



Report from EYAL – Braintree – 13th July 2014

Chelmsford's young athletes surged into a Plate Final position in the EYAL league with victory in Round 4 at Braintree on Sunday. With just one league fixture remaining, the team are closing in on a top six finish, which would see them compete in the EYAL Cup Final at the end of the season!

Several athletes came straight from competing at the English Schools Championships and a Southern League fixture, showing tremendous commitment to the club.

There were so many excellent performances that it is difficult to pick the stand-out results, but probably pride of place should go to Alex Reynolds, who put his Birmingham disappointment behind him by winning both the U17 Discus and Hammer – in both cases triumphing over his friend and rival from Southend, Billy Praitm-Singh. The Hammer was a particular close affair, with both athletes throwing over 57m, and Alex winning by just 11cm!

Also in the U17's, Rhys Collings scored a superb sprint double by winning both the 400m and the 100m Hurdles. James Murrell and Joe McQuillan repeated their performances at the previous day's Southern League fixture, by winning both the A and B High Jump competitions.

Jacob Parker recorded a Track and Field double, by winning the 400m B race, and the Discus B event, while Chris Watson won the 800m B race, Jordan Denver won the 1500m B race, and Ryan Doidge won the 100m Hurdles B race.

Moving down an age group, there were wins a-plenty for the U15 Boys team. Nathaniel Sherger underlined his class by winning both the 100m and the 200m, while Mason Daley matched him admirably by winning both of the equivalent B races. Will Kerwin once again won the 800m, and was well supported by Andrew Hill, who won the B race. Scott Kingman and Taylor Turner registered a couple of fine victories in the 80m Hurdles, with Taylor going on to grab second place in the High Jump. Matthew Nicholls won the 1500m B race.

In the Throws, Sam Knock won the Shot competition, George Hay and Lucas Wells scored well in the Discus – and last but not least, Alex Skingle returned from the English Schools to record an emphatic victory in the Hammer.

The U15 Boys finished the afternoon by romping home in the 4x100m relay once again, reaffirming their strength in depth in this event this season.

The star of the U13 Boys team was Matthew Bruce, who emulated his U15 counterpart by winning both the 100m and the 200m. Zach Bridgeland coasted to a fine victory in the 1500m.

Amongst the Girls teams, the U17's made a huge contribution to the overall team score, with many excellent performances. Once again, stepping up from the U15 team, Gabby Quigley stood out. Like Alex Reynolds, she was returning from the English Schools Championships, but showed no sign of fatigue in winning the Shot and Discus, and coming second in the Hammer.

Other successes in the U17's included Bethany Schofield-Lott winning the 200m, Charlotte Boyle winning the High Jump (with Alisha Hayes making it a double in the B event), and Madeline Henderson and Jess Whiley strolling to twin victories in the 1500m. Caitlin Boyle had the Pole Vault all to herself, and added maximum points to the team score.

Emma Perks won both the 200m and 300m B races, while Erin Minton-Branfoot came second in the 300m A race, and Robyn Stafford registered a couple of fine second places, in the 80m Hurdles and the Long Jump.

In the U15's Connie Forman demonstrated why she won the Echo Sports Athlete of the Month for June by winning her first club 75m Hurdles race, before coming second in a high quality 100m, and then going on to win the Long Jump once again. Kate Etheridge and Rachel Broome continued their dominance of the 800m by once again winning both the A and B races.

Megan Paxman won the 1500m before turning her attention to grabbing first place in the High Jump B event. Laura Runciman and Jessica Down dominated the Shot by winning both events, while Ellie Bartram-Sheppard (Long Jump) and Hannah Badger (Javelin) both won their B events. Versatile Phoebe Jeffery scored excellent second place finishes in both the 300m and the 75m Hurdles.

Finally amongst the U13 Girls, Nancy Eagle won again proved what an asset to the club she is becoming by winning the High Jump and the Shot, and also coming first in the B string 70m Hurdles. Ndidi Okoh strode to victory in the 800m, Fay Sweeting came second in the 1500m, and Amelia Day finished third in the 70m Hurdles.