

## Under 17 Championship Day 2 Report

**Northern stars continue to hit the doubles and trebles** – Day 2 of the Northern U15 and U17 championships escaped the heavy rain that spread across much of the country, but the blustery wind undoubtedly had a bearing on performances on both the track and in the field.

But the conditions did not prevent new CBPs being set in the U15 girls' hammer and discus by **Abbi Carter** who went on to also claim the shot title, successfully defending the three titles she won in 2007. It was her victory in the hammer that was the most impressive claiming gold with a throw of 52.69m, way beyond her own CBP of 2007 of 37.96m. A telling feature of Carter's performances this season is the consistency with which she is throwing and this must be helping to develop her self-belief. Her throw of 38.47m in the discus bettered her 2007 mark of 37.96m.



**Shaunna Thomsson** as expected added 200m gold to the 100m gold won on the first day of competition. The result was never really in doubt from the moment she powered out of the blocks and she won by nearly a second from **Emma Jackson** who also took silver behind Thompson in the 100m. Thompson's winning time of 23.44 was a new CBP bettering the 24.19 she recorded in 2007.

The UK U17 60mH record holder Jack Meredith dominated the men's 100mH winning by nearly a second and stopping the clock at 13.22 to narrowly erase from the record book the 13.23 of Miles Manley in 2006.

The host club Wigan Harriers enjoyed a successful championship with **Micaela Brindle's** victories in the long jump and U15 girls' 75mH being the highlight.



There was also double gold for **Sam Dykes** in the U15 boys' 800m and 400m. Having set a new CBP in the 400m on the first day of the championships he ran an impressive 2.04.43 to take the 800m title, a time nearly 7 seconds faster than that with which he took the Cheshire County title.

Gold in the U17 women's long jump and high jump were claimed by **Katarina Thompson**. Her attempts to set a new CBP of 1.80m and go beyond the CYG qualifying guideline height of 1.76m were clearly affected by the windy conditions. It was no surprise either when the UK U15 indoor record holder for the pole vault, **Katie Byres**, claimed gold with 3.30m.

The U17 men's discus and shot putt titles were won by **Robbie Pickering** with 42.52m and 14.12m respectively.

The overall success of the two days was down to the way the

event was promoted by Northern Athletics, in partnership with their main sponsor StartFitness, and the support received from Wigan Harriers and the stadium staff at Robin Park. It should not be long before a Northern championship returns to Wigan.

*Report Adrian Christmas*