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Dated 19th March 2020

Each year Blackpool, Wyre & Fylde AC at the start of the outdoor Track & Field season hold the Winter Warm-Up Open meeting during March. This year the plan was to hold the meeting on March 21st at Stanley Park track, however the track was required to undergo an inspection by TrackMark. It did not reach the required standard, and consequently the meeting was cancelled, until repairs were made. As it was Coronavirus reared its head, and the meeting would have been cancelled anyway.

Obviously the weather in mid March is highly problematic. It can be wet and windy, pleasantly with warm early spring day, or as it was two years, incredibly cold, with a stiff northerly breeze, feeling more like 3 or 4 degrees, not track & field weather really. However it was mainly sunny, but there were heavy snow flurries, in some cases resembling full blown blizzards. Although there were athletes from age 7 to well into their 50s, the vast majority were under 20, with many Under 11s and 9s.

Some events took place in bright sunshine, while a minute later some were taking place in blizzards

During the events the young athletes shivered in vests and shorts, whilst when waiting to compete, wrapped they themselves in blankets and thick coats. Between events, many athletes, wrapped in blankets, and supporters took shelter in the Registration room to find some warmth, causing the room to look rather like a refugee centre after a disaster. However for the most part athletes and parents were stoic and there were many smiles, with many look back with a smile, especially now in this difficult time. Reminiscing recently, one parent said, she laughed all day at the craziness of it all. Whilst her son high jumped in snow flurries, she stood shivering measuring the Long Jump!



















