

3RD UK YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE (U13/U15) MEETING AT LEAMINGTON ON 22nd JUNE 2013

It was a sterling effort from the team last weekend to finish second again in the UK Youth Development League (see "Results" page at <http://www.worcester-ac.co.uk/Results.htm>). All athletes performed admirably and it was fantastic to see some new faces – I can't tell you how thrilled I was to have some specialist female throwers for the first time!

It was also a great effort from those parents that stepped in at the last minute to help out officiating. At the start of the day we were very short on officials, and since clubs are required to provide a certain number, and are penalised points if they do not, their efforts were greatly appreciated. As it was, since the rules require a certain number of those officials to be qualified, we did drop 10 points, but things could have been a lot worse!

Athletics is a sport heavily dependent on volunteers, who give up their time for free and without whom the clubs would not exist and athletics meets would not take place – whilst us coaches are rather hard to miss, you may not be aware of the committee members who keep the club running on a day to day basis behind the scenes, and the merry band of officials who are absolutely crucial when it comes to competitions. The plus side of this is that compared to many other sports athletics is a cheap and accessible sport. The down side is that every now and then someone like me will start trying to rope people in to volunteer themselves!

...and here comes the plea. We need more qualified officials! The officials that we have are fantastic and are great servants to the club, and since cloning them isn't an option, we could really do with some willing volunteers to add to the ranks. At present we have enough officials when everyone is available, but inevitably there will be personal commitments, or (as was the case last weekend) fixture clashes that mean that we end up short. I'm also conscious that with the youngsters competing in more competitions these days, our officials are being asked to do more and more – as I've said, they are volunteers and their only "payment" is a packed lunch, so it would be great if we could spread things around a little more, and those that are attending anyway with their own children seem like good candidates!

The club is happy to pay for the necessary courses and (as I understand) the "entry level" qualification doesn't require a huge time commitment.

Derek Cowdrey will be able to provide more specific details to anyone that is interested. His email address is: derekcowdrey@yahoo.co.uk

Andy Poppleton – Team Manager