

Mens League match report – Match 3 Division 2 Aberdeen 17 July 2016

The third mens league match got off to a bit of a solemn and sad start due news of the sudden passing of one of the club's most respected coaches, John McDonald, marred also by the typical Scottish weather, making for some challenging conditions in certain events throughout the day. However despite a few injuries and last minute call offs a good day was had for Pitreavie, with a good finish overall and some great performances, particularly from athletes Mr McDonald has, and still was responsible for coaching at the time of his passing.

The chairman of the Scottish Athletics League, Mr David Low marked a minute silence at the track side, prior to the start of the track events in respect of John McDonald's passing and his contribution to the sport. This in itself was a very poignant, fitting and touching way for all concerned to recognise John's contribution to athletics and also in my opinion, demonstrated the unity, respect for others and camaraderie that is so prevalent in the sport.

At this match we had the following athletes competing and the following officials kindly assisting, my grateful thanks to them as usual. League matches are a bit similar to a nice chicken kebab from your local takeaway, the athletes are the filling, which are essential for a good kebab, but the officials are the pita bread, without which you wouldn't have a kebab, or in this instance a league result in the first place, in fact to be frank a flat DQ would be the end result.

Michael Mellon (V35), Javelin, shot put and discus
Colin Lamont (V35) - 3000m steeplechase
Declan Brennan – 100m, 200, 4x100 relay and 4x400 relay
Ewan Dyer – 400m, 400mH, 4x100 relay and 4x400 relay
Tyler White (U20) – 5000m
Craig Moriarty (U20) – Long jump, 4x100 relay and 4x400 relay
Corey Smith (U20) – 3000m steeplechase, 400mH
Lewis McGuire (U20) – High jump
Ben McGuire (U20) – Long jump, triple jump
Kyle Henderson (U20) – 400m, 800m and 1500m
Michael Tarnawsky (U20) – 100m, 200m, triple jump, 4x100 and 4x400 relays
Alex Johnston (U17) – 800m and 1500m

Frank Coyle – officiating in time keeping
Norma Bruce – field
Neil MacLachlan – field

First up were the field events. We had no pole vault unfortunately on this occasion due to Dylan Thomson competing at SIAB, in addition Craig Moriarty suffered a painful wrist injury prior to the match, meaning he had to pull out of the pole vault and other events.

In the high jump, a regular competitor in the mens league, U20 athlete, Lewis McGuire jumped 1.95m giving us 1st place and 16 points, Lewis is still determined to chase that 2.05m and I am sure he will be capable of that come the final match, due to his strong determination and dedication. In the long jump we had Ben McGuire competing in the A string, he jumped an impressive 6.86 securing 1st place and 16 points. In the B string we had Craig Moriarty, U20 athlete, nursing his wrist injury with what looked like a 20kg back slab in tow, however Craig pulled a very impressive jump of 6.16m out of the bag, securing 1st place with ease and gaining us 12 points. So far so good!

In the first track event of the day, the 400mH, Ewan Dyer took to the A string and U20 athlete Corey Smith took to the B string. Both lads ran and hurdled as if they were being pursued for stealing something and secured 1st place in their strings. Ewan ran 54.19s, some 9 seconds ahead of his fellow competitor and Corey ran 70.23s, picking up the pace very fluidly with 200m to go, a further great start in the first event gaining us 16 and 12 points respectively. Next up was the Javelin, where regular competitor Michael Mellon took to the field, throwing to his usual high standard and obtaining a season's best of 38.52m, to give us 3rd place and gain us 12 points.

Up next was the 800m, in this event Alex Johnston U17, in his 2nd time doing the mens league took to the A string with Kyle Henderson U20 taking to the B string. Alex was up a highly competitive field and an ever increasing wind, however he managed to gain us 6 points and a time of 2.09. Unbeknownst to us Alex had been experiencing some difficulty with injury which became apparent later on. Kyle gained 3rd place in the B string and earned us 8 points, also with a time of 2.09, pesky head wind! The next track event was the 100m, with Declan Brennan competing in the A string and U20, Michael Tarnawsky a new 2nd claim member to the club handling the B string. Declan ran an impressive 11s in a very close finish of 2nd place against Taylor Nimmo of Falkirk who took 1st place. Michael also gained 2nd place in 11.38s, earning us 10 points.

The next field event to take place was the triple jump, with Ben McGuire taking to the B string and Michael Tarnawsky taking to the A string. Michael jumped 11.99m and Ben jumped 11.22m, earning 8 points each. Next up was the 3000m steeplechase with Corey Smith taking to the A string and myself taking to the B string. Corey ran a season's best with 11.40 bringing in 10 points and myself 12 points in the B string, despite my technical issue with the water jump on the 1st lap, which has been well documented elsewhere so I won't stretch my sea legs again by elaborating too much here.

Next up was the 400m, in this event Ewan Dyer took to the A string to win the event in an impressive 49.73s and gain us 16 points. Kyle Henderson in his usual turning his hand to every event in the competition took to the B string, where he gained us 3 points with 57.87s. The shot put was up next in the field with Michael Mellon taking to the A string, who in his own words stated "I will give it a try but I haven't thrown shot put since high school", however Michael threw 8.15m, gaining us 6 points in an event we have always had trouble filling, not bad for someone who hasn't thrown shot put since high school.

Next up was the 1500m, Alex Johnston took to the A string and Kyle Henderson took to the B string. Sadly it was not our day in this event as Alex had to pull out after his first lap due to injury. Kyle unfortunately was just short of the standard for points, a combination of doing his previous events and the wind on the back straight did not help here. In the 200m, Declan and Michael took to the A and B string respectively. Declan came 2nd with an impressive 22.37s, bringing in 14 points, Michael was 1st in his string with 23.65s, gaining us 12 points. A great day for the sprinters with the best yet still to come, it's doubtful these lads will ever miss a bus or a train which is ready to pull away.

The two final events were the discus and the 5000m. Michael Mellon took to the A string in the discus and threw 22.49m, well within the standard for points and gained us 6 points in this event, again this is an event we always have difficulty filling and I feel Michael should be commended for stepping forward to compete in these events that do not form part of his usual training schedule. Tyler White was the only competitor in the 5000m, he was quiet and listened (for a change) to my pacing advice prior to the race and pulled out an impressive PB of 16.22, gaining us 8 points against a very packed and experienced field, including Stuart Gibson of Whitemoss, the current or former Scottish 10,000m champion.

Next up was the 4x100m and 4x400m relays. Michael, Declan, Craig and Ewan took to both relays and it was like watching an out of control but carefully composed runaway juggernaut taking to the track. We secured 1st place in both relays with a time of 44.10 for the 4x100m and 3.31.45 for the 4x400, this provided us with 32 points total. The athletes who took part in the relays should be commended for the effort put in here,

The end result for this match was 3rd place with our 2nd position place unchanged overall in the league. The chance of promotion is still there and the game has changed in the sense that Falkirk are now on our tail with us leading by only 23 points.

For the final match it is going to be essential that all positions are filled as other teams are going to have the same idea here. Ideas for potential 2nd claim members in the throwing events are welcome and ideas for putting out as competitive team as possible, I have a few ideas of my own, but I am always welcome to suggestions from all concerned. This is a great opportunity to get back into division 1 and a few concerned would hate to see it slip away. I will have a Paul Gascogine-esque nervous breakdown if we miss out here.

Finally men of the match goes to the following, based on points from all events including points obtained in the relay. Also below are some photographs taken by photographer Laurence Bissett on the day, my thanks to him for allowing the use of these in the match report.

V35 athlete – Michael Mellon.

Senior athlete – Ewan Dyer

U20 athlete – Michael Tarnawsky

U17 athlete – Alex Johnston

Comedian of the match – A tie between Messrs White & Henderson

See you all again and more hopefully for the final match at Grangemouth on Saturday 27th August 2016. The smell of promotion is close, or could it be leftover kebab from last night festering away on the kitchen worktop begging to be reheated, either way both smells are particularly appealing.



Colin Lamont, team manager







