

## 2015 Athletic Facts

### Fact File 32

#### Analysis of YDL Upper Age Group Week 1

We revisit the YDL Upper Age Group for all teams. In FF 28 we questioned the need for a 6 hour meeting. due to the small number of competitors in many events. In FF28 we included a link to an extensive study by Gateshead Harriers that showed that throughout the UK on average 42% of event slots were not filled despite many athletes competing in several events to gain points. We asked Rob Whittingham to analyse the recent first match results for YDL clubs.

#### Events Take Up

The following table shows the number of places available in each match together with the number actually filled. The matches where there is an under 50% take up of event places are highlighted

Division	Places	Places filled	% filled
NP1	720	613	85.14%
NP2	720	432	60.00%
NE1	600	348	58.00%
<b>NE2</b>	600	225	<b>37.50%</b>
NW1	840	434	51.67%
<b>NW2</b>	720	252	<b>35.00%</b>
<b>NW3</b>	600	167	<b>27.83%</b>
MPNE	720	488	67.78%
MPSW	720	508	70.56%
<b>MNE1a</b>	720	296	<b>41.11%</b>
<b>MNE1b</b>	720	332	<b>46.11%</b>
<b>MNE2</b>	840	230	<b>27.38%</b>
<b>MSW1</b>	720	202	<b>28.06%</b>
<b>MSW2</b>	720	181	<b>25.14%</b>
SP1	720	561	77.92%
SP2	720	564	78.33%
SNE1	840	462	55.00%
<b>SNE2</b>	840	231	<b>27.50%</b>
<b>SSW1a</b>	840	393	<b>46.79%</b>
<b>SSW1b</b>	960	435	<b>45.31%</b>
<b>SSW2</b>	960	241	<b>25.10%</b>
All	15840	7595	47.95%
Exclude Premier	11520	4429	38.45%
Just Bottom 6	4560	1275	27.96%

To summarise. There were fewer than 40% of places being filled outside the premier divisions and fewer than 30% in the bottom 6 divisions.

**Should the lower Divisions' Timetable be streamlined?** All divisions have a timetable with 17 events for both men and women with 2 strings for under 20s. This means that each team has 68 event places for its Under 20 athletes. There were so few under 20 athletes in this year's first round that we looked at the number of under 20 athletes who competed for the lowest Division

clubs throughout 2014. The table below shows the number of under U20 athletes for each of the lowest Division teams who competed in track and field (not just YDL) in 2014.

NW3	U20W	U20M
Horwich	2	2
Hyndburn	4	1
M60 Nomads	8	14
St Helens	6	5
Warrington	3	5
NE2		
Bingley	3	3
Grimsby	3	2
Kingston Upon Hull	4	12
Rotherham	9	9
Spensborough	3	8
MNE2		
Banbury & Bicester	7	4
Daventry & Kettering	9	9
Leamington	2	9
Royal Sutton Coldfield	6	4
Tamworth	6	8
Mansfd/Rushcliffe/Sutton	5	5
MSW2		
Bridgnorth & Oswestry	3	3
Bromsgrove & Redditch	3	7
Cardiff Archers	0	4
Dudley & Stourbridge	7	3
Kidderminster & Stourprt	2	8
Tipton	3	11
SNE2		
Bexley	9	18
Dartford	7	13
Holland Sports	2	1
Horsham Blue Star	7	13
Invicta's Paddock	7	22
Medway & Maidstone	6	14
Walton	1	5
SSW2		
Bournemth/Poole/NewFJ	6	22
Chichester	4	4
Ealing, Southall & Mx	8	10
Havant/Isle of Wight	9	4
Hillingdon	2	12
St Mary's Richmond	7	16
Team Hounslow	0	2
Winchester	6	20

By way of comparison the number of under 20 athletes who competed for the 3 Premier clubs in 2014 were:-

Sale	15	30
Birchfield	24	40
Enfield & Haringey	15	31

**Conclusions.** By comparison with The Gateshead Harriers survey for 2014 there were more empty events places in the first round of this year's YDL. With such low numbers of under 20 athletes competing for lower Division YDL clubs, it is little wonder that so few of the event places are filled even with the use of Under 17 year athletes who move up to the under 20 events.

In Fact File 28 we analysed the number of under 20 athletes who competed in 2014 and compared it to the number who competed in a least one YDL Match. We calculated that only 33.8% of men competed in the YDL and 38.6% of women. We have listed above the small number of under 20 athletes in the lower Division clubs. In reality only about a third of these will compete in the YDL.

It is reasonable to conclude therefore that poorly attended YDL matches like these are actually turning athletes away from the sport thereby contributing to the serious decline of the Under 20 age group numbers which were recorded in the Fact File 31. The lower Divisions format needs changing.

End