Surrey Counties Roundup

The Surrey County Indoor Championships saw 16 Walton AC athletes in action, the largest turnout of athletes for these Championships in recent years. There were plenty of PB’s, medals, and Club Records broken across both days – a brilliant showing for all involved!

Starting off with the Saturday program, we had 3 athletes in action in the Long Jump. Evie Donaldson, competing in her first year as U20, set a new overall PB with a huge 6th round effort of 4.55m for 5th place in the Women’s U20 final. Following on were Jacob Thomas and Luc Balayer in the U20 Men’s Long Jump final. Luc increased his indoor PB set earlier this year with a 5.32m jump for 5th place, whilst Jacob set a new indoor best of 5.72m, which was enough to get him on the podium for a well-earned Bronze – our first medal of the weekend!

[insert Jacob podium photo]

Finishing off Saturday’s itinerary we had Walton AC debutant Louie Eves-Lawther competing in the U17 Mens Long Jump final. At his first ever championships, and proper competition no less, Louie jumped 5.36m for 4th place, narrowly missing out on the podium – definitely more to come so watch this space!

The Sunday program saw the bulk of athletes competing, with some day 1 athletes returning for their second event of the championships.

We had a trio of U17 men racing in the 60m; new PB’s for Nicolas Walter [8.11s] and Louie Eves-Lawther [7.73s], whilst Sean Salter continued his early season form with a 7.70s in his heat. Both Louie and Sean narrowly missed out on qualification for the semi-finals, with only top 2 athletes qualifying and both picking up 3rd place in their races – but a good early indication for outdoors!

Our U20 men duo of Malo Sandow and Kaan Bengi were also in action. Both making their Club and Championship debuts and setting new PB’s in the 60m [7.56s and 7.90s respectively]. Well done lads and welcome!

In the Senior Men’s 60m we had regular club stalwarts Stu Channon and Martin Willis in action, and both in the same heat! Stu finished 3rd with 7.67s and Martin finished 4th with 9.03s.

Martin was also in action in the Senior Men’s Shot; overall the Shot saw medals for Walton athletes across the various age groups. Martin placed 5th in the final with a seasons best of 8.52m, Oluwatobi [Tobi] Aderoju picked up Bronze in the U17 Womens Shot with a new PB of 8.91m, Sam Mace picked up the Silver medal with a throw of 10.97m in the Senior Men’s Shot, and 2nd Claim member Sophie Mace picked up Silver for the Senior Women’s Shot with 11.43m – well done to the throwers!

[insert photo of Sam, Tobi, and Sophie]

Up next was the Women’s U17 High Jump; making their Walton and Surrey debuts were Annabel Mead and Tori-Ann Anderson – Annabel came 6th with a clearance of 1.40m and narrowly missed out on a 1.45m jump which would’ve seen her on the podium and would have also seen her break the indoor age group record! Tori-Ann, however, did break the age-group record clearing 1.45m, and then cleared 1.50m, and then with a Gold medal producing jump, finished the competition clearing 1.60m [which also broke the Overall Club Indoor Record]! Fantastic stuff!

[Insert Tori-Ann podium photo]

Next up, the Women’s Triple Jump. Evie was back again and looking to follow on her PB form from the Saturday in the U20 event, and competed alongside training partner and Club stalwart Tina Howell who was up in the Senior Womens event. Both athletes picked up Bronze medals with jumps of 9.59m for Evie [2cm shy of silver!] and 9.64m for Tina [1cm down from her own W40 Club Record from the earlier in the month]. Well done ladies!

[Insert Podium photos of Tina and Evie]

We ended the Championships with the U20 Men’s Triple Jump, with Luc Balayer looking to extend his indoor age-group record; and he did just that! Luc ended the competition with a Round 6 effort of 11.36m, picking up the Gold – an excellent performance to round off the weekend.

So, in summary; 16 athletes, 4 Bronze Medals, 2 Silvers, 2 Golds, a heap of PB’s and fantastic signs of future results for later this season!