**Brighton and Hove athletic club annual report 2020**

Well, this is a strange report: as is everything else about 2020! Normally I would have a heap of records and performances to list plus Championships and league results but not this year. There are some results to report and they will follow shortly. Despite the huge restrictions that have been imposed upon us this year our members have continued to achieve some great results including a new National age record and a World age record as well: wonderful results even under normal circumstances!

However the year started off in its normal way with the cross country season reaching a climax with the county championships and the final league races. At Bexhill at the Cross Country County Championships we had some fine results:

U13 girls: Dulcie Yelling 1st Rosie Gasson 2nd and with Macy Brooking finishing 5th we easily won the team event as well. The B team came in a superb 3rd for a bronze medal

U13 boys: Tom Matthews 2nd Jude Clayton 4th and Tom Barnett 5th saw us as team winners in this age group as well.

U15 girls: Eadie Yelling3rd Sophie Packham 10th and Ruby Wilson 11th: another team win plus the B team finished a fine 4th: great strength in depth.

U15 boys: Henry Yelling 1st Fionn O’Murchu 12th and Alex Riley 13th saw the A team in 3rd place with the B team in 6th spot.

U17 women: Lois Dooley 3rd Pia Lewis 10th and Emily Muzio 11th gave the team a 2nd place with the B team a close 3rd: more strength in depth.

U17 Men: sadly we could only field two athletes, Tom Roberts and Archie Rowles who did not finish in the medals and also not enough to feature in the team results.

U20 men: Tomer Tarragano 1st Joe Clayson 10th and Sam Kane 16th saw us gain a team 3rd place.

Senior men: Will Cork 6th Kevin Moore 8th and James Turner 16th  were the first three finishers of the 6 scoring runners who gave us the final team gold of the afternoon.

There were no senior women runners!

So in all we collected 3 individual champions and 4 other medallists’ 4 team golds, 1 silver and 4 bronze: a superb performance by the muddy brigade.

Team Yelling had a fine day with 2 golds and 1 bronze medal!

After the senior event the attention moved to Lancing where the vets had their County Championships.

Women: although there were no individual medallists’ in the v35 and v45 sections the teams won two third places and in the v55 section there were no team medals but Cathy Ulliott won an individual silver.

Men: in the v40 group Craig Halsey finished 2nd. M50: Graham Godden gained silver but team gold along with team mates Keith Newton and Sean Gibson. M60 John Lowden finished in second place.

The final league fixture was at its traditional venue: Bexhill. Another series of superb performances on the day and in the previous (2019) fixtures gave the club fantastic results:

U11 girls: Julieana Walsh 1st.

U11 boys: Raphael Kelly 1st George Gilbert 2nd.

U 13 girls: on the day team 2nd and overall 2nd. B team 8th and C team 16th.

U13 boys: on the day team 1st and overall 1st B team 9th.

U15 girls: on the day team 3rd and overall 1st. B team 6th.

U15 boys: on the day team 4th and overall 3rd B team 9th.

U 17 women: on the day team 2nd and overall 2nd. B team 3rd

U17 men: on the day 4th and overall 4th.

Senior women: on the day 1st and overall 1st.

Senior men: on the day 1st and overall 1st B team 7th. Div 2 C team 7th.

Veteran women: on the day 1st and overall 2nd. B team 14th.

Veteran men: on the day 1st and overall 1st.

Individual medallists:

U11 boys: George Gilbert Gold. U13 girls: Dulcie Yelling Gold. U13 boys: Tom Matthews Bronze. U15 girls: Eadie Yelling Bronze. U 17 women: Lois Dooley Bronze. Senior women: Lydia Growns: Silver. Jade Elphick: Bronze. Senior men: Will Cork Gold. James Turner: Silver. Vet women: V35 Freya Leman Bronze, V45 Linda Schofield Silver, Veteran men: V50 Howard Bristow Bronze.

The under 11’s have a series of races but do not have a team championship.

We seem to excel in the mud, long may it continue.

Suddenly the attention moved to the indoor track and field section where the County Championships were held at Sutton in conjunction with the Surrey Championships. Although not a huge turn-out however those who did compete brought home many medals so ladies first.

U13 Elodie Bradley set a Championship best performance winning the 60m in 8.25s. She was followed home by Stella Kalman in 8.57s. These two then swapped positions in the long jump where it was Stella’s turn to set a CBP winning with 4.59m to Elodie’s bronze with 4.29m

U15 Sophie Wilkinson won the 60m with a time of 8.19s with Amber Purcell finishing equal 2nd with 8.22s Sophie also won the 60m Hurdles with a time of 9.90s. Amber then went on to win the long jump with a leap of 5.04m. As there is no triple jump for u15’s Amber entered the U 17 event and duly won with 10.89m: a distance that was superior to those in the U20 and senior events, Superb!

U20 triple jump: Kelsey Sutherland 2nd 10.68m and Kirsty Nelson 3rd 10.21m

Senior women: Francesca Walmsey 60m 8.29s 1st, long jump Annie Close 2nd 4.60m and triple jump Annie won with 9.79m.

On to the men:

U15 boys: Fionn O’Murchu had a busy day, (as multi eventers do), 2nd 60m hurdles 10.77s, winning the long jump with 4.23m and placing 2nd in the shot putt with 10.24m.

U17 men: Seb Wallace set another CBP when winning with a time of 8.39s there followed yet another CBP this time in the triple jump where Massi Campbell won with a distance of 13.02m. Another fine performance came from Arthur Haines in the long jump where his winning distance was 6.21m

U20 men: 60m a great scrap between Jamie Arnold and Louis Dickson who finished 1st and 2nd with times of 7.56 and 7.57s respectively. Tom Ridley was the winner of the high jump with a leap of 1.90m, Leo Walker won the shot with a putt of 11.50m and in the triple jump Louis Goffin finished 2nd in 12.42m

Senior men: 60m Toby Hawkins won with a time of 7.36s and Caleb Purdy came third in 7.79s.

4 CBP’S was a superb result from our athletes, congratulations to these four and all the other medallists.

**AND THEN THE WORLD CAME TO A STOP!**

The club had arranged an open throws event for the 19th March and this was the first casualty of the pandemic for us and shortly after this all leagues, championships and training was cancelled. Everybody was put on lockdown and life as we knew it was turned on its head. When restrictions were eventually relaxed many of our athletes started to train either on their own or in small groups organised by their coaches but Withdean was not open so athletes used whatever venues they could. I cannot say what other groups did but the javelin group discovered the joys of Waterhall, an area we had never used before but we came to enjoy our time there where we often had walkers, cyclists etc stopping to watch the athletes throwing and working out. I do not know what we would have done without this area and we even marked out an exact throwing area and runway to work from: this came in very handy when we were able to hold two virtual meetings when even more restrictions were lifted.

Eventually Withdean was open and through the work of Serena Smith and Sarah Hewitt we were able to resume using the arena with covid restrictions in place: temperature testing, self-declaration sheets filled out, card only fee payments and this was going so well and then: **lockdown again!**

But in between these periods of lockdown our athletes produced some astounding performances:

Julia Machin set a new **world age record** in the W50 high jump setting a record of 1.66m at Chelmsford.

Dulcie Yelling set an **age 13 national record** in the javelin at Portsmouth throwing 44.80m, (this put Dulcie into 5th place on the all-time U15 rankings and she will still have another year in this age group) This was also a new club and county record at U15 taking over from training partner Liz Korczak. Liz did get a consolation of her own when she threw her new weight javelin (she moved up to the senior 600g javelin) in a competition at Lee Valley 48.51m which was a club U20 and senior record and it was also a county U20 record.

This performance gained Liz an invitation to the National Championships at Manchester where she finished 6th in the final and was the youngest athlete in the competition. Another Brighton athlete at the Championships was Ian Crowe-Wright who finished in 11th place in the 1500m in a time of 3.54.18s.

Tom Niner ran in the 800m with a time of 1.55.13 in his heat.

The county put on an invitation event at Lewes and despite the terrible weather there was a huge turn-out and in the only Championship event of the year in Sussex Tom Niner won the 3000m title with a time of 8.42.10s: in third place was fellow club member Jamie Knapp with a time of 8.55.21s, well done to both athletes, (a good quiz question for the only track champion in 2020)

Belatedly we gave out the 2019/20 winter awards for the junior age groups, this was impossible to organise until the initial lockdown was eased.

**WINNERS:**

Age group name award

Under 13 girls Dulcie Yelling Performance

Under 13 girls Rosie Gasson Contribution

Under 15 girls Eadie Yelling Performance

Under 15 girls Ruby Wilson Contribution

Under 17 women Lois Dooley Performance

Under 17women Ella Matthews Contribution

Under 13 boys Tom Matthews Performance

Under 13 boys Oliver Holt Contribution

Under 13 boys Jude Clayton Contribution

Under 15 boys Henry Yelling Performance

Under 15 boys Adam Mehew Contribution

Under 17 men Archie Rowles Contribution

A huge well done to all of the winners and to the team managers and coaches for all the work they put in.

**A few more results** **from our fabulous members!!**

Amber Anning has broken the club’s senior 200m indoor record with a time of 23,71s: this was set in America where she is studying: she also ran a 52.22 400m indoors as well.

David Spenser has set a **UK** M70 indoor 400m record with a time of 66.03s.

Tomer Tarragano finished in 2nd place at the SEAA cross country Championships at Parliament Hill.

Kevin Moore won the Brighton half marathon with a time of 1h9m5s

Our girls won the Sportshall title this year (before covid)

Bob Willows was selected as coach of the year for the south east region.

Many congratulations to club member Gail Davey for being honoured with an OBE for her work on neglected tropical diseases.

In November we again entered a period of lockdown and then on December the 3rd we were again allowed back into Withdean where we seamlessly slipped back into our routine and hopefully we will have seen the last of lockdowns.

I sincerely hope that 2021 is a better year, it can hardly be worse, and hopefully with a bit of common sense by the governing body we can have a year to look forward too. **A happy Christmas and a brilliant 2021 to you all.**

Bob Willows, club secretary