



# Wirral A C Newsletter

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Editor: L J Carroll

## Young Athletes Start with a Win

The Young Athletes team travelled to Sheffield for the first round of the Division 1 NW league, winning the three team match from East Cheshire and Deeside by a comfortable margin. Notable among the 30 odd A string winners, were the double successes for John Simpson in the U17 LJ and Javelin and Alice Sherard in the U15 Javelin and Discus. Eimeer Corr (U15, HJ), Lauren Sharp (U15, LJ), Hannah Jones (U17 300m) and Ramone Al-Shabazz (U13, 75mH) were the best graded performances (all G3). The individual results can be found under Results on the Power of 10, but the match result has not yet appeared on the YA website – at least not in a place your editor can find.

In the opening round of the National Junior League at Blackburn, small team finished 6th out of the 7th teams in both the Mens and Womens competition but 7th overall. Ben Costello was close to 2 mins finishing 2nd in the 800m. Best of the rest was second by Sean Cookson (LJ) and Laura McGoldrick (400mH), third from Fiona Nuttall (Jav) and fourth from Nathan Scholfield (3000m), Lauren Brett (800m), Amy Tarver (HJ) and Fiona Stuart (1500m). Sophie Money, Daniel Pass, and Sandy Davidson and Emily Atkin completed the team.

## Seniors Second at Wavertree

Back on Merseyside the same week-end, the Senior team was engaged at Wavertree in the first match in Div 3W of the Northern league after two seasons in Div 4 and came away with an encouraging second behind hosts, Liverpool Harriers B. Unless one of the other clubs was hiding their strength, promotion is clearly a distinct possibility.

The Men dominated the track winning all A string races from 100m to 5000m, but as usual struggled in the field. Jordan Donnelly, in his last league showing before moving to a job in Vietnam and fresh from his third place in the BUCS Championships where he recorded a PB of 1min 50.93sec, ripped the field apart on the opening lap of the 800m, winning nearly 9 seconds in 1 min 53.1sec. Ben Costello was just pipped on the line for second place but had the consolation of winning the B race. Jordan chose the opposite tactic in the 1500m, only opening up in the last 200m to run down Tom Jervis of Warrington and win by 10 metres. James Williams clocked 11.0 to win the 100m, while Sam Landsborough won the 200m in 22.0 and the B string 100m in 11.1. Jules Ryan outclassed the field in the 400m with 49.1sec, with Andy Boyd taking the B race. The 5000m settled into an interesting tactical race between the A string runners from 4 clubs. Liverpool Harriers' Nathan Vengdasalam made the first break with a couple of laps to go and although he opened up a five metre gap he failed to break Mark Hulmston who made the decisive move on the last lap. Simon Jeffs stepped in at the eleventh hour and won the B string in his first outing in a Wirral vest. An account of the Mens performances would not be complete without the heroics from Will Ferguson whose 7 events included the 400mH, Steeplechase, 1500m and a leg of the 400m. Phil Davies-Peerless (2nd, Steeplechase) and Gareth Jones (3rd B Jav) made up the team.

By contrast the Womens A string winners came in the field with Fiona Nuttall in the Javelin and Rebecca Blacklock in the High Jump. Along with this duo, Ellie Meehan and Nicola McWhannell and Julie Money ensured we were always in the first three in the field events, only dropping points in the Pole Vault and the B High Jump. On the track, Sarah Kearney had to settle for second in a close finish in the 3000m and took third in the 1500m, while Sophie (3rd, 100m) and Julie Money (2nd, 200m) covered the A string sprints. Amanda Murphy, Emily Kearney and Aimee Bartley completed the team.

### Jordan Breaks 1.50

As this Newsletter was about to print, news came that Jordan Donnelly had run 1min 49.67sec at the Trafford meeting on May 17th. He has now left us for a job in ...Vietnam for 18 months.

Ben Costello ducked under 2 mins for the first time at the same meeting.

## **Borders Road League Round-Up**

As expected, the Senior Men topped Div 1, finishing in some style with the 10 counters in the first 45 in the last race for an emphatic win. Mark Hulmston (8) and Xavier Desse (9) led them home.

Lisa Grantham (5) was first up for the Ladies team which finished 4th to retain their Div 1 standing. Aimee Bartley (16), Jane Fraser (50) and Maria Brockway (60) completed the count.

Tony McDevitt and Jane Fraser won the overall awards in the 55-59 age group. Lisa Grantham (F35), David Brockway (U20) and Nigel Pratten (M65) were 3rd in their categories, while Aimee Bartley (Sen) and Mike Stone (M50) collected 4th place awards.

## **Eleven Golds in the Merseyside Champs**

A windy and ultimately very wet Wavertree was the venue for the County T&F Championships. Sam Landsborough led the gold charge winning the U20 200m and 100m titles with 22.48s and 11.08s. In the Senior 200m, Gareth Jones improved on last year's 3rd place to take the title.

Four 800m golds were picked up by Jordan Donnelly (Sen), Ben Costello (U20), Niall Flanagan (U15) and Hanna Tarver (U20). The track haul was completed by Claudia Bartlett in the U15 75m hurdles.

On the field, Sean Cookson won the U17 Long Jump with a new PB of 6.56m with a wind reading of +0.5m/s. Alice Sherrard took the U15 Discus and Celina Hackett the U13 Long Jump.

## **Centenary Dinner**

Nearly 140 sat down to the Centenary Dinner at the Leverhulme Hotel on May 14th. A good mix of members old and new attended, including several who had travelled from distant shores. Bernie Corden, active in the early 80s, came from Australia, Glynn Williams, who was Treasurer from 1969 to 1975, from Barbados and Steve Balmer from the Channel Islands. Notable among several from London was Ikem Billy, still the unchallenged holder of the club 800m record (1min 44.65secs) set in 1984.

Invited guests included George and Sheila Bunner, Rob and Anne Brimage, Margaret Meikle and the after-dinner speaker, Ron Hill who was accompanied by his wife, May.

Our thanks for a successful evening must go to Julie Gibson, who organised the booking at the hotel and looked after the distribution of tickets.

## **Centenary Track Meeting**

On Saturday, July 9th, we are organising an Open Track meeting at the Oval, starting at 1pm. There are extra prizes for winners who break a World record ....as it was in 1911! There will also be electronic timing, a chance for sprinters to shave down their PB. Details of the programme and awards are on our web-site – see the link in News Snippets on the home page (scroll to the end)

## **Coming soon.....**

May 14	Merseyside T&F Champs	Wavertree
	Centenary Dinner	Leverhulme Hotel
May 19	Endurance Series – 5K	Oval 7.45
May 22	McCains YA League	Wavertree
May 29	National Junior League	Wavertree
Jun 4	Northern T&F League	Oval
Jun 5	McCains YA League	Oval
Jun 8	Birkenhead Park Races	Birkenhead Pk
Jun 11	Merseyside Schools	Oval
Jun 12	NW Sen/Jun Champs	Trafford
Jun 18/19	Northern Sen/U20	Sports City
Jun 19	McCains YA League	Wavertree
Jun 22	Endurance Series – 1 mile	Oval 7.45
Jun 25/26	EA U20 Champs	Bedford
	BMAF Champs	Birmingham
Jul 1/2	English Schools	Gateshead
Jul 3	Northern T&F League	Macclesfd
Jul 9	Club Centenary Meeting	Oval
Jul 10	National Junior League	Wigan
Jul 16/17	English Senior Closed Champs	Bedford
Jul 20	Endurance Series – 10k	Oval 7.45
Jul 24	National Junior League	Oval
Jul 31	Northern Inter Counties	Leigh
Aug 6/7	Northern U15/U17	Cudworth
Aug 14	Northern T&F League	Warrington

## **Athletic Shorts**

- ◆ Phil Davies-Peerless finished 2nd in the Walton Park 5 in 26.45. He was also first Wirral runner home in the Christleton 5k
- ◆ The fell runners cleaned up in the Merseyside Fell Champs run within the Rivington Pike event. Jon-Philip Seymour held off John Hunt on the descent to take the title John has held since 2007. David Brockway (4th) completed the count as the club won the team title from Southport Waterloo and Pensby. The Womens title went to Lisa Grantham with Sarah Kearney third. With Aimee Bartley (5th), the trio also won the team title with Southport Waterloo second.
- ◆ Mark Hulmston (10), Simon Jeffs (14) and Graham Ratcliffe (20) were the first three Wirral vests home in the Chester Spring 5. Lisa Grantham was second F35
- ◆ Xavier Desse ran 1hr 13min 57sec for 5th in the Chester Half Marathon. Lisa Grantham was 4th Lady and 2nd F35 in 1hr 27min 22sec. Our only other finisher was Mike Stone who was 8th in the M50 category.

## **Club Vests**

The official stockists of club vests are:

**Runners Sport & Leisurewear**

66, Bebington Road, New Ferry.

Vests : £13 ; Green shorts : £10.

They will deal by mail – 0151 644 8384

They have recently opened a second shop at  
28 Birkenhead Road, Hoylake.