



Report on British Athletics League Match 2 – Chelmsford – 9 Jun 2019

Chelmsford's Senior Men's team commenced their first ever season in Division 2 of the British Athletics League at Melbourne Park on Sunday, having gained promotion in 2018, and after only entering the league in 2015. It was disappointing therefore, with the clear increased quality of competition on display, that the Chelmsford squad had been so decimated by injury leading up to the fixture, with over a dozen of their first-choice team on the side-lines with injury.

Despite a bright start to the day, and supreme efforts by every member of what was by far the youngest team to feature in the match (featuring no less than TEN Under 20 athletes), the team ultimately ended the match in seventh place:

1. Havering – 325.3
2. Glasgow – 316
3. Crawley – 290.3
4. Kingston AC & Polytechnic – 286.3
5. Bristol & West – 279
6. Notts – 270
7. Chelmsford – 221
8. Herne Hill - 177

Chelmsford started the match with what turned out to be their only event win of the day – Kevin Wilson taking victory in the Discus, with a throw of 42.93m – and well backed up by debutant veteran Roger Skedd, who claimed second place in the B string event. Wilson went on to accumulate more valuable points, with fourth place in the Shot, and third place in the B string Javelin. The versatile, and highly experienced Skedd, meanwhile, demonstrated what an asset he will be to the team this season, by also scoring well in the Shot, Javelin and High Jump.

Alongside Skedd in the High Jump was one of the team's youngest members – 15 year old Oliver Early - who showed his great potential by taking a very creditable fifth place in the A string, before going on to claim an excellent sixth place in the Long Jump too!

Samuel Alexander – another recent recruit - added another 4m to his Personal Best in the Hammer. Although new to the event, Alexander is already proving himself a very capable athlete, and took an excellent fourth place in the B string event.

On the track, the 800m was the highlight for Chelmsford. U20 Harry Tullett took third place in an incredibly close race, with the top four all finishing within one second of each other. Another U20 athlete - Joe Lane was later awarded Chelmsford's Man of the Match, after running a very impressive, and well judged race, catching one his rivals right on the finish line, and only just missing out on first place in the B race. Lane then covered the 400m event at short notice, running a Personal Best time of 51.35 - before going on to run another impressive 52 second split in the 4x400m relay.

Yet another U20 athlete - Zach Bridgeland – marked his first turnout in the British Athletics League by running a two second PB in the 1500m, in 4:07 – while the even younger Darcy Sullivan, making



his BAL debut at the age of 15, was by no means out of his depth in highly competitive 100m and 200m races.

Bradley Reed ran an excellent time of 15.2 seconds into a headwind in the 110m Hurdles, finishing a very close second – and also covered the Triple Jump despite nearly having to join so many of his team-mates on the side-lines, because of illness.

The team will travel to Kingston at the start of next month for the next BAL fixture, hoping that a significant number of their injury hit squad can return to the track and help them towards achieving their target this season – to consolidate their position in this elite athletics league.