



Report on British Athletics League Match 2 – Chelmsford – 2 Jun 2018

Chelmsford's Senior Men soared to the top of Division 3 of the British Athletics League on Saturday, after an excellent team performance on home ground at the Chelmsford Sports & Athletics Centre. Building on their fine third place in the opening fixture at Trafford in May, the team went one better this time, with a second place finish. In fact, Chelmsford were leading the match at the half-way stage, but couldn't hold off a surge by a very strong Bristol & West team in the final analysis.

The final match score was:

1	Bristol & West AC	342.5
2	Chelmsford AC	299.0
3	Nene Valley H	271.5
4	Bedford & County AC	264.5
5	Enfield & Haringey AC	263.0
6	Trafford AC	260.5
7	Notts AC	250.0
8	Southend AC	227.0

The match couldn't have got off to a better start for home team, with Joe Bloomfield and Yasha Bobash taking maximum points in the opening event – the Hammer. Joe is proving a huge asset to the club in his debut season, and he produced another dominant performance, taking victory by over 10m with a throw of 59.96. With Yasha also on top form in the B string, 28 points were secured, and Chelmsford went straight into a commanding lead.

Mike Bartlett was quickly into action, taking on the first of five events in the Long Jump – and partnered by Joe Wells, the pair kept the points ticking over, to maintain Chelmsford's lead.

Meanwhile, the High Jump was getting under way – an event that was ultimately dominated by GB international Chris Kandu of Enfield & Haringey, with a clearance of 2.21m. Chelmsford were without their own junior international jumper – Tom Hewes – due to injury, but Serg Zotin showed tremendous grit to take fourth place in the A string, despite suffering with a recurrence of a foot injury during the event. 800m specialist Mark Woodley stepped in to compete in the B string, despite only ever competing once before in High Jump competitively, four years ago, and amazed everyone with a clearance of 1.73m, to help Chelmsford take an excellent 13 point haul in the event.

Joe Bloomfield had no sooner finished his exploits in the Hammer than he was moving on to the Discus – and grabbing another 14 points in finishing second. Kevin Wilson fully played his part by winning the B string event by 5m.

By now the Track event timetable was commencing, and Chelmsford were off to another great start as Rhys Collings pushed himself to his limits in the 400mH A string race, securing second place, and a PB into the bargain. The Chelmsford supporters were on their feet again a few minutes later as Bradley Reed showed the same level of commitment, to grab victory in the B race. Shortly afterwards, Bradley was back, in his specialist event, the 110mH, and if anything, the atmosphere went up a notch as he claimed maximum points by the narrowest of margins – 0.05sec! Bradley



later stepped up to take on the Triple Jump, securing another 4 points for the team, and ultimately earning the reward of being Chelmsford's 'Man of the Match'.

The first middle distance race of the day was the 800m – and with the home crowd vociferously roaring him on, Darren Blackwell surged down the final straight to win the B race, and celebrate his birthday in style, in one of the highlights of the afternoon.

The team's lack of senior sprinters then came back to haunt the team in the 100m, where just 6 points were won on Chelmsford's behalf, by Braintree's Lewis Thorn – and it was also hard going in the Steeplechase, where the increasing temperatures made life hard for veteran Ken Hoye and the returning Darren Blackwell.

Back in the Field, Serg Zotin pushed himself through the pain barrier to win more vital points in the Triple Jump, while three Chelmsford athletes were competing in what turned out to be a marathon Pole Vault event. Mike Bartlett took fourth place in the A string, with 4.08, and James Allway claimed a maximum in the B event. Chelmsford's 15 year old rising Pole Vault star Sam Tremelling was competing as a guest in the event, and his 3.68m would have earned him a very respectable place even in the A string!

Mike Bartlett (again) returned for the Javelin, and together with Mark Woodley, the pair claimed a further 12 points for the team. Joe Bloomfield then capped a fine individual day by earning second place in the Shot – a position matched by Kevin Wilson in the B event.

On the track, Harry Sloman took a fine second place in the 400m B race, while Charlie Everest and Harry Tullett – both U20's – both claimed a fourth place in the 1500m, in the A and B races respectively.

Nyakey Duwai and Harry Sloman secured a total of 9 points in the 200m, before Callum Charleston and Ken Hoye took 7 points in a punishing 5000m towards the end of the afternoon.

By now, a surge in the track events by the powerful Bristol & West team had moved them into an unassailable position in the lead overall, but the relays provided the usual excitement as Chelmsford took fifth (and a Seasons Best) in the 4x100m and third in the 4x400m to consolidate a comfortable second place in the match.

The result moves Chelmsford to the top of the Division 3 league table, with a three point lead over the chasing pack, with two matches to go. The next fixture is on 7th July at Bedford – the annual 'BIG SATURDAY' when all five divisions of the British Athletics League hold their fixture at the same venue.