



British Athletics League Division 3 Match 1 – Newquay – 7th May 2016

Having achieved promotion from Division 4 of the British Athletics League at the first time of asking last season, Chelmsford AC's Senior Men began their first season in Division 3 with a long trip to Cornwall, to take on Newquay & Par, Havering, Southend, Nene Valley, Bournemouth, Yeovil and Trafford AC. Unlike the rest of the country, the weather in the South West was wet and windy, but not even the persistent drizzle could dampen the enthusiasm of a Chelmsford team who returned home delighted with a second place finish on the day!

There was early success in the Field, where Mike Bartlett and James Allway scored heavily in the Pole Vault, coming second in the A string, and first in the B string respectively. This strong start was reinforced by Serg Zotin, clearing a Season's Best 1.90m to take victory in the High Jump, before man-of-the-match Kevin Wilson claimed the first of an incredible SIX Personal Bests as he recorded second place in the Discus!

As the Track events got under way, Bradley Reed and Luke Keteleers contributed a valuable combined 20 points in the A and B string 400m Hurdles – before repeating this scoring feat in 110m Hurdles, where the going was made especially tough by a strong wind.

Paul Owen and Chris Youell both ran excellent races in the 800m, with the latter claiming victory in the B race, before Grant Twist (second place in the A string) and Ken Hoye kept the points building with impressive performances in an arduous 3000m Steeplechase.

The 400m brought another highlight for the team, as Marcus Hunt and 17-year-old Harry Sloman both grabbed second place finishes whilst being roared on from the sidelines by a large Chelmsford contingent which included a substantial number of the Women's team, who had made the trip to add their support.

Meanwhile, Kevin Wilson was clocking up the PB's (and the points) with second place in the Shot, and fourth place in the Hammer – ably supported in the latter event by Geoff Tyler, who, despite being well into his sixties, continues to hold his own with athletes less than half his age!

Darren Blackwell and Callum Charleston scored well in the 1500m – as did Alex Cooke, taking fourth place in the 200m – and Steve Woodford and Grant Twist in a tough 3000m, as the end of the match, and an outstanding team placing came into sight.

A second place finish by the team's highly regarded 4x400m team, in an exciting relay, ended the competition, and confirmed Chelmsford in second place on the day – and, of course, secured second place in the early Division 3 table – probably the club's highest ever placing in an elite league!

Saturday 4th June sees Chelmsford hosting the second match of the season, and with the advantage of competing on home soil, and with home support, hopes are high that that the team can even improve upon their superb start to life in athletics' third tier!

