

Midland Counties U15/U17 Championships
23rd/24th May 2009



Corby AC had one of its best ever weekends when they lifted six titles at the Midland Counties Under-15 & Under-17 Track & Field Championships at Birmingham's Alexander Stadium.

Three club records fell courtesy of Charlotte Bowling, Gaby Bangay and Lucy Hatton, who all secured titles in their respective events. Bowling destroyed her best by almost two seconds when she smashed Lesley Irvine's 1993 mark of 44.62 when taking the Under-17 300m hurdles in a fantastic 44.16 – which ranks her second best in the UK. Her superb effort brought her home well clear of Newquay's Philippa Brett (45.96) with Rebecca Oakley (Wolverhampton) taking the bronze in 46.27.

Bowling was also in action in the previous day's 80m hurdles final in which she finished fourth in 12.27 with Bangay taking the bronze behind Rugby & Northampton AC's Charlotte Burrows (12.02) and Stoke's Jazmin Sawyer (11.81) in a new lifetime best of 12.03.

Bangay did however strike gold when she won the pole vault after a jump off with Bath's Lauren Gale (second on 3.01m) with a superb clearance of 3.11m which increased her own club record by 11cms. She also competed in the 200m (sixth in 26.72) and the javelin, where she threw 25.52m for eighth place.

Also getting among the medals for Corby in the same age group was Rachel Tyler who produced her second longest throw ever of 37.41m to pick up the silver medal in the discus behind Mansfield's Charlotte Gair, whose winning mark of 41.67m tops the national rankings.

Just missing out on the medals was Kettering Town Harrier Alex Keyworth, who clocked a season's best of 41.76 for fourth in the 300m, which Chloe

Bradley (Doncaster) won in 40.80 from Wolverhampton's Ann Ika Oqua (40.95).

Danielle Smith (KTH) and Sarah Ward (Harborough AC) ran times of 2.22.13 and 2.23.62 respectively in the heats of the 800m.

Hatton was in scintillating form in the Under-15 girls' age group – winning three gold medals all in new lifetime bests. Her club record was achieved when she smashed through the 5.00m barrier for the first time outdoors to take the long jump title. She leapt an excellent 5.32m to finish ahead of Cannock's Jessica Leek (5.27m) which added 5cms to Lorna Tiney's longstanding 22-year-old record.

On the same day she broke her best with 11.57 to reach the final of the 75m hurdles and again into a strong headwind went faster still to take the title in 11.55 – well ahead of Kerry Mutch (R&N) who clocked 12.03 and Cannock's Olivia Walker (12.07). She then returned the following day to add yet another title to her collection. After reducing her best with 26.04 in the 200m heats, she went on to take the final with a sub 26 recording of 25.94 as she out-paced Stratford's Eleanor Johnson (26.26) and Cannock's Olivia Walker (26.58). Hatton was also in action in the shot and her putt of 8.65m slotted her into fifth position.

Corby team mates Sophie McIntyre (28.50) and Hannah Singh (29.92) were also in the heats of the 200m with the former also clocking 14.06 in the 100m heats and leaping 3.69m for 18th in the long jump.

The Corby pair of Celine Bangay and Abigail Morrow-Harris both performed exceptionally well to record new bests over 1500m. Bangay reduced her former best by five seconds to take eighth in 5.03.89 while Morrow-Harris knocked 12 seconds from her previous best to place 11th in a time of 5.04.17. Lucy Tolton, who ran 2.32.19 in the heats of the 800m, was the lone Kettering runner in this age group.

Corby's final gold medal came from Sam Baker, who increased his personal best by a massive 41cms to win the Under-17 pole vault. The multi-talented youngster cleared 3.71m to finish well clear of Notts AC's Tom Lyons (3.10m). Baker also came away with another medal when he clocked 15.71 behind Oswestry's Toby Parkes (15.38) and Birchfield Harrier Jake Porter (14.11) to clinch bronze over the 100m hurdles. On a busy weekend he also came sixth in the long jump with 5.38m, eighth in the discus (25.75m) and shot (10.34m) plus tenth with 35.99m in the javelin.

Corby's other medal in this age group was achieved by Sam Foster, who threw a new best of 50.26m for bronze in the hammer contest, which was won by Wolverhampton's Oliver Barnfield with 53.03m from Tipton Harrier Chad Rhodes (50.48m).

Ross Davies, who reduced his best to 52.50 in the 400m heats before going faster still with 52.47 for sixth in the final, also competed for Corby. He also ran a time of 24.06 in the 200m heats.

Kettering's Jake Waples showed much improved form when he won Kettering's only medal of the weekend. He sliced almost a second from his former best to clock 2.02.75 and take the bronze medal over 800m behind Stoke's Thomas Guy (1.57.66) and Tom Collins of Notts AC (2.00.31).

David Edwards was also competing for the Harriers in the same Under-17 age group and reduced his best yet again when recording 10.24.56 for seventh in the 3000m.

Scott Kendall also made the podium for Corby as did Harry Hollis. The former capped a busy weekend with a throw of 42.82m for second place in the Under-15 Boys' javelin behind Doncaster's Daniel Dale (44.74m) and he also finished sixth with 29.96m in the discus, ran 13.15 in the 80m hurdles heats and came fourth with 11.17m in the shot, which was won by Stratford's Conor Guest (13.35m).

Hollis increased his best by almost a metre with a throw of 55.52m for runner-up in the Under-20 javelin behind Exeter's Matt Smith (65.17m) with Cannock's Chad Barton third with 55.38m.