

2nd May 2010 National Young Athletes League – Eton

Southampton AC got their National Young Athletes Premier League campaign started on the 2nd May with a trip to last year's national runners-up Windsor Slough Eton & Hounslow, with Team Dorset completing the opposition in the leagues new match format.

On a cold and windy day in which the weather affected times and distances there many notable and encouraging performances from the youngsters.

The U13 girls contributed valuable points to the team with Sophie Merritt one of the day's two event winners, throwing a tremendous 11.47 metres to win the shot. This was twice as far as her nearest competitor! Sophie also contributed valuable points in the 150m, long jump & relay.

Abbie Fisher was the other event winner coming home in a pb time of 4:12.2 to beat the Premier league opposition in the 1200m. Another notable performance in the 1200m came from Briallen Taylor who in cold, wet & windy conditions also ran a pb time of 4:19.7 to come home 5th.

Zoe McLean & Alana Spiers made impressive Southampton AC debuts in the sprints and 800m respectively.

Phoebe Kalik contributed points in the hurdles, 800m and shot put, the last of which she was attempting for the first time.

Sarah Brown also contributed points across 3 events, the high jump, long jump & 75m despite being the youngest competitor in the team.

The U15 girls found wins very hard to come by in a very tough competition as well. However, wins did come right throughout the day starting with Emily Jenkinson in the 800m, but quickly followed by Georgia Parker in the pole vault, who was joined in second place by Clare Humby in the same event - both girls making their debuts for the club. Emma Cowell completed the list of victories with a tight win in the high jump.

There were a number of second places - Zoe Carter (200m), Emma Cowell (long jump), Sophie Kalik (1500m) and Emily Jenkinson in the javelin.

The remainder of the team all gave solid performances; special mention must go to two more debutants - Bryony Osbourne in her very first 1500 and Emily Gunn in the javelin (3rd) and discus.

Several of the U17 women won their events including Freya Jones in the javelin and shot, Jo Bottell in the triple jump and the 4x100m relay team which included Megan Fry, Beth Sharpe, Hannah Brown and Susie Collins.

The following women came 2nd in their events - Megan Fry in 80m hurdles, Susie Collins in pole vault, Daena Bennett in 1500m, Hannah Musker in 300m and Lizzie Gittens in javelin.

Also Laura Seaman and Emily Kalik performed well in the 800m coming 3rd and 4th respectively and Vicky Vinter jumped consistently in the long jump and triple jump. Mhairi-Clair Stewart ran well in the 1500m and as part of the 4x300m relay team who came third overall.

The other notable performance came from Lottie Lord (who is a high jumper) in the hammer who stood in last minute to score a couple of points for the team.

The U13 boys made a great start to the NYAL season as they triumphed within their own age group on the day, scoring wins in the 100m, 800m, high jump, long jump and 1500m, as well as second places in Long jump, and the 200m.

Although all the team contributed on the day to the new style of scoring, star of the day was Owen Lawrence scoring 16 out of a possible 18 with wins in the Long jump and high jump, along with a valiant 3rd place in the 1500 - all of this on his debut for the club!! Other notable performances came from Oliver Bromby (13pts - 1st in the 100m and 2nd in the 200), Eddie Jenkinson (13 pts - 1st in the 800m - his first ever race over that distance.) on his debut also for the club in NYAL, and from Jamie Abrahams continuing his excellent start to the season with a comfortable victory in the 1500 and a 2nd place in the Long jump. Other debutants on the day were Adam Jones and Ed Connolly, who despite not winning their events contributed greatly to the overall effort ensuring the U13 boys triumphed on the day.

The U15 boys excelled on the track with a clean sweep in the 100m, Tom Gowans 12.4 and Rory Farrell 13.5 who was making his debut for the club. In the 200m Tom Gowans 24.6 and Jake Till 26.6 produced another first and second and Jack Spencer 59.0 and Matt Knapp 59.4 repeated the sequence in the 400m. The 4x100 relay team of Rory Farrell, Alexander Allen, Jake till and Tom Gowans stormed home first in 50.3 as did the 4x400 relay team of Jack Spencer, Alexander Allen, Alex Ruggles, and Tom Gowans. In the middle distance events there were 2nd places for Jack Spencer in the 800m 2.27 and Alex Ruggles in the 1500m 4.45. Best performances in the field all in 2nd place came from Sam Bass-Cooper in the pole vault 1.90, Rory Farrell in the shot putt 9.89 and Ben Ninnim in the discus 25.10.

The under 17 men found wins hard to come by however there many encouraging performances considering the conditions. Securing 1st places were Dan Avery in the hammer with a throw of 47.64 and Zachery Turner making his debut for the club winning the shot putt 10.34. Also in the field events there were 2nd places for Ross Barker in the high jump 1.70 and Luke Hodgetts in the pole vault 2.80 while Craig Green set a pb in the long jump 5.17. On the track Dudley Mason secured 2nd place in the 800m 2.01 and the 400m 53.9. Other 2nd places went to Martin Campbell in the 1500m, 4.30 a grade 1 time, Charlie White also making his debut for the club in the 3000m 10.01 and two fine performances for Sean Adams in the 100m hurdles 15.2 and a grade 1 time in the 400m hurdles 53.9.