

Northern Athletics Under 17 Championships Day 1 Report

Adrian Christmas Reports on Day 1 at Gateshead

Double gold medallists Alex Kiwomya (Rotherham H) and Abbi Carter (Hull Achilles) together with the U15B 400m champion Scott Edwards (Derby AC) grabbed the headlines on Day 1 of the Northern U15/U17 championships at the Gateshead International Stadium.

The Rotherham Rocket, Alex Kimomya stormed to decisive victories in both the 100m and 200m, repeating his sprint double from the Yorkshire championships two weeks ago and the Northern Indoor championships at the EIS in January. Victory in the 100m came in 11.7 into a headwind of -3.7 and in the 200m he clocked 23.38.

In her first season as an U17 Abbi Carter took gold in both the hammer and discus competitions. Her best throw in the hammer of 49.11m was over 4.5 metres further than that of silver medallist Katy Barnard. Her discus gold was claimed in an equally decisive manner with her 39.19m the best part of 9 metres clear of second placed Kirsty Taylor (City of York).

In the U15B 400m Scott Edwards (Derby AC) ran superbly to record a new CBP and lifetime best of 52.66 – the previous best time stood at 52.73 originally set in 1997 and only equalled in 2008 by Sam Dykes (Warrington).

Liam Clowes (Crewe & Nantwich) won the U17 200m in 21.77 and was within 1/100th of a second of equalling the CBP of Gerald Phiri set in 2004. But he had the satisfaction of recording a new lifetime best, improving on the 21.87 set at the Malta Invitational in April.

In the middle distance events Alex Bell (Pudsey & Bramley) who was the U17 1500m bronze medallist last year judged her race to perfection coming through in the final 100m to take gold in 4.40.32 from the Lancashire champion Hanna Tarver (Wirral AC) – the first four all inside the ESAA qualifying standard of 4.47.00. The U15G final was of equal quality with the first four again inside the ESAA qualifying standard, the winner Abbie Hetherington (Carlisle Aspatria), like Bell, judging her race to perfection to win in 4.43.04 from Codie Marsh (Rotherham H).

In the U17M steeplechase Jamie Crompton (Horwich RMI) made his intentions very clear from the moment the gun sounded and left the rest of the field trailing in his wake as he won by a 20 second margin in a new lifetime best of 4.19.44.

The U15G high jump ended in an exciting battle for gold between Reagan Dee (Manx H) and Kate Anson (Liverpool H). Having set new lifetime bests of 1.67m they then set the bar at 1.71m in attempt to equal Katarina Thompson's CBP. Both had good attempts at this height, but it was not to be. Reagan Dee claimed the gold on count-back from Anson.

In the U17M high jump Will Mulroy (Wakefield & D H AC) claimed gold with a lifetime best clearance of 1.87m ahead of the Merseyside champion Michael Hartley (Liverpool H) who cleared 1.86m.

Alex MacDonald (Doncaster AC) went over 12.00m for the first time in claiming the U15B triple jump title with 12.20m.

Who will claim the headlines on Day 2 of the championships?

Adrian Christmas for Northern Athletics.