



John H Collins Gwent Cross Country League Development survey 2019-20 Results

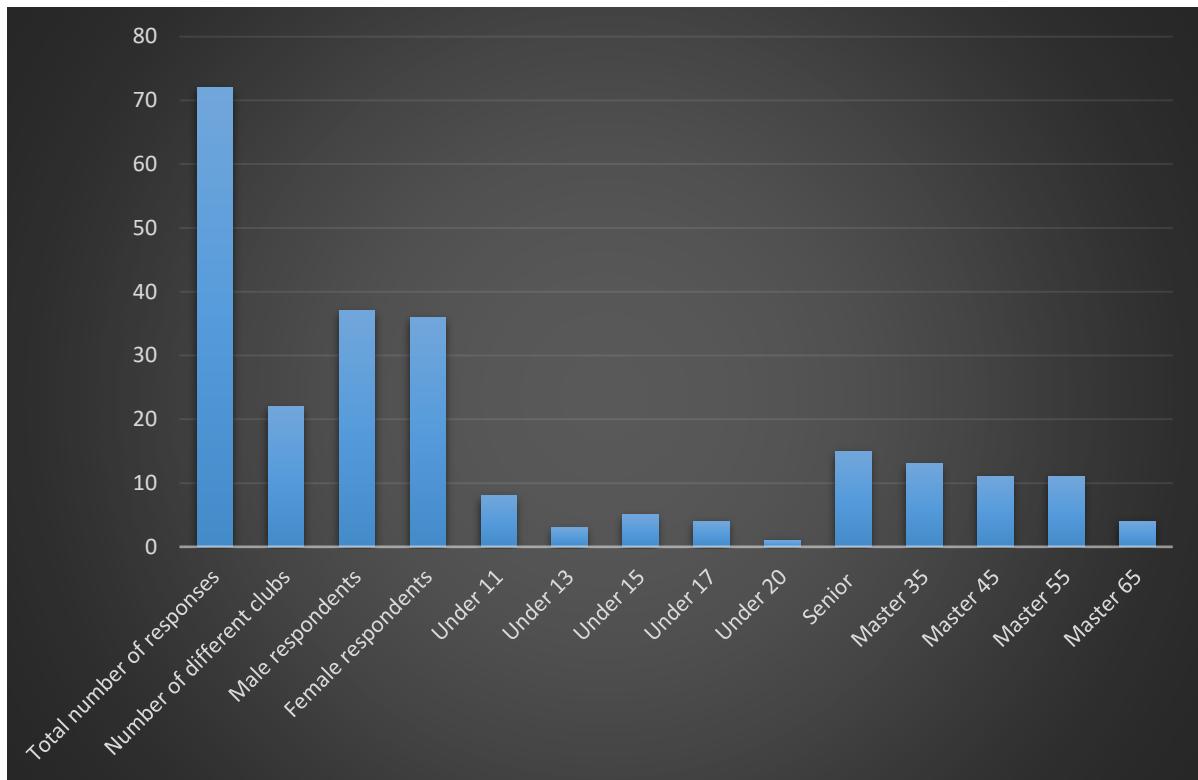
Introduction

At the 2019 John H Collins Gwent Cross Country League (Gwent League) AGM a discussion was held regarding equalisation of distances for males and females. The result of this discussion was to not alter anything for the 2019-20 season, but to survey the runners, evaluate the results and discuss again at the 2020 AGM.

We also took this opportunity to seek your views on the league in general.

Thank you to everyone who responded the survey. The results have been split into three sections; Demographics, General League and Fixture and Race Distances.

Demographics





John H Collins Gwent Cross Country League
Development survey 2019-20
Results

General League and Fixture details





**John H Collins Gwent Cross Country League
Development survey 2019-20
Results**

Questions 7,8 and 16 allowed the respondents to give their views.

7. Is there anything that you would like to see at all or specific venues?

The responses to this question can be split into three main topics:

- **Toilets** – the most commonly mentioned comment. The general feeling is that most fixtures need more toilets; urinals for the men and just more cubicles in general
- **Parking** – variable at the different venues. Chepstow was great, Blaise is always difficult, Pembrey OK, but took a long time to get out.
- **Refreshments** – it would be good to have more catering at fixtures with a good choice of produce available e.g. vegetarian, vegan.

8. General comments on race venues

In general the comments thought there was a good variation of courses, some would like more challenging, hillier courses, most were happy with the variety of courses on offer. Chepstow was seen as a good addition to the league's venues.

There were some comments on toilets which are in line with the answers to question 7.

16. If you think chip timing should be introduced, what do you think the benefits will be?

Most common benefits mentioned were:

- More accurate timing
- Easier administration (entry and race results) for organisers

A number of respondents were also nonplussed about chip timing as the results were position rather than time based, some didn't mind one way or the other or if it was easier for organisers – go for it.



John H Collins Gwent Cross Country League
Development survey 2019-20
Results

Race Distances





**John H Collins Gwent Cross Country League
Development survey 2019-20
Results**

20. What distance do you think your race should be approx.? Please indicate metres, km or miles.

This allowed respondents to indicate a preferred distance for their race:

Senior men	Senior women
10k	6.4k
10K	6.4k
10k	6-7k
7.5k – 9.5k	6-7k
	9.5-12k
	9.5-12k
	8-10k
	6-8k
	10k
	Approx 6km
	No shorter than 8km but 10km maximum.
	Should be less variable.



John H Collins Gwent Cross Country League
Development survey 2019-20
Results

Conclusion

It's good to see that the split of respondents is roughly 50/50 between males and females.

In general most people are happy with the organisation, variety of the challenges presented by the fixtures and the good value for money of the races.

The most common negative comment on venues was the lack of adequate toilet facilities and this is an area that the league must address with the fixture organisers.

Car parking will always be difficult at some venues and the league would encourage as many people to either use public transport (acknowledging that some locations are not well served by public transport) or share cars to ease the burden at these locations. Where car parking is more difficult, the fixture organisers do highlight this in advance to give people as much information as possible.

Chip timing is something that has been mentioned at the last few AGMs as it's seen as the way forward. The results of this survey indicate that some would like chip timing for it's more accurate timing and faster results, but many acknowledge that for cross country, timing isn't necessarily the most important factor and that if chip timing makes it easier for the league to administer the fixtures that does not appear to be an issue.

Unequal race distances between males and females in cross-country has come to the fore over the past year or two and was the driver in getting this survey commissioned. The survey results indicate that a number of females are happy with the current race distance and do not want to race further, but there are also a number who would either like to race over the same current distance as the men or to find an equal race distance somewhere between the current male and female distance. This is a difficult decision for the league to make especially as the popularity of the league has increased in both the male and females over the past few seasons. The league also needs to ensure that whatever decision is reached, the fixture providers can also deliver on that decision.