

16th May 2010 National Young Athletes League – Bracknell

Southampton AC youngsters travelled to The John Nike Stadium in Bracknell on Sunday 16th May for a second round fixture of the National Young Athletes Premier League. Reading and Bournemouth / Poole provided the opposition in which turned out to a very closely contested match. After 82 events there was just 25 points separating Reading and Southampton.

The U13 girls made a fantastic contribution to the team's points total, every one of the 6 girls competing put in at least one personal best performance. Three of the 9 events saw Southampton AC winners with Sophie Merritt throwing a magnificent 11.63 to take the National Young Athlete's league record. Sophie also jumped over 4 metres for a PB and 2nd place finish in the long jump and rounded things off with 4th place in the 150m.

Abbie Fisher won the 800m with a sprint down the home straight to take another half a second off her personal best time. Abbie also came 4th in the High jump and 6th in the hurdles.

The biggest personal best of the day was reserved for Briallen Taylor who took a full 15 seconds off her best performance with a tremendous win in the 1200m in a grade 2 time of 4mins 7 secs. Briallen also contributed points in the Shot put and Long Jump.

Phoebe Kalik recorded personal bests in the hurdles of 13.8 secs and 1.10 metres in the high jump finishing 4th and 5th respectively and also finished 3rd in the 800m.

Alana Spiers also recorded pb's this time in 2 events the 1200m & 150m finishing 4th in both. Alana improved her 1200m pb by over 5 seconds to record a graded time of 4 mins 17 secs.

Zoe McClean also recorded 2 pb's in the 75m & 150m and was also part of the 2nd place sprint relay team along with Abbie, Alana & Phoebe.

The U15 girls also had some fine performances with wins for Emma Cowell (hurdles), and a middle distance double from Emily Jenkinson (800m) and Caitlin Stewart (1500). It was tough competition but Southampton continued to accumulate points with some very good second places as well from Emma Cowell (long jump & high jump), Emily Gunn (Javelin) and Vicky Mould (hurdles). All girls pulled together brilliantly to fill all the events to ensure we amassed as many points as possible - no more so than Emily Jenkinson who at one point was in the middle of the high jump, went away to run the 3rd leg of the relay, only to come back finish off her high jump while also starting the javelin!

It is a busy time of year for the u17 women as they are in the middle of revising for GCSE exams, so with a depleted team the u17 women put in strong performances across all areas.

The stars of the team were Hannah Musker in the 300m and Poppy Barker in the javelin who both won their events. Both girls also competed in the shot and discus with Poppy coming second in both events. Other athletes who performed well and came second in their events were Laura Seaman in the 800m with a personal best time, Mhairi-Clair Stewart in the 1500m and Nicole Dally in the 3000m. The sprint races are always very competitive and Susie Collins did well to come third in both the 100m and 200m and Beth Sharpe also ran well to come third in the 300m. In the long jump and triple jump Vicky Vinter and Lottie Lord both jumped consistently and Lottie jumped into third place in the high jump.

The U13 boys yet again produced a great performance, especially as a result of some very late changes in events for all athletes. They won 4 events Owen Lawrence in the long jump with a personal best of 4.15, Eddie Jenkinson in his first ever shot putt competition won with 6.89 and George Butler and Jamie Abrahams won the 800 and 1500 respectively in times of 2:25.9 and 4:57.0. The boys also got seconds in the 75m hurdles (Eddie Jenkinson) and with Owen Lawrence in the high jump and 100m. The rest of the team were not to be outdone and contributed with 2 third places on their debuts from Mike Morris (100m) and Charlie Cooper (hurdles), and through all of them willing to fill in events they had never done before they managed to maintain their 100% record as a team in all competitions so far this season by beating Reading & Bournemouth/Poole Runners in the U13 age group.

Rory Farrell starred for the under15 boys showing his versatility in winning the 80m hurdles 13.9; the shot putt 9.07 and coming second in the long jump 4.95. There were a number of fine performances from the boys who set personal bests, these included Tom Gowans first in the 100m 11.7, Jake Till 12.6 also in the 100m and 25.8 in the 200m, Alex Ruggles 4.39, David Fisher 4.55 in the 1500m, Ben Ninnim 1.45 in the high jump and 34.4 in the javelin and Bradley Apps in the shot putt 5.8. Nick Windsor made an encouraging debut for the club clearing 1.60 in the high jump and in the penultimate event the quartet of Jack Spencer, Alex Ruggles, Alexander Allen and Matthew Knapp maintained their unbeaten start to the season with a convincing win in the 4x400m relay.

For the under17 men there were comfortable wins for Sean Adams currently ranked 5th in the UK over 400M hurdles and Dudley Mason whose 800m performance at the County championships recently ranks him 14th in the Uk for his age.

Team debutant Kostadin Stoimenov competing in the Long jump, triple jump and discus showed great promise as did Zac Turner another new recruit who performed well in Javelin, High Jump and shot. Dan Avery came second in the hammer and continued his pattern of amassing significant field points for the team. Callum Rowe performed strongly in both hurdles races and younger members of the team showed considerable improvement with Pbs being set by Amarpal Gill in the 1500m 5.07 and Paul Warn in the 3000m 10.52. Sean Adams in the 100m hurdles 14.5 and Simon Campbell in the 1500m, 4.29 also set Pbs.

The Southampton U17 m came second in both relays. Prevented from competing in the pole vault because of faulty equipment, Luke Hodgetts joined brother Will and team members Ben Till and Ross Barker to stage a spirited challenge to eventual winners Reading.

It was similar story in the 4 x 400m relay where Sean Adams, Craig Green, Martin Campbell and Simon Campbell led for most of the race and were eventually overhauled by Reading 5metres from the finish.

FINAL MATCH SCORE

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| READING AC | 638 |
| SOUTHAMPTON AC | 613 |
| BOURNEMOUTH / POOLE | 491 |