

World Trials and AAA Championships
Manchester
27th/28th/29th July 2007



Corby 110m hurdler, William Sharman, is off to the World University Championships in Bangkok, Thailand following his bronze medal run at the World Trials and AAA Championships in Manchester.

Unfortunately his time at the World Trials is unlikely to impress the selectors although he has the qualifying time from last year. He would have preferred the Worlds in Japan but with selection for Bangkok already guaranteed

he has opted to compete there instead. He travels out this week and the meeting runs from August 8 – 18.

At Manchester the Loughborough student, who finished runner-up last year in a wind assisted 13.45, qualified for the final with a heat winning time of 13.97 which was the equal second fastest qualifier along with Woodford Green's Richard Alleyne. The Holder, Andy Turner (Sale Harriers) was the fastest with 13.79 while the other heat winner in 14.13 was the 2005 champion Allan Scott (Shaftesbury Barnet).

After two false starts the field got underway with Sharman having a nightmare of a start which saw him down in seventh place going over the first hurdle. However, once into his stride some slick hurdling saw him move into third going over the seventh barrier – the position he maintained until the finish.

Unlike last year the wind was against the athletes reducing Sharman's time to a disappointing 13.98. Scott got away to a superb start before being reeled in by Turner mid-race and came home runner up in 13.78 as the defending champion went on to retain his crown in 13.54.

On the eve of his departure for Thailand, Sharman said of his run at Manchester: 'I just lost concentration at the start after the two false starts. I just wasn't expecting the field to get away. I wasn't too disappointed with the run and feel I can put things right.'

Also competing at Manchester was the Corby trio of Matt Bell, Rachel Backhouse and Sean Taylor. Bell's fourth round throw of 61.69m saw him finish a fine sixth in the hammer competition which was won with a season's best of 71.02m by Woodford Green's Andy Frost from Sale's Mike Floyd (67.16m).

English Schools discus champion, Backhouse, acquitted herself well in her first major senior competition when she placed tenth with her third round effort of 41.73m.

Sale's Philippa Roles took the title with 57.83m from Windsor's Emma Carpenter, who just beat Leicester Junior Eden Francis (54.08m) to take the silver with 54.40m. Taylor, who like Backhouse will have gained valuable experience from the meeting, clocked 11.19 into a strong headwind of 2.6 m/s to place sixth in his 100m heat.