

Fantasy XL Launch

What is Fantasy XL league? That seems to be the question on everyone's mind as Cross Country Season looms.

Well it is four things:

- 1 It is a fund raising effort for the club. If 100 people enter 3 teams each we raise £1000 (before prizes).**
- 2 It is a way athletes can measure their performance over the season. Each XC race is different, times are not really comparable, so collecting Fantasy XC points provides some measure of how you are doing.**
- 3 It is a team building exercise, once you have picked your team across the age groups you will develop an interest in other races apart from your own, encourage your athletes to take part and cheer them on in the races. The TAC team spirit is often commented upon by people from other clubs and this is a way to enhance it.**
- 4 Finally it is a bit of fun, every year there is lots of banter and good natured competitiveness between team managers as the season ebbs and flows. There is also competition for who can choose the most cringe-worthy team name.**

How to get involved?

This is for athletes as well as friends and family, there is no limit, the more the merrier.

There will shortly be a list of athletes published on the Fantasy XL tab on tacdistancerunners.com together with their prices. Apologies to any athlete not included on the list but I don't know everyone. Any athlete not included on the list can still be selected at a price of £1m. You should note that there are more athletes priced at £1m than all the others combined. Don't be disheartened if you have a low price or are not shown on the list; it is an opportunity, because you are potentially a bargain buy for an ambitious team manager. There is a prize at the end of the season for the athlete with the best average i.e. points per million, so low priced athletes potentially have an advantage. There will inevitably be lots of debate over the seeded athletes' pricing and whether or not there are athletes who should be seeded but are not, but again this presents opportunities for the astute observer to profit from bargains. Highly priced athletes have a challenge to prove themselves worthy of their high prices.

You first need to choose a team of 6 with one athlete from each age group U13, U15, U17, U20, Senior, Vets(Over35). This team goes into the A Team Competition. Once you have done this you can select additional teams with no age group constraint i.e. you could choose any combination of athletes regardless of age. These additional teams will be entered into the B Team competition respectively. (Note the B Team winner tends to be the overall winner) You may only spend up to £40m on each team, with any unused money being translated into points at the rate of 50 points per million.

Points are awarded according to detailed rules which are set out on the Fantasy XL tab. Essentially there are 10 qualifying races (9 available to each athlete except U20 who can do all 10) throughout the season with points awarded based on turning up to run enough times, race place, race ranking compared to other TAC athletes and any medal winning performances. Note: the bigger the field in any race the more points available so the SM Race at the Nationals is the highest point scoring race.

NEW THIS YEAR – you may also enter a Fantasy League Bargains Team (“the Bargain Team Competition”) made up only of athletes priced at £1m (Total Budget £6m).

COST - £5 per team with a special 3 for the price of 2 offer i.e. £10 gets you 3 teams. Why not do a family entry.

ALSO NEW THIS YEAR – JUNIOR ATHLETE PLAYER MANAGER COMPETITION.

U13, U15 and U17 athletes can enter a team in the A competition for £2. The catch – you must include yourself in the team. Note one athlete from each Age Group.

So research your athletes and select your team or teams. Send me your teams by e mail icrawley@btinternet.com or hand them to me on a scrap of paper at training.

Either pay electronically : Tonbridge Athletics Club; Ac No. 13478604; Sort Code 09-01-55; Reference FXC[YourName]

or Cash to me at training.

Then prepare for the most fun you can have standing up. The closing date is 14 October, the day of the first qualifying race, so don't delay.

List of Athletes to be published shortly.