

## 2015 Athletics Facts

### ABAC Fact File 42

#### Veteran Men Track and Field – Number of appearances.

**Background.** In Fact File 40 we listed the number of English women aged 20 and over who competed in track and field in 2014. That study showed that almost a quarter of senior women competed only once and almost 40% competed once or twice. ABAC has asked Rob Whittingham to crank the numbers for senior English men, looking first at the veteran categories. Fact File 42 deals solely with veteran men.

**Number of veteran men.** In 2014, 3,827 men aged over 35 years recorded performances in track and field competitions. The total number of competing men aged 20 and over was 8,058 so the veterans represented 47.5% of all senior male track and field athletes in 2014. Their presence in representing clubs in leagues remains a key factor in many clubs and leagues being viable.

The number of appearances in 2014 for veteran men has been determined. The breakdown is:-

#### Number of Appearances for veteran men in 2014.

<b>1 meeting</b> -- 1156 (30.21%)	<b>2 meetings</b> -- 655 (17.12%)	<b>3 meetings</b> -- 456(11.92%)
<b>4 meetings</b> -- 382 ( 9.98%)	<b>5 meetings</b> -- 266 ( 6.95%)	<b>6 meetings</b> -- 166 ( 4.34%)
<b>7 meetings</b> -- 139 ( 3.63%)	<b>8 meetings</b> -- 114 ( 2.98%)	<b>9 meetings</b> -- 99 ( 2.59%)
<b>10 meetings or more</b> 394 (10.30%)		

- More than a quarter of veterans competed only once.
- Almost 50 % competed once or twice
- Very nearly 60% competed 3 times or less.
- And very nearly 70% competed 4 times or less.

**Dropout.** Of the 3,827 veteran men who competed in 2014, 1398 (36.5%) have yet to compete in 2015. Of the 151 athletes aged 34 in 2014, 86 have competed in the veteran category in 2015.

This means that for the veteran numbers to be maintained at 2014 levels more than 1300 veteran men must either have returned to the sport in 2015 after a lay-off of more than one year, or have taken it up for the first time in 2015.

An analysis early in 2016 will identify these extra people and establish if the 2014 numbers have been maintained in 2015.

**Veteran Women Dropout.** Of the 1,639 veteran women who competed in 2014, 565 (34.5%) have yet to compete in 2015 (as of early December 2015). Of the 67 women athletes aged 34 in 2014, 34 have competed in 2015.

If the complete study, which will be undertaken early in 2016, confirms a major reduction in men and women veterans then many lower leagues which are very dependent on veteran men and women will suffer as club teams diminish in numbers.