

SAUCONY HAMPSHIRE TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2013

The seemingly universal gloom about the decline of county championships is not apparent in Hampshire, where we have just enjoyed one of our most successful competitions in recent years.

Our early concerns about the change of date proved unfounded as 691 athletes entered 1436 events (624 and 1276 last year). Entries were up by a third or more in four out of ten age groups; the only significant decrease (17%) was among the senior men. Our colleagues from the Channel Islands made the most of the Bank Holiday weekend by extending their stay and brought over 100 athletes, their largest teams for years (or ever?)

TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

	U13B	U15B	U17M	U20M	SM	U13G	U15G	U17W	U20W	SW	Male	Female	TOTAL
2013 entries	53	95	71	58	90	75	92	71	32	54	367	324	691
<i>2012 entries</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>108</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>96</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>337</i>	<i>287</i>	<i>624</i>
<i>+/- Difference%</i>	<i>+36%</i>	<i>+23%</i>	<i>-1%</i>	<i>+41%</i>	<i>-17%</i>	<i>+7%</i>	<i>-4%</i>	<i>+34%</i>	<i>+39%</i>	<i>+20%</i>	<i>+9%</i>	<i>+13%</i>	<i>+11%</i>

MULTI-EVENTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

	U13B	U15B	U17M	U20M	SM	U13G	U15G	U17W	U20W	SW	Male	Female	TOTAL
2013 entries	9	12	2	3	7	21	17	5	0	4	33	47	80
<i>2013 competing</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>71</i>
<i>2012 competing</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>67</i>

QUADKIDS CHAMPIONSHIPS

	U10 Boys	U11 Boys	U10 Girls	U11 Girls	Male	Female	TOTAL
2013 entries	7	18	8	24	25	32	57
<i>2013 competing</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>53</i>
<i>2012 competing</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>45</i>

HAMPSHIRE 10K ROAD RACE

	Men	Women	TOTAL
2013 entries	105	44	149
<i>2013 competing</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>132</i>
<i>2012 entries</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>143</i>

Despite blustery conditions, eleven new Championship Best Performances were set across a range of age groups, some beating records set in the 1980s and 90s.

Three-quarters of athletes used our new online entry system. The drop-out rate due to illness, injury or other commitments was 12%, a lower figure than for many road races.

Unforeseen circumstances put our intended 6 May closing date back to 12 May; a later closing date might have been detrimental to the championships. Our main difficulty was not whether track heats were required – these can generally be taken for granted – but scheduling field events for more than twenty entries. Chief officials needed time to confirm their duty sheets before the timetable was emailed to athletes and published on our website the weekend before the championships. The 32-page programme went to press with three days to go; photofinish data and names for T-shirt printers were emailed to suppliers, and registration lists and field cards were printed in the last couple of days.

Richard Dean, Christine Weeks and Mike Williams

Joint Track & Field Championship Secretaries