



Southern Athletics League Division 1 – R2 – Battersea – 20th May 2018

Competing at Battersea Park on 20th May Chelmsford Athletic Club's combined senior men and women's team took their second win of the season in the second round of the Southern Athletic League. The team were missing a number of key athletes due to school and university examinations, and competing against the pre-match league leaders Blackheath & Bromley it was always going to be a tough match. However, the team rose to the challenge and fought for every point, in every event, over the course of the day.

The final result showing that Chelmsford had snatched the victory by just 13 points with a tally of 227 points. Blackheath & Bromley AC finished second on 214 points followed by the hosts Belgrave Harriers on 195 and Stevenage & North Herts AC on 127 points. It was a particularly important result as Chelmsford now jointly head the 16 team league and the next match is a home fixture.

Much of the credit for the win has to be given to the Ladies who fielded a strong team which included a number of very talented juniors, many competing with the seniors for the first time.

There were some great performances from many of the Chelmsford athletes. On the track for the ladies Aleasha Kiddle took a double win in the A string 100m and 200m. Aleasha was given solid support in these events by U17 Dominika Czekajlo with a 100m B string win and Beatriz Melo, second in the B 200m.

The 400m and 800m races for the ladies saw Kimberley Johansen and Joceline Monteiro scoring well in the A string, and claiming double B string wins.

Competing in the longer distances Rosa Prideaux and U17 Martha Smith joined forces to take on the 1500m. Rosa's second place in the A race was impressively backed-up by Martha who won the B string – as a result of which Martha was later selected in the 4x400m relay and also ran well in that event. All the points then came Chelmsford's way in the Ladies 5000m as new to the team Liz Davies went away from the field to win the A race and Alexa Joel followed her home in second place in the race and a B string win. The 100m and 400m hurdle events saw Claire Netley and Jessica Whiley claim significant points for the team. Claire led the 400m down the home straight but was just pipped on the line in a dip finish while Jess took a win in the B string.

In the Ladies Throws the squad of Toni Egbulefu and Georgina Howe, together with coach Shirley Quinn also competing, scored multiple first and second places in the Hammer, Shot, Discus and Javelin to keep Chelmsford's score rising. Similarly in the jumps Dominika Czekajlo and Lily Parris took a double A and B string wins in the Long Jump as Caroline Hill and Hannah Bolton grabbed points in the other jumps. It was however, these latter two athletes who stepped up to tackle the Steeplechase. Neither are specialists in the event so it was a massive boost to the team when they took two second places with excellent performances.

On the track for the men, Nathaniel Sherger (coming back to his best in the sprints following a long injury lay-off last year), Harry Sloman, Paul Owen, Mark Woodley and Chris Youell between them tackled all the flat races, scoring many second places and making a massive contribution to the points total. It



was the hurdle races, however, where Chelmsford took the wins - Bradley Reed, Luke Keteleers and Rhys Collings only dropping one point in the 110m and 400m hurdle events. Bradley's 110m hurdles win was significant as he was up against Britain's top hurdler, William Sharman. Will was however, disqualified for a false start and Bradley convincingly beat the other teams!

In the men's jumping events it was decathlete Mike Bartlett who picked up most of the points. In his specialist event, the Pole Vault, Mike took an A string win with one of his best jumps for some time. Mike was partnered by Jamie Allway in this event who took second place in the B event.

In the men's Hammer, Shot and Discus Chelmsford have become dominant this season with Joe Bloomfield, Kevin Wilson, Yasha Bobash and James Mead dropping only one point from the 24 available!

As with the ladies, two Chelmsford athletes stepped in to fill the places in the 3000m Steeplechase. Sprint hurdler Luke Keteleers partnered 800m runner Chris Youell and they amazed everyone with Chris third in the A string and Luke winning the B string!

In the final events, the relays, Chelmsford ladies convincingly won both the 4x100 and 4x400. The men couldn't manage the 4x100m win but did take the 4x400m by a significant distance. It was enough to secure the overall team win.

Chelmsford's Woman of the Match was shared between Aleasha Kiddle and Georgina Howe for their efforts and performances over the course of the day. Man of the match went to Chris Youell who, in the space of 3 hours competed in the 800m, the 1500m, the 3000m - and the 3000m Steeplechase! New recruit Joe Bloomfield continues to impress too, and took a Southern League award for the quality of his throws.

Chelmsford's next Southern League match is on Saturday 23rd June at the Melbourne Stadium, Chelmsford. The men also compete in the British League, again at home, on Saturday 2nd June. All support would be welcomed and admission is free for both matches.