



Youth Development League AGM 2018.

Chairman's Report.

I will start by congratulating the winners from this year's National Finals weekend, which saw Reading AC crowned lower age group champions, and Blackheath & Bromley Harriers & AC upper age group champions.

The upper age group match also saw Blackheath and Bromley Harriers and AC taking both gender split titles, just as they had done in 2017, and they have now been nominated to UKA as the 2019 representatives for the European Champions Club Cup for juniors. The 2018 European competition took place in Castellon, Spain, on the 15th September and the club secured 4th place in both competitions.

Congratulations to all the teams for their successes this year in YDL.

Congratulations must also be given to all the YDL member club athletes who were selected for international competition in 2018. Watching the action from the Gold Coast in April I was once more pleasantly surprised to see athletes who I remembered from YDL, competing for their home countries, five of whom still hold YDL league records. Later in the season I also managed to check out the athletes who were selected for two of the major Junior internationals in 2018, the European U18 Championships, and the IAAF Junior Championships. Once more nearly 80% of those selected had utilised YDL in their quest for experience leading up to selection. One other interesting fact I picked up when compiling my lists of selections, was that of a Bedford & County athlete, who has competed in YDL, but competes for the Netherlands, he won the European U18 100m title.

Registration checking, one of my responsibilities, no one else really wants to do it, has been a little easier this year after the rule change in 2017 effectively passing the buck to competition providers. Our software is invaluable in enabling it to be dealt with, but I still spent a considerable amount of time informing teams of a problem with their athletes on the clubs' team manager portal. If any of you looked at the league tables throughout the season, you will see that even with ample warning, there were some clubs who still didn't register their athletes with the relevant home country within the much extended timescale I used, more than the governing body rules allows, and suffered disqualifications. I was also pleased to see my expectations of take up with the leagues Team Manager portal software, did reach the 100% I mentioned last year, what did we ever do without it?

Congratulations to all clubs who were divisional winners, or who gained promotion and commiserations to the clubs who have been relegated; plus, to all the athletes who took part, we hope you enjoyed the experience.

Finally, none of this would happen without the officials, volunteers and our funding partner UKA, who have made it possible for our matches to take place. Plus, to the management committee members who have worked so hard to pull it all together, especially those new members, who may now be regretting the whole process, thank you.

Grace Hall.

Chairman.

31.10.18