full time with the aim of increasing their chances of reaching Olympic finals and winning medals.

Elite funding.

Each athlete on the World Class "podium" funding programme receives about £55,000 of "in-kind" support (ref 1) such as medical back-up, travel costs, and coaching. Additionally they receive income from UKA Ltd the amount of which depends upon the chances of them achieving certain targets. The targets are defined in four bands and the athletes in each band are selected annually.

| | | |
|----------------|--|----------------|
| Band A. | <i>Medallists at Olympic or World Championships level :</i> | <i>£27,328</i> |
| Band B. | <i>Top 8 finish at Olympic or World Championships level:</i> | <i>£20,497</i> |
| Band C. | <i>Likely to be major championship performers:</i> | <i>£13,664</i> |
| Relays. | <i>Athletes likely to make relay teams.</i> | <i>£10,000</i> |

The elite athletes for 2010-2011 and 2011 to 2012.

In 2010-2011 there were 49 athletes in bands A and B of the World Class "podium" programme selected for their potential to perform well in the Daegu World Athletics Championships held at the end of August 2011. The 2011-2012 list has been released in October 2011 and 12 of the previous year's funded athletes have been dropped from the programme and 9 added. We list the 2010-2011 squad together with:

Their best performances in each of the last 3 years, their world rankings at the time of the 2011 Daegu World Athletics Championships, their performance ranking at the 2011 World Athletics Championships together with individual ages.

The 15 athletes dropped from the programme in October 2011 are shown in ***bold italics***. Note these figures do not include athletes for the relays.

The 2010-2011 Funded Athletes in Bands A and B.

| <i>(Age in 2012)</i> | <i>SB 2009,2010,2011</i> | <i>Ranking 2011</i> | <i>Daegu</i> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Harry Aikines-Aryeetey (24) | 10.13,10.59,10.13 | 45 | Semi |
| Andy Baddeley (30) | 3:35.07,3:34.50,3:36.47 | 69 | - |
| Leon Baptiste (27) | 20.57, 20.43,20.51 | 48 | - |
| Martyn Bernard (28) | 2.20,2.29,2.28 | 43 | 29qualifying |
| Michael Bingham (26) | 44.74,44.84,45,42 | 38 | - |
| Tasha Danvers (35) | 55.19,56.44,- | - | - |
| Hatti Dean (30) | -,9:30.19,9:37.95 | 25 | - |
| Kate Dennison (28) | 4.60,4.55,4.61 | 16 | 13=qualifying |
| Marlon Devonish (36) | 10.11,10.18,10.14 | 52 | semi |
| Lisa Dobriskey (29) | 3:59.50,3:59.79,4:04.76 | 34 | heat |
| Nathan Douglas (30) | 17.01,17.03,- | - | - |
| Tyrone Edgar (30) | 10.09,10.23,10.52 | 606 | - |
| Hannah England (25) | 4:04.29,4:04.33,4:01.89 | 12 | 2 |
| Jessica Ennis (26) | 6731,6823,6790 | 2 | 2 |
| Mo Farah (29) | 13:09.14,12:57.94,12:53.11 | 1 | 1 (and 2) |
| Emily Freeman (32) | 22.64,23.21,- | - | - |
| Robbie Grabarz (25) | 2.22,2.28,2.28 | 44 | - |
| Dai Greene (26) | 48.27,47.88,48.20 | 6 | 1 |
| Phillips Idowu (34) | 17.73,17.81,17.77 | 3 | 2 |
| Jeanette Kwakye (29) | 11.67,11.58,11.15 | 31 | semi |
| Tom Lancashire (27) | 3:34.29,3:33.96,- | - | - |
| Steven Lewis (26) | 5.72,5.60,5.65 | 25 | 9 |
| Mark Lewis-Francis (30) | 10.37,10.15, 10.19 | 78 | - |
| Christian Malcolm (33) | 21.01,20.38,20.54 | 66 | semi |
| Germaine Mason (29) | 2.31,-,2.12 | 402 | - |
| Jenny Meadows (31) | 1:57.93,1:58.88,1:58.60 | 16 | semi |
| Christine Ohuruogu (28) | 50.21,50.88,50.85 | 17 | dqheat |
| Marilyn Okoro (28) | 1:59.56,2:01.33,1:59.53 | 31 | semi |
| Samson Oni (31) | 2.25,2.27,2.27 | 45 | - |
| Barbara Parker (30) | 9:55.55,9:35.17,9:35.46 | 21 | 14 |
| Tom Parsons (28) | 2.27,2.28,2.28 | 38 | 19qualifying |
| Shara Proctor (24) | 6.71,6.69,6.81 | 22 | 20qualifying |
| Paula Radcliffe (39) | 2:29:27,-,2:23:46 | 15 | - |
| Michael Rimmer (26) | 1:46.13,1:43.89,1:45.12 | 34 | heat |
| Martyn Rooney (25) | 45.35,44.99,45.30 | 33 | semi |
| Greg Rutherford (26) | 8.30,8.22,8.27 | 10 | 15qualifying |
| Goldie Sayers (30) | 59.82,63.15,64.46 | 7 | 10 |
| Nicola Sanders (30) | 50.45, 52.70,51.84 | 59 | semi |
| Perri Shakes-Drayton (24) | 55.26,54.18,54.62 | 9 | semi |
| William Sharman (28) | 13.30,13.39,13.47 | 40 | 5= |
| Jemma Simpson (28) | 1:59.07,1:58.74,1:59.59 | 33 | - |
| Charlene Thomas (30) | 4:05.06,4:10.31,4:06.85 | 59 | - |
| Chris Thompson (31) | -,27:29.61,27:27.36 | 30 | - |
| Chris Tomlinson (31) | 8.23,8.23,8.35 | 6 | 11 |
| Andy Turner (32) | 13.30,13.28,13.22 | 9 | 3 |
| Stephanie Twell (23) | 4:03.48,4:02.54,- | - | - |
| Rhys Williams (28) | 49.38,48.96,49.59 | 39 | - |
| Simeon Williamson (26) | 10.05,-,10.56 | 748 | - |
| Mara Yamauchi (39) | 2:23.12,2:26:16,- | - | - |

Comments on the 2010-2011 list of individual performers.

It is noted that the average age of elite funded athletes was 29 years. Only 4(8%) were 24 or under years of age while 30(43%) were 30+years. By comparison of the 129 individual medal winners in Beijing 2008 - 49 (38%) were 24 or under while only 24 were 30+years of age (18.5%). The average age of Daegu medallists was 26.2 years.

Regarding performance progression – only 13 (26.5%) athletes improved significantly from 2009 to 2011 while 27 (55%) were worse in 2011 than 2010.

Bearing in mind the podium objectives for this scheme it is relevant to note the world rankings of these athletes. Just 3 are ranked in the top 5, while 6 are ranked 6-10, and 5 are ranked 11-20. The majority of athletes - 26 (53%), were ranked from 21-100 in the world. 9 (18%) funded athletes failed to record a mark in 2011.

At the 2011 World Athletics Championships in Daegu – 6 athletes won 7 medals, 1 other funded athlete made the top 8, and 21 (43%) athletes did not make top 8. It is noted that 2 non funded overseas athletes who became eligible to compete for GB in 2011 made the top 8 at Daegu and have been added to the 2011-2012 lists

21 podium funded athletes (43%) were not selected to compete at Daegu.

2010-2011 Athletes in Band C and Relays.

Funded athletes in the Development Band C are expected to be podium potential in the years ahead. In 2010-2011 there were 45 athletes in this category

In 2010-2011 there was a relatively large group of 9 additional athletes funded for podium relays. These were: *Richard Buck, Chris Clarke, James Dasaolu, Lee McConnell, Craig Pickering, Kelly Sotherton, Andrew Steele, Robert Tobin and Conrad Williams*

Athletes Funded up to the London Olympics

2011-12 Funded Athlete Additions. Bands A and B

There are 46 athletes in Bands A and B. 8 are in Band A and 38 in Band B. While 15 athletes on the 2010-2011 Podium funding bands have been dropped, 12 athletes have been added. Of these, 3 athletes have been promoted from Podium Relay funding. 6 athletes have been promoted from Band C Development funding and 2 athletes who became eligible to compete for GB have been added as well. The additions are:-

| (Age in 2012) | SB.2009,2010,2011 | Ranking 2011 | Daegu |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Richard Strachan (26) | 45.74,47.85,45.70 | 70 | - |
| New Brits | | | |
| Yamila Aldam (40) | 14.48,-,14.50 | 15 | 5 |
| Tiffany Porter (25) | 12.77,12.85,12.56 | 5 | 4 |
| Promoted from Development funding. | | | |
| Nigel Levine (23) | 45.78,46.45,45.85 | 92 | |
| Emma Jackson (24) | 2:02.09,2:00.46,1:59.77 | 40 | semi |
| Holly Bleasdale (21) | 4.05,4.35,4.70 | 9 | nhqualifying |
| Jack Green (21) | 51.72,50.49,48.98 | 17 | semi |
| Brett Morse (23) | 59.52,63.35,66.06 | 19 | 12 |
| Nathan Woodward (23) | 50.41,49.70,48.71 | 13 | semi |
| Promoted from Podium Relay funding | | | |
| Chris Clarke (22) | 45.59,46.31,45.61 | 61 | - |
| Lee McConnell (34) | 51.45,51.55,51.01 | 23 | semi |
| Craig Pickering (26) | 10.22,10.38,10.19 | 76 | - |

2011-2012 Athletes in Band C and Relays.

The 40 funded athletes in the development category for the present year are not expected to make the London Olympics team but if the Daegu example is followed several will. With three of last year's relay squad moving to full funding and 6 relay athletes removed from funding (including

Kelly Sotherton) Only 3 relay athletes are funded this year. They are: Shana Cox, James Ellington and Mark Lewis Francis.

The cost of funding the World class podium scheme in Olympic year.

The cost of funding this year's elite athletes may be sub-divided into two parts.

1) Cash Payments to the athletes. The cost for each of the Bands may be calculated using the numbers listed earlier. Band A will cost (8 x £27,328), Band B will cost (38 x £20,457), Band C will cost (40 x 13,664) and the relay squad (3 x £10,000).

The potential monies to be paid to **elite athletes** in Olympic year will total **£1,572,550**

2) Cost of support services. It is not clear if only Bands A and B are on the full support package valued at £55,000 per athlete. Band C and relay athletes will probably still retain their own coaches but may avail themselves of physio and other medical services which we have valued at around £5000 per annum. These additional costs financed from UKA funds can be estimated at (46 x £55,000) + (40 x £5,000).

The indirect costs to UKA for supporting **elite athletes** in Olympic year will be around **£2,800,000**

The total cost of the elite athlete programme in Olympic year is estimated to be c£4,300,000

It is noted that in the 2010-2011 UKA Accounts the expenditure on World class performance, GB and NI teams was stated as £8,865,690. It may be deduced therefore that the World Class Podium programme for elite athletes accounts for about 50% of the performance budget.

UKA's income and expenditure reached record highs in 2010-2100 with expenditure at £26,652,790. So the elite athlete programme comprises 16% of UKA's costs.

Medals for money.

At the start of this Fact File we stated that the original funding target was to increase athletic Olympic medal totals from 6 in 1996 to 12 in 2012. Over the years this target has been progressively reduced and now stands at just 8 medals.

In the last six years UKA has spent a total of c£45,000,000 on their World Class Performance and GB and NI team activities. Since 2006 over £23 million has been spent by UKA on directly supporting athletes identified as having Olympic or World Championship medal prospects. This expenditure on athletes to gain just 2 extra medals compared to the pre UKA era may appear perverse. While for others the expenditure of £11.5 million for each extra medal may seem good value for money it should be noted that many other countries expect their athletes to perform at the highest level without direct support from their National Governing Bodies.

Ref. 1. Simon Hart. Daily Telegraph S11, Oct 18 2011. "Sotherton vows to carry on despite funding axe."

Fact File 9. Oct 2011