



British Athletics League Match 2 – Chelmsford – 3rd Jun 2017

Chelmsford's Senior Men were competing at home on Saturday in the second round of the British League Division 3. Having won the first round match at Yeovil, and having a stronger team on this occasion the team were hopeful of a second win.

The day started well, and by mid-afternoon Chelmsford were leading with Havering in close pursuit and the rest of the pack a significant number of points behind. Then, in the course of one hour, a series of misfortunes hit, starting with the Chelmsford Discus thrower scoring no points; then the 110m Hurdler crashed into one of the last barriers when leading and was harshly disqualified; and one of our Shot Putters failed to attend the match at the very last minute. If that wasn't enough the team's top sprinter pulled a hamstring and had to pull out of the 200m and relay. More than 30 points were lost allowing Havering to pull away and win the match. Chelmsford's final match point tally of 281 was also not enough to hold second and we dropped to fifth place – though only nine points off second.

Despite this result Chelmsford still hold third place in the league and are only seeing it as a minor setback to promotion hopes. Such bad luck surely cannot happen again. The league points standings are now as follows: Rugby and Northampton AC, Notts AC 13, Chelmsford AC 12, Havering AC 11, Southend AC 9, Yeovil Olympiads 7, Bedford & County AC 5 and Derby AC & Mansfield Harriers 2.

The positives Chelmsford took away from the match came from individual performances. Man of the Match Tom Hewes improved his High Jump personal best three times with some phenomenal jumping. As the event progressed Tom was attracting the support from the crowd and the 17 year old finished his day by clearing a final height 2:12m (that's seven feet in imperial measure!) - one of the best jumps in the country this year.

Another member of the Chelmsford squad to excel was Yasha Bobash, who threw further than his previous best in the Hammer no less than six times during the course of the competition, finishing with 45.98m. Yasha was competing alongside Alex Reynolds who has been in the senior team since he was an Under 17 and continues to impress, throwing 48.51m in the A string.

It was also encouraging for the team to see two young 1500m runners coming through to senior ranks. Charlie Everest (U20 age group) and Tom Keevil (U17). Both held their own against more experienced senior competitors with Charlie running a personal best of 4:03.79 and Tom taking a massive 10 seconds off his best with 4:04.28.

One of the strongest events for Chelmsford was the 3000m Steeplechase. In significant heat, Grant Twist set the pace and won the A string by some distance with ever-reliable Ken Hoye taking a second place in the B string. Darren Blackwell is also very worthy of mention for his commitment to the Men's team. Darren left his own 21st Birthday celebrations in Norfolk and drove back to run in both the 800m and 5000m.

Other winners for the Team were Paul Owen in the B string Pole Vault and Luke Keteleers in the 110m Hurdles B string.

Putting disappointment behind them now the team look forward to the next match at Bedford on Saturday 15th July.