

Mens League match report – Match 2 Division 2 Aberdeen 12 June 2016

A slow and early start to a Sunday morning, with an early rise to get to Aberdeen coupled with an utterly dreich day of weather upon leaving Dunfermline on the team bus (not the party bus as promised unfortunately), however upon reaching Aberdeen we were greeted by sunny weather and perfect competition conditions.

The usual standard of carry on by Messrs White and Grant on the bus possibly contributed to a lot of PB's throughout the day, together with the respective athletes determination. We also managed to recruit an athlete transfer from Dundee Hawkhill, Michael Tarnawsky (jnr), well a new 2nd claim member to be more precise who has agreed to join Pitreavie as a 2nd claim member to help out at mens league matches, on condition that I 2nd claim to Dundee Hawkhill to help out in the Grampian League. This transfer was agreed for an undisclosed sum or a bag of Haribo or similar.



Pictured - Ben Grant taking his role as athletics transfer agent seriously

At this match we had the following athletes competing and the following officials kindly assisting, my thanks to them especially as without the quota of officials the club would lose points in accordance with the league rules. Special mention must be made to Sylvia Wilson, who had already had a very busy time officiating at the Scottish Schools and Fife Schools over the previous week.

Colin Lamont (V35) - 3000m steeplechase
Ben Potrykus - 800m, 400m and 4x400m relay
Neil Maclachlan – 5000m
Kyle Henderson (U20) - 400mH, 3000m steeplechase, long jump and 4x100m relay
Lewis McGuire (U20) – high jump, long jump, 100m and 4x100 relay
Tyler White (U20) – 800m, 5000m and 4x400 relay
Evan Ross (U20) – 1500m
Lee Turner (U17) – 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay
Alex Johnston (U17) – 1500m and 4x400m relay
Craig Dunlop (U17) – high jump, 200m and 4x100 relay
Dylan Thomson (U17) – pole vault
Ben Grant (U17) – 400m and 4x400m

Sylvia Wilson – officiating in time keeping
Neil MacLachlan – field
David Low – as and when needed

First up were the field events. In the pole vault reliable u17 athlete Dylan Thomson on the back of obtaining a 3.90m vault at the Scottish Schools represented us in the A string. Dylan managed to clear 3.60m, gaining us 2nd place and 14 points. Dylan did find the venue setup very complicated to concentrate on due to the positioning of the vault next to the stand, coupled with the footfall going through the area, which I must say, that in a technical event of this sort I would agree strongly with him, although the facilities at the Aberdeen Sports Village are excellent, I feel that Aberdeen City Council or whoever is tasked to be responsible for the venue should take note of this. Still Dylan a cracking performance as always!



Dylan Thomson delivering a drop kick to a high rise flat (excuse the poor photography)

In the high jump, the again reliable U20 athlete, Lewis McGuire jumped 2.00m, again just narrowly missing out on the 2.05m he has been chasing outdoors, giving us 1st place and 16 points, a great performance from him once again. In the B string we had newcomer to the mens league matches, u17 athlete Craig Dunlop competing, he secured 2nd place and 10 points for us with a jump of 1.60m which is his personal best in this event. In the long jump we had Lewis McGuire competing in the A string, he managed to jump 5.74m securing 3rd place and 12 points, against Inverness and Inverclyde's jumpers. In the B string we had endurance runner Kyle Henderson kindly offering to fill in for the team, unfortunately his jump of 3.73m was just short of the standard, a very team spirited attempt by Kyle in what was not a regular event of his, however I am sure with the correct training there is strong potential there.

In the first track event of the day, the 400mH, Kyle Henderson (u20) ran a very gutsy 64.48 in a very close race for the A string, finishing 3rd place to secure 12 points. This was a substantial PB for Kyle by 4 seconds, in an event that is not part of his regular training as a middle distance runner. We had no B string runner in this event. Next up was the 800m, with Ben Potrykus running in the A string, securing 2nd place in a time of 1.56 a very gutsy and fluid performance against Stephen MacKay took 1st place in 1.53. Tyler White took to the B string at last moments noticed to secure 4th place in 2.06, both securing 14 and 8 points for the team.

In the 100m Lewis McGuire ran in the A string, securing 4th place with a time of 11.60s, in the B string we had a newcomer to the mens league Lee Turner running in the B string, Lee secured 4th place also in a time of 12.43, gaining us 6 points. Both were up against a very competitive field from Corstorphine and Whitemoss. Next up was the 3000m steeplechase with myself in the A string, securing 2nd place with a PB of 11.27 and 14 points. Kyle Henderson ran in the B string, securing 1st place in a time of 12.40, I also believe this was Kyle's first attempt at the 3000m distance.

In the 400m Ben Grant ran 51.81 to secure 2nd place in the A string and bring us 14 points. Ben Potrykus secured 2nd place in the B string with a PB of 51.77, an excellent performance from both athletes who were up against strong contenders from Inverness, in addition Ben Grant was feeling the effects from having competed at the Scottish Schools that week.

In the 200m Craig and Lee were up next, respectively in the A and B string Craig ran 24.29 bringing him home in 7th place and earning us 5 points. Lee ran 26.05s bringing him home in 7th place securing 2 points. In the 1500m Alex Johnston (u17) and another newcomer to the mens league ran 4.18s, a personal best in the A string, to gain 6th place in 4.18 and 6 points, a very close race against a great all round senior Stuart Gibson of Whitemoss who took 5th place in 4.17. Evan Ross (u20) ran 4.30 in the B string, gaining us 6 points, this was a PB for Evan and a great performance. In the 5000m Tyler White ran the A string in 16.28, a solid performance against a highly competitive and experienced field, Tyler oddly seemed to be enjoying this challenging race around 5 to 6

laps in. Neil Maclachlan ran in the B string but unfortunately had to pull out due to injury.

Next up was the 4x100m and 4x400m relays. The teams secured 4th place in the 100m relay and 3rd place in the 400m relay.

All in all a great day for Pitreavie in my opinion, with athletes obtaining PB, the usual good examples of team work, support and humour throughout the day, all of which contributed to earning us 3rd place in the match, resulting in a tie with Inverclyde AC in the league position of 2nd.

On a serious note, although this smaller team did very well, we need as much positions filled as possible at the next 2 matches on both the track and field, if we are going to have any chance of promotion next year.

Men of the match goes to the following, based on points from all events including points obtained in the relay

V35 athlete – No v35 athlete in attendance, I have been told I clearly look under 35.

Senior athlete – Ben Potrykus

U20 athlete – Lewis McGuire

U17 athlete – Craig Dunlop

Comedian of the match – Ben Grant

Colin Lamont, team manager