

## Race Walking Report from Tamworth 27 May 2011

The venue for this year's event was Tamworth Stadium, where the event is to be held for the next few years, as the location is fairly central for each of the Areas and it makes sense to be able to use the same set of officials each year, instead of each Area struggling to find officials, when it is their turn to host the meeting.

Due to the Olympic Trial event taking place on Bank Holiday Monday, in the Mall, London, some of the stars decided not to risk competition so near to such a prestigious event. Even so 37 athletes attended and given the strong wind which was at times gusting to gale force, some very good performances were achieved.

In the Senior Women, U20 & U17 Women's event we were without our two top senior ladies who, due to the long journey down to Tamworth, from the North East, decided to save themselves for the Mall event. In the U20 Ladies Alex Ross (IOM) although still U17, walked very well to gain second place in 29.42

The U17 Ladies event saw Danielle Oates (IOM) walk a fine race to finish in 3rd place, against strong opposition, with Hannah Kelly in 5th battling all the way in 33.36.

The U17 Men's 5k gave Alex Eaton (IOM) a chance to show his talent, which he did to great effect in recording 25.17 to take first place, nearly 2 mins in front of his nearest rival.

U13 Girls & Boys 2k, We were strongly represented here, with Niamh McKivett (Sheff) winning her race comfortably in fine style in 12.03, with Jack Liversidge (Sheff) doing the same in the boys race, winning in 11.57 showing a lot of future potential.

U15 Girls & Boys 3k, Saw Becky Chambers (Sheff) moving up into a strong age group, put in her usual battling display, against good opposition, to take 4th place in 17.42, followed by a brave walk from newcomer Rebecca Greatbatch (IOM) 20.45 in 5th place.

U15 Boys, None from the North.

Senior Men & U20 Men's 10k. This was a very tough race, with the wind gusting to gale force at times, but young Nathan Duncan, still only 16yrs, set off with the leaders, who had opened up quite a gap by halfway, when Nathan and the Senior Southern walker Ian Richards, broke away and shared the lead to the finish with Nathan just losing out for first place by 4secs. He won the U20 race however, in a personal best of 51.12, from his team mate Adam Cowin (IOM) 56.07 who also gave an excellent display in the difficult conditions.

In the Senior race long distance specialist Richard Spenceley continued his fine run of form, for a relative novice, to record 57.00 for 5th place, with Adrian Edwards (Lancs. WC) finishing in 6th 57.55, walking in his usual impeccable style.

This was an excellent day of competition and our thanks to Northern Athletics for their excellent support and backing, which is very much appreciated.

## Race Walking Report from Tamworth 27 May 2011

Northern Athletics Track Championships will be at 3.00pm on 2nd July at Leeds Met University.

Russ Jackson