



## Report from YDL U20/U17 Match 2 - Stevenage – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Chelmsford's U20 and U17 squad travelled to Stevenage on Sunday, for the second match in their season, competing in the Youth Development League Southern Premier 2. With the exam season taking its effect on numbers, the team finished in a very creditable third place on the day – a result which in no small part was due to team members stepping up age groups, and stepping in to fill gaps in unfamiliar events.

The U20 Men's age group saw a number of fine performances. Nathan Brearley excelled in the middle distance events, winning the 800m, and finishing second in the 1500m. Owen Thomas won the 3000m, while Joe Patterson took first place in the 800m B string. Jacob Parker and Jamie Walford showed tremendous battling qualities in a tough 2000m Steeplechase to take first place in the B string, and third place in the A race. Elsewhere on the track, Rhys Collings showed his class in winning the 400mH – and also finished third in the 400m.

Alex Reynolds scored well for the team in the Throws, taking second in the Discus, second in the Hammer, and third in the Shot. Fluke Ladphanna was third in both the 100mH and the Triple Jump. Jamie Allway finished second in the Pole Vault – as did Thomas Hewes, stepping up to the U20's in the High Jump, and beaten only on count-back, with another 2m clearance.

In the U17 Men's group, Tom Keevil took first place in the 800m, with Callum Lloyd maximizing team points in the event by winning the B race in fine form. Otherwise, the major achievements were mainly in the Field. Joey Hardingham won the Javelin, with Billy Stevens winning the B event. Victor Adebisi excelled in the Throws also, winning the Shot, and taking second place in the Discus. In one of the highlights of the day, Robert Runciman made his debut in the Pole Vault, and cleared heights up to and including 2.60m, to eventually take second place! He also won the B string Shot, and came second in the High Jump, where John Boyle won the B event.

There was another highlight in the 4x400m relay, where Callum Lloyd ran a storming final leg to take the team to victory.

Amongst the U20 Women, there were wins for Caitlin O'Reilly (200m), Emma Perks (200m B), and Jodie Judd (3000m). U17 Caitlin was also second in the 100m. April Castle was making her debut for Chelmsford, and contributed a significant number of points with third place in the Javelin, second in the Long Jump, and third in the Triple Jump. Nowhere was team spirit, commitment and determination more in evidence than in Erin Minton-Branfoot, who was third in the 400m, second in the 100m B string, second in the Steeplechase, fifth in the Hammer – and still found the energy to play her part in helping the 4x100m relay team take second place!



*Erin-Minton-Branfoot*

The U17 Women were the most affected by lack of numbers, but Connie Forman took victory in the 300mH, as well as coming third in the Long Jump. Gabby Quigley grabbed a couple of second places – in the Discus and Shot, Hannah Badger was third in the High Jump, and Ellie Bartram-Sheppard won the B string Long Jump.