Hi all

UKYDL Southampton Match 1, 3rd May 2014

Having just finished reading the U15 boys team manager Nic Corry's match day report, <http://www.bandbhac.org.uk/ukydl2014.html>, despite getting up early! I fully echo his words in saying what a brilliant team performance all of the U13 and U15

boys and girls gave across the whole track and field.

With the final relay race complete, many red faces due to sun burn and exhaustion, the result read as Blackheath and Bromley 2nd overall behind Reading AC but more significantly in front of Southampton AC, Herne Hill Harriers,

Enfield & Haringey AC and local rivals Tonbridge AC.

With only four fixtures in this league and the top two teams qualifying for the final in Birmingham in September and the bottom two teams being relegated, league positioning is all important.

This great start sets the team up nicely for an exciting season ahead.

The U13 boys once again were a mix of experienced athletes and boys making their track debuts in the YDL and one, Pedro Gleadall making his first ever appearance in a BBHAC vest having only joined the club mid week.

First up on the track was Caelan Raju starting his busy day, comfortably winning the 75m Hurdles equalling his PB. Caelan then came 3rd in the high jump, just a little under his best before running 14.0 in the non scoring 100m.

Caelan finished his day with a strong leg in the 4x100m helping the team cross the line in second.

Cameron Swatton showed great team commitment stepping up to do the B string Hurdles when asked at short notice to fill in and was rewarded later in the day when he knocked 12 seconds off his personal best in the non scoring 800m.

Cameron also scored valuable points coming 4th in the Javelin.

Pedro Gleadall, a young Bees academy athlete, stepped up to join BBHAC last week and was hoping to make his track debut running the 200m but  warming up strained his knee and had to withdraw.

Fortunately his journey to the south coast wasn't wasted as he could put all his efforts into the javelin . Despite throwing a proper javelin for the very first time his terrific 22.79m placed him 2nd in the A string scoring more valuable points for the team.

Pedro was due to run a leg in the relay but we hope to see him racing on the track very soon, when fully fit again.

Peter Guy, having had a great winter over the country, continues to impress and led the 800m from the gun to finish, smashing 7 seconds off his best and placing himself 3rd in the UK rankings. Peter showed he has upper body strength as well,

by coming second in the shot put 7.19m before stepping into lead the relay team off at short notice.

Robert Suckling may have been inspired by Peters 800m as he did the same and took the lead early on and stayed out in front all the way to the finish, winning in a PB  knocking over 4 seconds off his previous best.

Robert scored more points for the team in securing 3rd in the high jump and 5th in the shot put.

Myles Xavier, currently ranked 4th in the UK in long jump had another fabulous days athletics with two PB in the sprints and a victory in the long jump before anchoring the relay team to a fine second.

Myles was 2nd in the 100m 13.2 and 2nd in the 200m 27.2 and jumped 4.64 in winning the long jump.

Ben Gardiner showed his range of talent winning the B string long jump 4.13m before his great effort coming 4th in the 1500m on the track running 5:11.8 smashing 12 seconds off his previous best.

Ben also ran 14.4 sprinting in the non scoring 100m.

For me one of the highlights of the day was young Rowan Fuss making his BBHAC debut in the 1500m. Rowan has been a member for a few months but has missed a few races through illness but is now getting back to full health.

Having ridden to the clubhouse on his push bike, stored on the team coach, then waited most of the day having arrived before 10am and not due to race until 3.30pm, his preparations were far from ideal.

The field went off in a bunch in what seemed a controlled pace but with a lap and a half to go Rowan "kicked" opening up a gap of 20m on seasoned athletes. Despite the athletes in his wake valiantly trying to claw Rowan back he maintained his form crossing the line a comfortable winner in a tremendous PB time of 4:49.8 placing him currently 4th in the Uk. Being only a first year U13 and having next year in this age as well the future is looking great for Rowan and BBHAC.

If there were points scored for enthusiasm, BBHAC U13 athlete Leo McCallum would top the League table. Leo, having only made his club debut last week was asked if he was happy to stand in for Pedro in the 200m.

His response is was what makes team managers jobs so rewarding. Leo flew off the blocks and powered around the bend finishing with a personal best 29.6 in 4th. In the 100m Leo recorded another PB 14.3 also placing 4th and was also a

vital part of the successful relay team.

BBHAC is fortunate enough to have many people helping the club and supporting the athletes in many ways and our thanks go to all of them.

Dave and Hanna Cordell, first to arrive and erect the tent before any athletes arrived. They both then spent the day officiating, Dave field judging and Hanna time keeping despite sitting next to an active bee hive!

Coach Jay Galley, still recovering from a knee op, was everywhere taking great photos of all the team. These photos ca be seen <http://www.bandbhac.org.uk/ukydl2014.html>. Jay is also a great support to the athletes.

Coach Paul Patten was also on hand giving out valuable advice to both track and field athletes.

Great to also see throws coach Herbie giving practical advice to all BBHAC throwers not just the ones he coaches.

Rod Harington was also supporting the team and taking photos, we hope to see them soon.

Mike Davis, BBHAC head of track and field athletics was as busy as ever officiating all day but also on hand to advise, coach and console the throwers where necessary.

Many hands helped take the tent down at the end of the day but we could not have managed as well without the expertise and instructions from clueless Mark Purser!

Plenty of parents, as always, made the huge effort to travel to Southampton and are a great support to the youngsters. Myles' mum Alison has taken this a step further and is half way through her officials course and spent the day track judging, something she is really enjoying.

This is a great way of being involved and helping make these events as successful as they are.

If you as a parent or carer would like to get a bit more involved please speak to one of us.  Isabelle's mum Belinda had her first taste of field judging at Southampton helping out at the javelin and hammer  and was rewarded with a packed lunch!

Southampton AC were great hosts and the recorders office was a friendly, efficient and welcoming place.  The meeting was very well organised and well supported by a very busy first aid team, treating many casualties throughout the day.

Most worryingly when a track side official appeared to collapse but was treated almost instantly by the team of first aiders.  Speculation from our U13 girls that he had been shot by the starter was soon found to have no substance as the official quickly recovered and was seen ringing the lap bell soon after.

Finally this was Nic Corry's first UKYDL fixture and he has taken the challenge on whole heartedly and is doing a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes, selection teams, contacting all eligible athletes, researching past and current results and setting up new ways of keeping in touch with all his team. Nic spent the day live streaming all the U15 boys teams results, keeping parents and other athletes fully up to date with the days proceedings. At the end of the day I'm not sure who was more knackered Nic or his totally drained phone!

Nic takes over this role from Heather Williamson, who has carried out this task, along with many other roles she has within BBHAC, for many years.

Many thanks go to Heather for all her hard work with the U15 over previous years as she continues with  the task of managing the U17 and U 20boys.

The next fixture for the U13 and U15 is at Erith on Sunday 11th May followed by the second YDL National league meeting at Reading on 31st May 2014.

Paul Austridge