

Match Report for National Athletics League (Match 2)

3rd July 2021, Milton Keynes

The National Athletics League is a new UK wide competition for both Men and Women. Reading are in Division 1 East with Belgrave Harries, City of Portsmouth and Marshall Milton Keynes.

Match 2 began with Women's Hammer where Charlotte Payne produced Reading's finest performance of the day and of the match overall. Charlotte won the A-string hammer with a personal best of 64.09m in her 4th round throw, having also thrown 63m in rounds 2 and 3. Charlotte's throw provided her with the perfect confidence boost before European Under 20 Championships in Tallinn and moved her 7th in the Senior UK rankings. Her throw was 91cm from the Commonwealth Games standard of 65m. Charlotte also took victory in A-string Discus and Shot Putt with a PB of 11.59.

Our female throwers continued to rake in points with Julie Wilson winning the B-String Hammer with 26.36m, B-string Shot in 7.84 and 3rd in A-string Javelin. Julie showed great commitment to the team by driving from Lincoln and also officiating. Charlotte Webb won the B-string Discus with 29.61m and Hollie Cranmer won B-String javelin in 19.24.



Charlotte Payne in the Hammer (Credit: Denise Payne)



Luc Jolly, Isaac Farnworth and James Fox. 1st and 2nd place in the 5000m (Credit: Isaac Farnworth)

On the Track, Rosanna Ercilla opened her season and ran season's bests of 13.72 in the 100m and 28.84 in the 200m. Charlotte Webb took second place in the B-string 200m with 28.98. Ella Saunders ran 63.85 for 4th place in the A-string 400m.

The club's Middle Distance group turned out in numbers to deliver some strong performances. Abi Hancock finished 3rd in the Women's 800m in a new PB of 2 minutes 20 seconds and

showed great determination to stay ahead of a Portsmouth athlete hot on her heels. In the Men's event, Tom Ryan finished 4th in a high standard Men's A-string with 2 minutes 11.

In the Men's 1500m, Mark Booth lowered his Season's Best by 2 seconds, running 3 minutes 59 seconds to take 3rd place in the A-string, whilst Martin Turn ran 4 minutes 22 seconds to take 3rd place in the B-String.

In the Women's 1500m, Anna Boniface and Anna Godfrey were the only women from all four clubs, leaving them to run a Reading AC time trial and take maximum points. Anna Boniface ran a Season's Best of 4 minutes 48 and Anna Godfrey recorded 5 minutes.

Kirsty Walker provided a highlight of the day with an impressive win in the Women's A-string 3000m in 9 minutes 58 seconds. After hitting the front early, Kirsty had to run solo, but managed to maintain a 50 metre lead throughout the race.

Luc Jolly was 2nd in the Men's 5000m A-string with 15 minutes 48, James Fox won the Men's B-string in 16 minutes 12 and Isaac Farnworth ran as a guest, finishing 3rd overall with a PB of 15 minutes 52 seconds. Luc, James and Isaac coped admirably with the warm conditions which made the last few laps rather gruelling.

The club were also well represented in the jumps. In Pole Vault, Sam Keys finished in 3rd place in the Men's A-string with 3.70m, while Toby Irving cleared 3.50m to win the Men's B-String.

In the Men's A-string Triple Jump, Faris Kahn recorded a PB of 12.84m to take 2nd place and Scott Garraway jumped a SB of 12.01 to win the B-string. Hollie Cranmer jumped a PB of 8.78m in the women's Triple Jump. In the Long Jump, Scott Garraway finished 3rd with 5.69m and Kevin Cranmer finished 2nd with 5.32m. Kevin Cranmer won the Men's High Jump in a Season's Best of 1.70m and Hollie Cranmer took 2nd place in 1.31m.

Michael Dzandu and Kevin Cranmer competed in four throws each, which was a key contribution towards Reading AC finishing 1st in the Field Events. Michael won the A-string Javelin with a season's best of 40.37m, was 4th in A-string Hammer, 2nd in B-string Discus and 3rd in B-String Shot Putt. Kevin won the B-string Javelin in 35.60m, was 2nd in Shot Putt, 3rd in B-String Hammer and 4th in A-string Discus, which meant Kevin completed 7 events for the day!

The day ended with disappointment for Lucy Daniels, who had waited all day for the Women's Steeplechase to be told that one of the barriers could not be lowered and as a result the event had to be cancelled.

Reading and City of Portsmouth were swapping positions throughout the day and eventually finished 3rd out of 4 teams overall, only 2.8 match points behind Portsmouth.

Posn	Team Name	Points	League	B/fwd M	B/fwd L	Total M
1	Marshall Milton Keynes AC	296.5				296.5
2	City of Portsmouth AC	254.8				254.8
3	Reading AC	252.0				252.0
4	Belgrave Harriers	157.1				157.1
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Lastly, we say a big thank you to Tony Webb and Julie Wilson for officiating for Reading AC which ensured that the event took place and earned some points for the team!

The next NAL match is on 7th August, where there is a real chance of winning the match if we take a full team.

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