

Report from British Athletics League – Reading 6th June 2015

Once again the Senior Men's Team held second place nearly all afternoon in a very close match, only to be pushed down to fourth when the last few events were included. Slightly disappointing, but the positive is that encouragement comes from the fact that our Team are holding their own in this league, even when a number of our athletes are unavailable. An analysis of the results from the day shows that Chelmsford were the only club to field U17's in their team, and that several of the other teams were able to include Higher Claim Athletes in their line-ups!

Also, the Club as a whole should be inspired by Steve Woodford in the 3000m Steeplechase. Steve fell at one of the hurdles, then a lap later fell again heavily on the same hurdle! Although obviously in significant pain he refused instruction to withdraw and lose team points and courageously ran on to finish! Both left knee and right shin needed medical treatment after the race.

Despite not being a distance runner, and significantly short of match fitness, Chris Youell typified the superb team spirit on the day by quickly stepping in to replace Steve in the 5000m and assist Ken Hoye. Ken himself managed the incredible feat of doubling in the 3000m Steeplechase AND the 5000m!

Such is the standard in the British League, individual wins are difficult to achieve. However, the Team did manage a few as follows: Bradley Reed (110mH A string), Mark Woodley (400m B string), James Murrell (High Jump B string) and, of course (!), Chelmsford's dominant 4x400m squad won again!

It was also pleasing to see young talent coming through in the Club at this match with three new U17's competing in the British League for the first time: Tom Hewes (who achieved a Senior Men's AAA Grade 2 performance in the High Jump!), Fluke Ladphanna and Nathaniel Sherger. All three should be proud of their performance in this tough Senior competition, and made substantial contributions to the team score.

The Team:

Marcus Hunt:	Long Jump, 100m (10.88s PB), 200m and 4x400m
Mark Woodley:	800m, 400m and 4x400m
Darren Blackwell:	800m, 1500m and 4x400m
Ken Hoye:	3000mSC and 5000m (PB)
Bradley Reed:	400mH, 110mH (14.88s PB), 4x100m
Jamie Allway:	Pole Vault (4.00m Eq. PB)
Alex O'Brien:	Long Jump and Javelin
Rhys Collings:	400mH and 200m
Geoff Tyler:	Hammer and Shot
Steve Woodford:	3000mSC
James Mead:	Discus
Chris Youell:	1500m and 5000m (18:02.26 PB)
Nathaniel Sherger (u17):	100m and 4x100m
James Murrell:	High Jump and 4x100m
Tom Hewes (u17)	High Jump (1.95m Eq. Outdoor PB, AAA Grade 2)
James Wilson:	Javelin

Kevin Wilson: Hammer (21.20m PB), Discus and Shot
Fluke Ladphanna (U17): Triple Jump
Paul Owen: Pole Vault, Triple Jump, 110mH, 400m and 4x400m

The following members of the team achieved Senior Men's AAA Grade performances:

Marcus Hunt: Long Jump (Grade 3), 100m (Grade 2)
Mark Woodley: 800m (Grade 3)
Bradley Reed: 400mH (Grade 3), 110mH (Grade 3)
Jamie Allway: Pole Vault (Grade 3)
Tom Hewes High Jump (Grade 2)

Man of the Match: Darren Blackwell

4x400 Relay Splits: Darren Blackwell 52.7s, Mark Woodley 52.5s, Paul Owen 51.4s and Marcus Hunt 49.0s

Match Result (points):

1. Newquay 253
2. Havering 233
3. Portsmouth 226
4. Chelmsford 209
5. Reading 194
6. Exeter 149

British League positions after the Second match:

Newquay (12 points), Portsmouth (9), Havering (8), Chelmsford (7), Reading (4) and Exeter (2)

Second, third and fourth places in the league are very close. With a fixture at Exeter and a home match remaining, Chelmsford have a real chance of moving up the table to a promotion spot.