

Premiership Competition Guaranteed Next Season

Dave Varney writes

Two more County Records went as Newquay & Par hosted the final Women's Southern League fixture at Par track, needing to score highly to avoid dropping out of the Premier Division. With League leaders, Windsor, Slough, Eton & Hounslow aiming for the Championship title, Guildford & Godalming at 5th & Radley also above the only Cornish team in the League & Basildon only 2.5 match points behind & looking to score more points in their match at Colchester, things were not easy.

The number of athletes the teams had brought down showed they were not going to give up their high placings without a fight but it soon became apparent that the home club were matching the performances of the two top teams & the points started to amass with Radley slipping behind.

Windsor's Bola Ogun was unable to match her Stadium Record hammer throw in the opening event but with a 51m+ throw, was good enough to see off the rest. A welcome first match return of the season for Kimberley Rawling helped to push up the team score.

It was in the Under 15 field events where U13 Karis Harrington shone, firstly adding 81cms to her Shot County Record with the heavier weight, putting this out to 9.65m to win the event with Anne-Marie Keast making it a 'double'. This pairing then added the Javelin maximum points to the score, Anne-Marie throwing a lifetime best of 26.96m for the overall win & Karis taking the 'B' win with a new U13 County Record of 24.91m.

The U15 wins continued with Keast & Maria Brett winning the 75m Hurdles & in the 1500m, an event the club has struggled to compete in, Melissa Blakes-Lomax & Ailsa Sharrock made it another full points win.

The 1500m was a big points earner as Caroline Steven & Linda Ansell rounded off the Senior event with a double victory after the track had got off to a good start with Philippa Brett way out in front in the 300m Hurdles. Jasmin Hicks & Holly Brown took full points in the Pole Vault in the only Senior field win. Jennifer George stepped in at the last minute & went home with p/b's in the High Jump at 1.40m & Triple Jump 9.87m, with older sister, Nicola also with a p/b in the 200m at 27.3s.

With victory for the under 15 Girls 4 x 100m relay team & a close second for the Senior 4 x 400m squad, an unexpected 171 points tally moved Newquay & Par above Brighton to remain as the only South West club in the highest division & to take the scalp of the leaders who were still able to celebrate retaining the top place & the Championship title with a score of 163.5. Guildford's 125.5 points put them at 4th overall & Radley 6th in the table with 108 points.