British Masters Athletics Championships

The British Masters Athletics Championships took place in Derby from $20^{th} - 22^{nd}$ August. UK Athletics Chief Executive, Joanna Coates, made an appearance and tweeted 'Great day at BMAF, inspirational'. Over the weekend a lot of Age group Records were set including 2 World Records, 2 European Records, 13 British Records and numerous Championship Best Performances (CBP). Nine Masters athletes from **Walton AC** made the journey to Derby to compete in a variety of events in conditions that ranged from bright sunshine to flash downpours as well as a constant headwind, at the annoyance of the sprinters, down the home straight.

Susie McLoughlin (W40) had a successful championship winning the short and long sprints and coming home with **3 Gold medals** and the honour of being a **triple British Age Group Champion.** In windy conditions she exerted her authority with 59.25secs in the 400m; 200m 26.46secs (-1.6) in the 200m and 12.96secs (-1.7) in the 100m.

Chris Ness (M50) claimed another Walton **Gold** medal winning the 400H in the M50 age group, and then followed this up with a **Bronze** in the M50 100H, a **Bronze** in the M50 High Jump and a 6th place in the M50 Long Jump.

In the middle-distance events, **Duncan Woolmer (M40)** had a great run in a very competitive M40 1500m and won the **Bronze** medal in a **WAC M40 1500m Record** of 4:08.81 after which he then finished 5th in the M40 800m. **Tim Grose (M55)** followed this up with a fine 6th place run in the M55 1500m, whilst **Jamie McLoughlin (M45)** picked up a **Silver** medal in his debut 3000m Steeplechase, setting a **Club M45 3000mSC Record** with 11:11.63.

Tina Howell (W35) won 2 **Silver** medals in the W35 category finishing in second position in both the High Jump and the Triple Jump. **Martin Willis (M45)** once again challenged himself by competing in no fewer than 5 different events; the 100m, Pole Vault, Weight 15.88kg, Discus PB 23.37, and Hammer. His best results being a **PB** (23.37m) in the Discus, and a **Bronze** medal in the Pole Vault.

Second Claim WAC members, Virginia Mitchell (W55) and Louise Wood (W50), won 4 Gold medals and 4 British Age Group titles between them. Virginia, who is a multiple age group World Champion, made easy work of the W55 400m & 800m winning by huge margins. Louise, a former 1.87m high jumper who represented Team England at the 1986 Edinburgh Commonwealth Games, won Gold in both the W50 Long Jump and Triple Jump.

Well done to all our athletes who took part and supported each other throughout the weekend.

PHOTOS BELOW



Tina and Martin receiving their British Masters Medals in the Pouring Rain



Duncan and Jamie in action setting Club M40 & M45 Records



Interclub camaraderie: Whilst being fiercely competitive on the track, both **Susie** and **Chris** celebrate their victories on the podium with their rivals

