

Newly promoted Corby AC gave themselves a good chance of a second spell in Division One when they convincingly won their opening Division Two match of the Midland Men's League at Worcester.

They finished comfortably ahead of host club Severn with Halesowen just pipping Cannock & Staffs for third and local rivals Kettering Town Harriers coming fifth.

Corby won exactly half of the day's events with their Athlete of the Match Ze Sandell being responsible for three of those. He first won the high jump with 1.80m before going straight over to the shot putt circle and unleashing a new lifetime best of 12.41m when using the rotational technique in competition for the first time. No sooner had he finished he then lined up in the 110m hurdles with the result being a clear cut victory in 16.6.

At the end of the day his second leg in the 4 x 100m relay helped Corby to a slick relay victory in which they finished some 40m clear of Severn. Also part of that squad, which came close to the long standing club record, was lead off man Sean Taylor, John Bell, who made the journey with the team just to run the third leg, and anchor man and club captain, Paul Webster.

Taylor also registered two individual successes with victories in the 100m, when he pipped Jamie Gill (Cannock) by one tenth of a second to win in 11.1 and earlier in the day the 200m, where he just edged out Cannock's John McLaren after both returned the same time of 22.4.

Supporting Taylor on both occasions was Webster, who logged comfortable B string victories with times of 11.3 (100m) and 23.0 over 200m.

Getting the club off to a fine start were John Hay, who won the opening field event – the hammer – and debutant Pete Straiton in the first track event – the 400m hurdles. The former produced his best effort for a number of years when he threw 49.11m while lending solid support was youngster David Foster, who threw a new best of 43.84m.

Straiton came through strongly in the final 30m of the 400m hurdles to beat Dudley's Phil Nation (60.2) with a time of 59.4.

The final win for Corby came when Laurence Fitch leapt 5.99m to win the long jump with Lee Czornyj taking the B with 5.94m.

Just missing out on victory was Andrew Laurence who was only 6cm shy of Severn's Leigh Pritchard's winning mark of 42.84m in the javelin.

Corby AC results

100m: A 1 Sean Taylor 11.1, B 1 Paul Webster 11.3; 200m: A 1 Taylor 22.4, B 1 Webster 23.0; 400m: A 4 Andrew Laurence 54.2, B 5 Ollie Webb 55.4; 800m: A 5 Jamie Clark 2.03.4, B 6 Ian White 2.22.7; 1500m: A 4 Chris Curtis 4.17.9, B 5 Luke Montgomery 4.49.1; 5000m: A 3 Curtis 16.25.1, B 2 Tom Bark 16.29.9; 110m Hurdles: A 1 Ze Sandell 16.6, B 3 Pete Straiton 21.4; 400m Hurdles: A 1 Straiton 59.4, B 3 Tony Wells 66.2; 2000m Steeplechase: A 5 Montgomery 7.10.0, B 4 White 7.49.4; High Jump: A 1 Sandell 1.80m, B 1 Laurence 1.70m; Long Jump: A 1 Laurence Fitch 5.99m, B 1 Lee Czornyj 5.94m; Triple Jump: A 2 Czornyj 11.56m, B 5 Webb 10.02m; Discus: A 5 David Foster 26.00m, B 3 Fitch 22.73m; Javelin: A 2 Laurence 42.78m, B 5 Fitch 29.20m; Hammer: A 1 John Hay 49.11m, B 1 Foster 43.84m; Shot Putt: A 1 Sandell 12.41m, B 1 Foster 11.72; 4 x 100m Relay: 1 (Taylor/Sandell/John Bell/Webster) 43.4; 4 x 400m Relay: 3 (Straiton/Fitch/Webb/Laurence) 3.36.9.

Overall

1 Corby AC 263, 2 Severn 239, 3 Halesowen 212, 4 Cannock & Staffs 209.5, 5 Kettering Town Harriers 181.5, 6 Dudley & Stourbridge Harriers 174, 7 Notts AC 162, 8 Daventry AC 140.