

Women's Southern League, Premier Division – Crawley 26th April 2008

As Reported by Dave Varney.

Considering the Newquay & Par Southern Women's team first match in the Premier Division meant a 6.00am start & over 300miles to Crawley, finishing third of the four teams & only 15 points adrift of the home club was a pretty satisfying result & is a good base for building on over the four remaining fixtures, all relatively closer to home.

Looking at the final Division 1 table last year, before the new upper league was established, the fixture went very much in line with the team placings. What was so pleasing was the team spirit & the performances from athletes ranging from new younger under 15's to under 17's competing at Senior level and the established Seniors & veterans, also, the way they responded to the long trip & re-adjusting for late changes.

There were several new personal bests & entries into the County all time top 10 listings which can be found on Bill Green's statistical website via the club link.

Entering the lists for the first time are Joanne Glossop who's javelin throw of 31.26m was good enough to win the Senior event, Nicola George's 61.7s for second in the 400m, April Hogg going inside 5 minutes for the first time in the 1500m with 4m:58.8s for second in the Under 15 event & Philippa Brett improving on her 300m Hurdles time with 48.9s, later equalling her p/b at 1.45m in the Senior High Jump.

Overall, the placings went true to form with all but two either second or third. The other victory was in the Under 15 Girls 800m where Anne-Marie Keast comfortably won in 2m:29.7s, adding second in the shot & javelin.

With both of the established Senior throwers missing, Jo Glossop and Caroline Harvey stepped in & both recorded p/b's. Caroline added a further best in the Discus at 22.90m where Vicky Mark won the 'B' string also with a p/b of 22.53m. Jacky Brett & Charlie Notman took on the vacant 100m slots, pairing up again for shot before Jacky & Jasmin Hicks ran a close second each in the 100m Hurdles.

It was during this event that Jasmin was 'robbed' of the chance to score a win in the Pole Vault as the officials wrongly would not allow her to complete any further jumps on her return from the hurdles, having seen the Ashford athlete overtake her with a 3.10m vault. Jasmin's 3.00m clearance was second but a good stepping stone towards her record of 3.60m

Caroline Stevens continued to record times which will rank her highly in the W40 category, placed 3rd in the 800m with 2m:26.3s & 2nd in 1500m in 5m:05.2s where Anna Sharrock also placed second in the 'B'. In the Under 15 race, April's sub 5 minute pulled Amy Sweet round to a p/b of 5m:19s

In the jumps, Debbie Drinkell successfully made her return to the triple jump after a serious knee injury looked like ending her jumping career. Below her best but still good enough to make the top four with 8.76m. In the Under 15 Long Jump both Charlotte Lowe (U13) & Amy Sweet recorded p/b's with 3.73m & 3.54m, these two making their league debut along with Charlotte Ward who's Discus throw of 12.12m gave her second in her first ever club competition.

It was in the under 15 age group that the club lost out due to the extent of the travelling & there were four of the ten events where the club was unable to field a single athlete. With several under 15's & Seniors promising to complete- the next match at Reading, the new league leaders could be in for a shock next month & hopefully the club will move up from it's 12th place in the league of sixteen.

Team placings: 1 Colchester 173; 2 Crawley 129; 3 N&P 114 & 4 Ashford 90