

YAC Open Meeting & U15 Invitational 800m

On Sunday 16th May a number of athletes from the **WAC Academy** tested themselves against local athletes in the annual YAC Open Meeting. The event was organised into a Quadkids format with each athlete competing in four events (Jump, throw, sprint and middle distance run) and being awarded points based on their performance. Due to its popularity the event was sold out very quickly so it was great to see a number of **WAC Academy** athletes amongst the entrants. Despite the atrocious weather, with regular downpours of rain, the competition was buzzing with a good atmosphere and the young athletes performed amazingly.

The U11 athletes competed in the 75m sprint, 600m, Long Jump and Howler events. **Bella Hawkey** was **Walton Academy's** sole competitor and had some very respectable all round performances finishing in 21st position out of 40 athletes. The Howler throw was by far her strongest event where she finished in 8th place with a throw of 16.70m.

The U13s competed in the 100m, 800m, Long Jump and Howler events. This was very competitive with a strong **Walton Academy group** in the Girls events. Consistency over all 4 events proved critical in the final placings and it was **Francesca Weal** who was the highest placed finisher of the **Walton Academy** members finishing in 3rd place overall and winning the Bronze medal. **Francesca** managed a top 10 placing in all the events with a 2:50.4 800m (2nd place) and Long Jump 3.82m (2nd place) being her two strongest events. **Amy McLoughlin** wasn't far behind finishing in 5th place overall and also managing top 10 placings in all four events. **Amy's** best events were the 100m 14.9secs (6th) and Long Jump 3.38m (6th). **Olivia Barnes** was ranked 6th overall managing top 10 finishes in 3 of the 4 events. **Olivia's** best performances came in the 800m 2:51.0 (4th) and 100m 14.8secs (5th). **Bea Hansen** finished in 26th position and managed a top 10 placing in the Long Jump with 3.34m (7th) and threw 17.95m (13th) in the Howler. **Ruby Donworth** also had a great day finishing in 29th position and her strongest event of the day was throwing the Howler 17.15m (17th).

All the girls were exceptional in the Quadkids Competition and with more events coming online throughout the summer it will be fantastic to see these athletes and others challenging themselves in these fun and enjoyable competitions.

At the end of the meeting there was an Invitational U15 800m for boys and girls. **Christian Boyd** and **Evie Weller** were invited to represent **Walton AC** in these very competitive races. In his debut 800m, **Christian** started very positively and settled into a steady pace passing the first lap in 3rd place. **Christian** managed to maintain his position as he sprinted down the home straight and was rewarded with a bronze medal. **Evie** had an extremely tough race, and straight from the gun the girls went off at a very fast pace. **Evie** worked hard throughout and in her first race of the season pushed on through to the finish behind some very tough opposition. Both Walton athletes' must have enjoyed being introduced to the crowd at the start of each race and were a credit to the Club.

PHOTOS BELOW



Amy taking off in the Long Jump



Christian storms into the home straight



Francesca mid-flight in the Long Jump



Olivia in action in an U13 800m heat