

070921 Another convincing 2nd place team result for Walton in the Youth Development League (U13/U15) at Carshalton

Another successful afternoon's athletics where Walton finished comfortably clear of Woking to secure 2nd place behind Guildford & Godalming (G&G) among the six teams overall competing in the division, resulting in an excellent final 2nd place for the season. Some great performances including several personal bests, fitting for an end of season league competition on an overcast but nonetheless fine day for both track & field athletics.

Events started with the U13 girls sprint hurdles and while only G&G and Walton were able to field athletes it was a quality race with both **Layla Drury (U13)** and **Abbie Stratford (U13)** recording 13.3 to run the G&G pair close (that included the South of England champion). **Paul Webb (U13)** and **Friso Boomsma (U15)** also put in good races in the boys hurdles to provide a solid platform of points for the rest of the afternoon. Making the most of the good conditions for high jump **Friso B** jumped a new personal best with 1.47m to win the U15 competition. Jumping for the girls were **Chia Brown (U13)** and **Abbie S. Chia**, has consistently jumped well all season, again cleared 1.35m for 2nd place in the 'A' string very ably supported by **Abbie S** in her first high jump competition for 1st place as the 'B' string with 1.25m. In the horizontal jumps Walton had a full complement for the U13 long jump competition, with **Chia B** and **Sienna Adam (U13)** jumping for the girls, with **Riley Barton (U13)** and **Tom Guest (U13)** for the boys. A very competitive event with both the County champion in the girls event and the South of England champion in the boys event taking part. Walton secured further good points overall with both **Riley B** and **Tom G** jumping in excess of 4 metres, this being **Tom's** first competition for the club.

Sticking with the field events, but turning to the throws, Walton secured first place in both 'A' and 'B' string in the U13 boys javelin and shot events. Also in only his first competition for the club, **Lucas de la Touche (U13)** won both events with an impressive 29.75m in the javelin and 7.96m in the shot put. First places in 'B' string also going to **Leon Froude (U13)** in the shot and **Riley B** in the javelin, with **Chia B** taking 2nd place for the girls with her javelin mark of 21.38m. **Dara Popoola (U15)** in her first season with the club also picked up good team points in the shot put, after her earlier run over 100m for the girls, with another consistent performance in her first season.

On the track there were great races both in the sprints and the endurance events. Firstly, in the sprints, over 150m **Rachel Mephram (U13)** ran a very fast 20.9 for a good win together with **Amy McLoughlin (U13)** securing 2nd place in her first race over the distance in 22.3. While in the boys races, together with **Tom G** running well in his first 150m for the club, **Leon F** ran a personal best for 2nd place in the 'A' string clocking 20.6. **Leon F** repeated his good sprinting form with a win in his 75m race later in the afternoon with 10.9. Also, over the 75m distance, **Riley B** placed 2nd as 'A' string with 10.6 (another personal best) together with both **Logan Jacques (U13)**, 11.2, and **Tom G**, 11.7, over the same distance. In the U15 age group the boys had a faultless display across 100m, 200m & 300m events taking 1st place in both the 'A' string and 'B' strings respectively. **Xavier Taylor (U15)** and **Billy Guest (U15)** pairing in the 100m and 200m events won their races with **Xavier T** running 12.6 & 25.8 and **Billy G** 13.3 & 26.6, this his first race over the 200m distance. It was down to **Luke Oryem (U15)** and **Isaac Amankwaah (U15)** to pick up the maximum points to make it a clean sweep with the pair clocking quick times of 41.8 and 42.8 respectively over the 300m distance. Back in the shorter sprint distance of 75m the quartet of U13 girls all featured well in their races with **Abbie S** clocking 11.3 as 'A' string and **Layla** finishing 3rd in a competitive 'B' string race, followed up by **Sienna A** & **Amy M** running 11.4 and 11.5 respectively to place 1st and 2nd in their race, comfortably beating the opposition.

Onto the endurance events, starting with the 800m, **Paul W** had another good run for the U13 boys in a competitive race for 2:44.2. The girls race, equally competitive with County standard competitors racing, **Olivia Barnes (U13)** ran under 2:40 for the 2nd time this season as 'A' string in 2:39.2 and **Layla D** another consistently strong run in 2:45.8. In the same race a big personal best came from **Lottie Paul (U13)** running a time of 2:42.6, rewarded by committing early on with over a lap to go. Walton were well represented in the U15 girls with **Ella Henderson (U15)** and **Ama Kwateng (U15)** running competitive times of 2:39.4 and 2:38.1 respectively in a tight field, while in the boys event **Harry Currie (U15)** held on for a great win in his race with another fast time to his name of 2:16.5, together with **Callum Campbell-Curd (U15)**, who has raced consistently well all season, placing 1st 'B' string in 2:25.4. Congratulations to **Max Wotton (U15)**, relatively new to the club and competitive athletics, also improving on his first outing this year, to clock 2:39.9.

In the longer distance of 1200m for U13 and 1500m for U15 age groups, there were relatively smaller fields but competitive and gutsy running all the same from Walton athletes. **Poppy Wilson (U13)** was rewarded with a personal best time of the season in a well-paced race finishing in 4:30.3. In the boys race **Josh Johnston (U13)** had clearly saved his very best for the end of the season, always looked in charge during the race, to win in a very fast time of 3:57.9 who, together with **Jacob Rose (U13)** ensured maximum team points for Walton, with **Jacob R** putting in another strong run of 4:06.4 over the distance. Walton had good representation in the 1500m with **Christian Boyd (U15)** and **Harrison Kwei (U15)** scoring good points for the team, running well to clock 5:06.5 and 5:20.4 respectively.

It was then left to the relays to finish off the afternoon (and season) with Walton's presence made clear throughout whereas some other teams did struggle to field complete quartets. In the mixed U15 age group it was down to the boys to see off the very strong G&G girls teams in both the 4x100m and 4x300m relays events. The quartet of **Friso B, Luke O, Isaac O** and **Billy G** were pushed hard all the way but the boys ran good legs, held their nerve, with **Billy G** eventually winning it by a nose for the team in 51.3. In the 4x300m the quartet of **Harry C, Isaac A, Callum C-C** and **Luke O** never looked in danger and moved the baton around the track smoothly for 3:01.9. In the U13 4x100m relay event, it was up for grabs and the boys team of **Tom G, Leon F, Logan J** and **Riley B**, having displayed pre-race confidence, lived up to expectations by dominating their race to run home clear of Woking in 2nd place with a time of 56.7. The U13 girls 4x100m was the closest of all the races with two very strong squads from Woking and G&G just edging the Walton team of **Layla D, Sienna A, Olivia B** and **Amy M** out into 3rd place, Walton clocking a good time of 58.5.

Finally, thanks to **Malcolm Howard** overseeing the team's fine performance on the day in his capacity as track judge official and to **Susie McLoughlin** coordinating relay teams and acting as a volunteer official.

PHOTOS BELOW



Left to right (U13 4x100m relay teams):
Top: Tom G, Riley B, Leon F and Logan F.
Bottom: Amy M, Sienna A, Layla D, Olivia B



Left to right (U15 4x100m relay teams):
Friso B, Luke O, Isaac A and Billy G



Josh J and Jacob R in the U13 1200m race