

TYKES TAME THEIR RIVALS ON TEESSIDE

YORKSHIRE certainly rallied their troops to travel to Middlesbrough Sports Village for the annual Northern Athletics Inter-Counties Age Group Championships.

Yorkshire has dominated the event in recent years and, despite the closeness of the event to the English Schools' Championships, the Tykes led their Lancastrian Red Rose rivals home by over 100 points with hosts North Eastern Counties finishing in third place after a superb days competition.

On the day there was only one individual new championship best performance and it came from Cheshire's Meg Corker (Warrington AC) who recorded a superb 75m hurdles victory in 11.21s into a minus 0.9s wind reading. Later in the day she lined up in the 100m and finished in fourth place in 13.14s. Corker's winning time was well inside the old figures of 11.33s which was recorded 21 years ago by Lancashire's Hannah Elwiss.

While Corker was the only individual in record-breaking form, three of the four relay events were rewritten, all of which were won by Yorkshire quartets. The under-15 boys came out on top in the 4x100m contest winning in 46.00s to ease inside the 2018 figures of 46.5s recorded by the North East. Not to be outdone Yorkshire's under-15 girls squad also erased the North East from the record books by winning their 4x100m contest in 49.49s. The third new relay record came in the under-17 women's medley relay where the Yorkshire quartet knocked nearly two seconds off the old figures with a winning time of 4:15.85.

However, it wasn't all about records. Competition was keen throughout the afternoon from the athletes of nine counties who travelled to Teesside.

In the under-15 boys age group Lancashire's Jefferson Kong won the 100m (11.67s) while in the 200m it was a Yorkshire one-two with Jacob Hocking recording 23.96 with team-mate Morgan Corcoran posting the second fastest time (24.60s) with Sean Collins (Gtr Manchester) clocking 24.62s in third.

The 800m was won by local lad Josh Blevins who led from gun to line to win in 2:03.74 while Cheshire's only win in the age group came in the 80m hurdles with Drew Bradley recording 11.94s. Lancashire's George Lowe had just four centimetres to spare to win the long jump (5:60m) from Cheshire's Oliver Atkinson. However, the all-rounder had no difficulty in coming out on top in the javelin where his best effort was 48:40m. Again, Atkinson had to be content with second place after making a mark at 44:68m. Lancashire also came out on top in the shot put competition with victory going to Isaac Delaney with a put of 14:17m with Yorkshire's Aaron Rutter claiming the runner's up points with 12:57m.

In the under-17 women's section the North East's Joy Eze claimed victory in the 100m into a minus 2.3s wind to record 12.30s while Yorkshire recorded a one-two in the 300m with victory going to Millie Wright in 41.29s. Isabelle Bloem was second best with 41.66s.

Lancashire's Olivia Leigh came out on top in the 800m, winning in 2:16.90 while the North East's Amy Leonard claimed victory in the metric mile with a winning time of 4:46.90 while Humberside's won a close finish for second place in 4:48.24.

Yorkshire's Rose Forrest was a comfortable winner of the 3,000m with a winning time of 10:32.55 with Cheshire's Jessica Connelly denying Yorkshire a one-two in recording 10:47.88.

It was a North East one-two in the 80m hurdles with Philippa Ellis coming out on top after clocking

12.06s against team-mate Amy Lott who recorded 12.10s.

However, Ellis had to give way to Yorkshire's KiiKii Brown in the long jump with Brown making a mark in the sand at 5:39m against Ellis's 5:21m.

It was another one-two for Yorkshire in the high jump with victory going to Zara Tyas after clearing 1:70. Miriam Levy was second best beating Derbyshire's Charlie Yates on countback for second place after both athletes had best efforts of 1:60m

Victory in the pole vault went to Molly Elliott of the North East with a clearance of 3:40m while Yorkshire's Lauren Foletti led the field in the javelin contest with a pb throw of 45:24m.

In the final field event Lucy Giles (North East) won the shot put contest with a put of 12:54m with Humberside's Holly Adams finishing in second place with a put of 12:09m.

Yorkshire produced another one-two in the under-15 girls 100m with Nady Kihuyu winning in 12.52s and Ava Jones posting 12.64s to claim second place points.

The duo were also in action in the 200m and it was one-two once again though the positions were reversed, Jones recording 25.61s against Kihuyu's 26.26s

In the 800m, victory went to Yorkshire's Sebastienne Bairstow in 2:18.75 with Derbyshire's Leah Gregory recording the second fastest time of 2:19.68 and Lauren Waddington (Lancashire) next best with 2:19.86.

Greater Manchester's Julia Winogrodzka claimed a comfortable victory in the Long jump (5:58m) while Yorkshire pair Jess Thompson and Erin Lobley won the javelin and shot put competitions in 36:46m and 12:02m respectively.

The under-17 men's 100m had spectators up on their feet with the first three crossing the line together in identical times of 11.53s!

The photo finish team gave victory to Ben To (Gt Manchester) with the North East's Matthew Lumb given second place ahead of Yorkshire's Emmanuel Lawal. In the 400m victory went to Yorkshire's Nathaniel Dyas in 50.68s while the 800m was won by Ben Waterfield (North East) in 1:59.64.

Yorkshire's Alexander Thompson won the 1500m in 4:05.38 with North East pair Rowan Bennett and Adam Russell finishing second and third in 4:09.92 and 4:11.02 respectively while Lancashire's Matthew Cunningham claimed success in the 3,000m with a time of 9:05.17.

Harry Burrow (Lancashire) won the 100m hurdles in fine style in 14.44s while Jerel Livingston (Gtr Manchester) was a clear winner of the long jump with a best effort of 6:81m.

Cheshire's Jacob Thompson won the high jump (1:85m) ahead of Lancashire pair Jack Coates and Jamie Hopkins who both had clearances of 1:75m.

In the pole vault Yorkshire's Josh James cleared 3:60m as did George Spain (Cheshire) with James winning on countback.

Bill McGuirk