



ANNUAL REPORT OF BRIGHTON AND HOVE AC 2021

Having hopefully seen off the worst of the Covid pandemic, our sport and life in general slowly started to return to a more normal routine. Although restrictions have gradually lifted, athletics events were still affected throughout the year, with early Championships cancelled, and leagues reduced to token competitions. However, our athletes performed superbly through 2021, with many gaining medals at schools, area and national levels.

There were no cross-country events or County Indoor Championships, due to Covid, so the club's attention turned to the summer track and field teams. League structures were transformed for 2021, to reduce coach travel. The Southern and Youth Development Leagues did away with promotion and relegation, and the leagues were restructured to enable local club fixtures. This gave many athletes the chance to compete again, and any manager worth their salt would always say they won their matches!

SAL: We competed against Portsmouth, Lewes/Haywards Heath combined, Eastbourne, Hastings and Havant. We won the first three matches but failed to field a team in match four which was disappointing. Sarah Hewitt was Female Athlete of the Match in fixtures 2 and 3, and Brighton finished 5th in the final match analysis of all the clubs in the SAL.

YDL: The upper age group (u17's and u20's) competed against Crawley, Holland Sports and Team Sussex. They finished 2nd in the three matches in which they competed. The lower age group (u13's and u15's) competed against Lewes, Worthing and Hastings, and they won all of their three matches.

The county did have outdoor Championships, which were great to see, and there was a good turnout in many events but disappointing in others.

Our athletes recorded some fine performances, and the following is the list of medallists:

100m	Under 15 girls:	Elodie Bradley 1st 12.54s
	Under 17 women:	Ruby Challis 3rd 13.08s
	Under 17 Men:	Noah Barwis 1st 11.20s
	Senior men:	Josh Hawkins 1st 10.77s/ Toby Hawkins 2nd 10.84s
200m	Under 15 girls:	Elodie Bradley 1st 26.56s/ Stella Kalman 3rd 28.52s
	Senior women:	Jo Wilding 1st 30.54s
	Under 15 boys:	Joseph Campbell 1st 23.84s/ Dillon Moss 2nd 24.67s
	Under 17 men:	Kyle Romans 1st 23.14s/ Dillon Moss 2nd 24.67s
	Senior men:	Josh Hawkins 1st 22.17s/Toby Hawkins 2nd 22.49s
300m	Under 15 boys:	Dillon Moss 1st 39.27s
	Under 15 girls:	Dulcie Yelling 3rd 45.36s
	Under 17 women:	Sophie Packham 3rd 45.94s
400m	Under 20 men:	Archie Rowles 2nd 45.36s

	Senior men:	Max Brazier 1st 52.33s/ Paul Howard 2nd 55.17s
	Senior women:	Keira Paterson-Jewell 3rd 62.57s
800m	Under 20 men:	Archie Rowles 2nd 2.01.00s
	Under 20 women:	Emily Muzio 2nd 2.22.41s
1500m	Under 15 girls:	Rosie Gasson 2nd 5.00.03s
	Under 17 women:	Eadie Yelling 2nd 4.48.00s
	Under 20 women:	Lois Dooley 2nd 4.54.20s
	Under 15 boys:	Jude Clayton 2nd 4.33.19s
	Under 20 men:	Seb Owers 3rd 4.38.50s
300m hurdles	Under 15 girls:	Libby Kirby 1st 57.55s
400m hurdles	Under 20 women:	Lucy Kirby 2nd 69.07s
	Senior women:	Jo Wilding 1st 78.09s
	Senior men:	Stevie Kasparis 1st 59.52s
80m hurdles	Under 15 boys:	Daniel Allan 2nd 12.38s
110m hurdles	Senior men:	Stevie Kasparis 1st 17.15s
Field events		
High Jump	Under 15 boys:	Max Willemse 1st 1.60m
	Under 17 men:	Thomas Wells 1st 1.85m
	Under 20 men:	Hari Brogan 1st 1.90m / Torin Seagrove 2nd 1.80m Tom Ridley 3rd 1.80m
Long Jump	Under 15 boys:	Dillon Moss 1st 5.45m
	Senior men:	Matt Smith 2nd 6.09m
	Under 15 girls:	Stella Kalman 1st 5.06m
	Under 17 women:	Amber Purcell 1st 5.33m
Triple Jump	Under 15 girls:	Elise Machin 1st 8.11m
	Under 17 women:	Amber Purcell 1st 11.04m
	Under 20 women:	Scarlett Margaroli 2nd 10.46m/ Kirsty Nelson 3rd 10.39m
Shot Putt	Under 15 girls:	Masha Mann 2nd 10.16m
	Senior women:	Sarah Hewitt 1st 8.82m
	Senior Men:	Matt Smith 2nd 10.29m/ Vitor Brito Costa 3rd 9.05m
Hammer	Under 17 women:	Freya Brennand 1st 42.23m
	Senior women:	Bonnie Brito Costa 1st 32.37m/ Sarah Hewitt 2nd 31.00m
Javelin	Under 15 boys:	Louis Opoku 2nd 37.40m
	Under 17 men:	Josh Clarke 2nd 48.47m
	Senior men:	Vitor Brito Costa 2nd 24.64m
	Under 15 girls:	Dulcie Yelling 1st 39.70m
	Under 17 women:	Rachael Wall 2nd 41.25m/ Lily Carter 3rd 31.19m
	Senior women:	Tracey Brockbank 1st 19.69m
Discus:	Under 17 men:	Alex Riley 1st 23.39m
	Senior men:	Matt Smith 2nd 34.26m / Vitor Brito Costa 3rd 28.56m
	Under 15 girls:	Masha Mann 3rd 21.67m
	Under 20 women:	Freya Brennand 1st 27.94m
	Senior women:	Sarah Hewitt 1st 36.35m

The Sussex Schools Championships was another event to return after the previous year's cancellation. The following athletes gained selection for the English Schools Championships. I have given their performances at Manchester (the venue for the ESAA), where we had four medallists and a series of other fine performances. Unlike previous years the Championships were run on age group days athletes did not travel together. This meant a lot of travelling for coaches and parents, but at least there was a Championship in the end.

Seniors (Under 19's)

Elizabeth Korczak	Javelin	1st (4th ESAA title)
Hari Brogan	High jump	9th
Freya Brennand	Hammer	10th
Massi Campbell	Long jump	10th
Kelsey Sutherland	Triple jump	10th
Lois Dooley	2000m s/c	14th

Intermediates (Under 17's)

Rachael Wall*	Javelin	2nd
Amber Purcell	Triple jump	3rd
Thomas Wells	High jump	9th
Josh Clarke	Javelin	10th.

Juniors (Under 15's)

Dulcie Yelling	Javelin	2nd
Eloise White	Javelin	4th
Elodie Bradley	100m	6th
Joseph Campbell	200m	7th
Theo Messent-Lilly	Javelin	8th
Louis Opoku	Javelin	10th
Daniel Allan	80m Hurdles	11th

* This performance earned Rachael her first international vest, with an England Schools call up for the four nations event at Derby in September. Sadly, after catching Covid before the event, she was not able to perform to her usual standards and finished one place off of the medals.

The next major event on the Sussex calendar was the Under 13 Championships held at Withdean. This event incorporates the Under 11's Quad Kids Championships. The following are the medal winners:

Quad Kids girls	Seren Rowe	1st	241 points C.B.P.
	Alexandra Koloutsos	3rd	192 points
Quad Kids boys	Isaac Machin	1st	240 points
	Louis Ashworth	2nd=	230 points
Track			
100m girls	Martha Challis	2nd	13.83s

	Jaiten Best	3rd	14.02s
800m Girls	Lara Cox	3rd	2.41.44s
800m boys	Raphael Kelly	1st	2.16.41s
	Saul Bennett	3rd	2.22.04s
1500m girls	Julieana Walsh	1st	5.03.31s
1500m boys	George Gilbert	1st	5.00.75s
75m hurdles boys	Elvis O'Murchu	2nd	15.96s
4x100m relay girls	Brighton and Hove	1st	57.66s

Field

High jump boys	Archer Pilkington	2nd	1.25m
Long jump boys	Matthew Plummer	2nd	4.11m / Jude Porter 3rd 3.99m
Long Jump girls	Jaiten Best	3rd	4.11m
Shot Putt boys	Elvis O'Murchu	1st	6.10m
Javelin boys	Archer Pilkington	2nd	29.04m/ Tyler Bloom-Ovin 3rd 25.74m
Javelin girls	Vivienne Morra	2nd	24.41m

With the National Championships being held in either Manchester or Bedford, it was handy if you lived in the Midlands but not travelling from Brighton. There was more travelling for our athletes, parents and coaches. The first was the Under '20s, where Liz Korczak finally won a National title after several near misses. Her winning throw (50.38m) was over the qualifying distance required to reach the European Under 20's Championships (it was also a new club and County record), and so she was off to Tallin in Estonia. Against the odds, she qualified for the finals, and she eventually finished 11th: an excellent performance in her first major games. Also competing at Bedford was Hari Brogan, who continued his fine season, finishing in 8th place with a height of 1.89m.

Next up were the Under 15's and 17's at Manchester. The javelin throwers made the most of these events: Dulcie Yelling continued her comeback after an iron deficiency had seriously hampered her early training. She was winning up to the last throw but had to settle with silver in the end. Rachael Wall was next, and she continued her battle with the Crawley thrower, but in the end, she too was desperately close to the title but again had to settle with silver. Josh Clarke completed the javelin group's efforts, and he finished in 10th place in his first National event. Amber Purcell finished in a fine 6th place in the u17 triple jump with a distance of 10.94m, and Daniel Allan competed in the 80m hurdles (u15's), where he ran 12.98s in his heat which sadly did not qualify for further rounds.

There continued to be open events across the county, and at the final Sussex open on the 18th of September, the 3K Championships were held. The following were the club's medallists:

Under 15 girls	Rosie Gasson	3rd	10.55.6s
Under 15 boys	Jude Clayton	2nd	9.53.8s
Under 20 men	Archie Rowles	2nd	9.40.5s
Senior men	Oliver Hamson	2nd	8.56.1s

The track season drew to a close with the Combined Events and Race Walking Championships at Sutton. These were poorly attended overall, but our club athletes achieved the following results:

Senior Women's 3000m Walk	Judith Carder	1st	22:24.12
Under 13 girl's pentathlon	Kira Dunford	2nd	1816 points
Under 15 girl's pentathlon	Libby Kirby	1st	1696 points
Under 20 women's heptathlon	Lucy Kirby	1st	3432 points
Masters women's pentathlon	Jo Wilding	1st	2970 points

You can find full results on the Sussex AA website. The Master's events are covered comprehensively, as are some of the open events run by the county and others.

After the track season, the road runners and cross-country eventers took over.

In October, **Cathy Ulliott** gained international honours for the fourth time, representing England Masters in the Asda Yorkshire Marathon. A W55, she ran superbly to finish fifth in her age category in a time of 3:30:09 whilst also achieving her first ever negative split!

Cross-country season kicked off with the much welcomed return of the usual opening event at Goodwood - the Cross-Country Relays. Our teams posted some excellent results:

Under 13 girls:	'A' Team 3rd - Lara Cox, Kira Dunsford and Julieana Walsh
Under 13 boys:	'A' team 1st - George Gilbert, Raphael Kelly and Saul Bennett 'B' team 3rd - Alex Roberts, Matthew Lones and Sam Oakden
Under 17 women:	Team 2nd - Eadie Yelling, Tilly Wilburn and Sophie Packham
Senior women:	Team 3rd - Paula Blackledge, Lydia Grows and Linda Schofield
Veteran women V35:	Team 3rd - Charlotte Laing, Gill Bickle and Freya Leman
Veteran men:	1st - Craig Halsey, Louis Taub, Chris Stevenson and Howard Bristow.

Next came the league meetings with three events before Christmas: Back to Goodwood, Stanmer and finally Ardingly.

GOODWOOD.

Under 11 girls:	Seren Rowe	1st
Under 11 boys:	Elliott Marini	1st
Under 13 girls:	Julieana Walsh	1st
	'A' team	2nd, 'B' team 4th, 'C' team 10th
Under 13 boys:	George Gilbert	1st
	Saul Bennett	3rd
	'A' team	1st, 'B' team 4th, 'C' team 9th
Under 15 girls:	'A' team	2nd, 'B' team 9th
Under 15 boys:	Jude Clayton	2nd
	'A' team	2nd, 'B' team 8th, 'C' team 13th
Under 17 women:	Team	4th
Under 17 men:	Team	5th
Senior women:	'A' team 2nd, 'B' team 9th, 'C' team 20th	
Senior men:	Will Cork	1st
	Jamie Knapp	2nd
	Team	1st
Men veteran 40's:	Howard Bristow	1st
	Team	2nd.

STANMER.

Under 11 girls:	Seren Rowe	2nd
Under 11 boys:	Taylor Thom-Watts	1st

	Elliott Marini	3rd
Under 13 girls:	Julieana Walsh	1st
	'A' team	3rd, 'B' team 5th, 'C' team 19th
Under 13 boys:	Saul Bennett	1st
	George Gilbert	2nd
	Raphael Kelly	3rd
	'A' team	1st, 'B' team 4th, 'C' team 9th, 'D' team 17th
Under 15 girls:	'A' team	2nd, 'B' team 6th, 'C' team 8th, 'D' team 15th
Under 15 boys:	Jude Clayton	2nd
	Finlay Goodman	3rd
	'A' team	1st, 'B' team 7th, 'C' team 13th
Under 17 women:	Eadie Yelling	3rd
	A team	3rd, B team 12th
Under 17 men:	Henry Yelling	3rd
	A team	3rd, B team 12th
Under 20 women:	Emily Muzio	1st
Senior men:	Will Cork	1st
	Team	1st
Veteran men:	Howard Bristow	1st
	Craig Halsey	2nd
	Team	1st.

ARDINGLY.

Under 11 girls:	Seren Rowe	3rd
Under 11 boys:	Taylor Thom-Watts	1st
	Elliott Marini	3rd
Under 13 girls:	Julieana Walsh	1st
Under 13 boys:	Raphael Kelly	1st
	George Gilbert	2nd
Under 15 girls:	Dulcie Yelling	2nd
Under 15 boys:	Jude Clayton	2nd
	Finlay Goodman	3rd
Under 20 women:	Emily Muzio	1st
Senior women:	Jade Elphick	1st
Senior men:	Will Cork	1st
	Jamie Knapp	2nd
Veteran men V40:	Craig Halsey	1st
	Howard Bristow	2nd
Veteran men V50:	Dave Benton	3rd.

I have listed only the top finishers, but there have been many great performances throughout the league races, and the strength and depth that the club has shown is outstanding. The sea of red and black at all of the events has been superb! On the back of these results, Sussex selected 16 athletes from the club to compete in the Inter-Counties Championships at Croydon. Every one of them raced well, but the outstanding result was an individual win for Julieana Walsh in the Under 13 girls race. She has shown her class all year, as can be seen in this report (I have keyboard finger stress from typing her name so often)!

The following athletes set new club records in 2021 (* county record also):

Julia Machin V50	Women's high jump V50 <u>world record:</u>	1.68m
Amber Anning	Senior women's 200 and 400m*:	23.38s/51.78s
Elizabeth Korczak	Under 20* and Senior women's javelin:	50.38m
Freya Brennand	Under 20 women's hammer:	42.74m
Dulcie Yelling	Under 15 girls javelin*:	45.36m
Bradley Eisnor	Senior men's decathlon*:	7025 points
Raphael Kelly	Under 13 boy's 800m:	2.16.3s.

On a sad note, the club lost one of its officiating stalwarts with the death of **Graham Ingram**. Graham was the nicest person you could wish to work with, and personally, I have missed his cheerful, always smiling self. It was a lovely gesture from his family to set up a fund in Graham's memory, to provide an award for an Under 15 athlete who gives their all to the club. These athletes are the sort Graham really liked. They are not necessarily the top performers but will always give 100% effort. We have already awarded two trophies in his name and will continue to do so throughout 2022.

So, here's to the new year, with the hope we will get on top of Covid-19, and in 2022 return to a more normal way of life.

Bob Willows
Club secretary