



## Hunt seals record as Southampton take 2<sup>nd</sup> in appalling conditions.

Southampton Athletic club's young athlete's competed in appalling conditions to take 2<sup>nd</sup> place in their latest Wessex league match of the season behind host club Oxford. Depleted of many athletes due to a combination of the busy athletics schedule, exams, Winchester's race for life and the Isle of Wight festival, there were nevertheless some fine performances.

Congratulations to the host club for getting the fixture finished under a deluge of rain which left the inside lane of the track flooded. Pragmatic officiating ensured events were brought forward so that the match was at least completed.

The U17 men age group led the way, astonishingly winning every single event. Tom Gowans & Adam Dawes took 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 100 & 200m. Jack Lynch won the 400m followed closely by teammate Jack Spencer. Spencer followed this with victory in the 800m with teammate Niall Holt just behind in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Alex Ruggles won the 1500m with teammate David Fisher behind in 2<sup>nd</sup>. The hurdles was won by Nicholas Hunt and the sprint relay by Dawes, Hunt, Ruggles & Gowans to give the U17 men victory in every track event.

In the field, the performance of the day was in the long jump where Nicholas Hunt added to his hurdles success with a new Wessex league record with a mighty leap of 6.66m, team mate Jack Lynch was 3<sup>rd</sup>. For good measure Hunt won the High Jump. Success continued as David Fisher won the shot and the javelin with Jack Lynch as Javelin runner up, Adam Dawes won the discus with teammate Holt in 3<sup>rd</sup>.

In the boys U15 age group, victories were recorded by Oliver Bromby in the 100m, George Butler in the 400m, Jamie Abrahams in the 800m, Byron Hale in the hurdles, for Bromby, Arthurs, Powell & Campbell in the sprint relay & for Tom Young in the shot putt & discus.

Duane Campbell was unlucky to be 5<sup>th</sup> in the 100m after his spike came off on the wet track. Harry Arthurs made a fine Southampton debut by coming 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 200m and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the long jump. Josh Powell was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 400m. Byron Hale was also making his debut and added to his hurdles win with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish in the 800m. Further debutants Matt Cousins & Alex Prinsep were 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> respectively in the 1500m, with Cousins also 5<sup>th</sup> in the high jump. Daniel Turrell was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the hurdles and 3<sup>rd</sup> in both the long jump & the high jump. Bromby followed up his sprint success with 5<sup>th</sup> in the shot & 4<sup>th</sup> in the discus and Butler & Abrahams followed up their track success with 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> in the javelin respectively.

In the boys U13 age group, victories were recorded by Owen Lawrence in the 800m, Luke Powell in the 1500m, & Eddie Jenkinson in the discus & Javelin. The sprint relay team of Lawrence, Butler, Jenkinson & Olowe also recorded victories.

Lyndon Olowe was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 100m and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 200m and sprint hurdles, Jenkinson was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 200m, Harry Butler 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 1500m and Oliver Ruggles 5<sup>th</sup> in the 800m. In the field, Lawrence & Butler were 2<sup>nd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> respectively in the long jump and Powell was 5<sup>th</sup> in the javelin & discus.

The girls team was a depleted one. Emma Cowell was the only Southampton competitor in the U17 women's age group but made up for lack of quantity by quality winning her 3 events of 200m, shot put & long jump.

In the U15 girls, wins were recorded by Sophie Merritt who recorded treble success in shot put, discus and javelin where she recorded a personal best of 36.14m which was astonishing given the conditions. Rachel Salisbury also returned to action for Southampton with a win the 200m and Eloise Flavell continued her fine form of late winning the high jump.

Salisbury secured a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish in the 100m, where JoJo Ruggles was 7<sup>th</sup>. Runners up spots were taken by Emily Green in javelin & discus, Briallen Taylor in the 800m, Abbie Fisher in the 1500m, Amy Teal in the hurdles and the relay team of Ruggles, Branson, Fisher & Salisbury. Felicja Bligh made her league debut for Southampton with 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the 200m, Fisher was also 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 300m where teammate Hollie Branson was 5<sup>th</sup> and Flavell was also 5<sup>th</sup> in the long jump.

Just 2 girls represented the U13 girls with Ellie Hodgson & Maddie Cooper. They made the trip worthwhile with 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishes respectively in the shot put. They then followed this by coming 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> respectively in the 100m, Cooper was then 4<sup>th</sup> in the 200m & Hodgson 4<sup>th</sup> in the hurdles.