

Women's & Men's Southern League – Saturday 28th June 2008

Reported by Dave Varney.

With two fixtures remaining, there were varying fortunes for the Newquay & Par teams competing in the Men's & Women's Southern League fixtures at Bournemouth & Basingstoke.

A third win for the Men in Division 3 West at Bournemouth keeps them on track for promotion as they head the division into the second half of the season but things were not so rosey for the Women in their campaign to remain as the only South West club in the Premier Division as they faltered at Basingstoke, finishing last & are now perilously close to the relegation zone. This defeat was lightened by the double County Record performance of U13 Karis Harrington.

Over the past two years, the Men have started well but have been the victim of their expanding talent in the younger age groups who have been diverted to major schools fixtures. This could have been the case at Saturday's fixture but some decided to help the club push forward to get better competition in the future in a higher division. However, rising stars such as Jay Hill, Lee Hamilton, Jordan Henwood & Daniel Pearce will all be missing at the next match, which clashes with the English Schools Championships at Gateshead.

Chichester are the main threat to the Cornish club, lying in second with equal match points. They have a relatively 'easier' penultimate match so, the decider could be the fixture at Abingdon in August where the two clubs face each other for what could be the final promotion showdown.

The team won over half of the individual events with six of these being 'double A&B string' victories. Predictably, Mike Madden & Brett Marsh won the hammer but, unusually, came up against strong throwers in the other events. Jay Hill took the B wins in Shot & Discus.

Jordan Henwood & Isaac Clayton teamed up for the double in Pole Vault & Triple Jump, Mat Harris & Isaac for maximum points in the long Jump. Mat & Jay beat off the opposition over the 400m Hurdles with Jay showing his versatility in another 'double at High Jump, partnered by Chris Hill who only recently returned to the club he competed for as a youngster. Chris earlier ran one of the fastest 100m times in the County on his debut for a 11.2s win.

James Ansell covered events from 200m up to 1500m with Tarquin Hill still showing his competitive spirit covering several longer distances.

Teams: 1. N&P 115, 2. Basingstoke 91.5, 3. Bournemouth 59.5 4. Team Dorset 58

With Basildon breathing down their necks, the Women's team needed to stay ahead of them to keep their heads above the bottom four places. For much of the match it looked possible with all four of the teams in close contention but the gaps left by several missing Key athletes took its toll in the final events of the day & Basildon closed the overall points to a marginal deficit of just half a point!

The standard in this top flight competition is so high that there were only two outright wins from Jasmin Hicks in the Pole Vault, doing well to clear 3.30m in gusty conditions & for U15 Claire May who just out jumped team mate, U13 Maria Brett for the only double win of the day with 4.45m & 4.34m respectively.

The difference in standard if the club drops into Division 1 was apparent with four teams from this division competing in a concurrent match. Times which would have seen victory in most competitions saw sprinters Alice Robins, Leah Paulley & Charlie Notman in the lower placings & this was repeated for the middle & longer distance races. The under 15 Girls High Jump must have rated as one of the best seen in the league & even a 1.25m for Hollie Startup & personal best 1.20m for U13 Hannah Saunders could not live with the quality of the other six girls.

Jasmin & joint team manager, Tessa Williamson, started brightly only dropping one point in the opening 400m Hurdles in season's best 71.5 & 71.1s respectively, this pairing also did well in the High Jump with two more s/b's at 1.50m & 1.40m

On the Field, Kim Marsh also had a season's best in the Hammer with 33.43m with both her & Under 17 Caroline Harvey finishing second A&B

Karis Harrington was one of four Under 13's that moved into the U15 team & hopefully, will be the back bone of this group for the next three years judging by the way they have performed against the older girls. Karis had broken the 3.25kg shot County Record in the previous match but this time added a further 63cms to the Record with a distance of 8.86m then added the 600g Javelin Record to her name with a throw of 22.70m. For good measure, the following day, she improved her 2.72kg own age group shot Record.

There was a nostalgic return to the track for Jenny Williams, formally a County Record Holder in her younger days at 800m, Jenny is looking to revive club competition & belatedly stepped in to join & help the club she previously competed against in a bid to regain her fitness levels.

Teams: Horsham Blue Star 163, 2. Dacorum & Tring 147, 3. Basildon 128, 4. N&P 112