

Double Success for the Over 35's

The West Midlands South athletics league for veteran athletes (over 35's) is moving towards a thrilling conclusion following the latest match which took place at Worcester's wet and windy Nunnery Wood track.

In the men's event, league leaders Worcester got off to a flying start with Richard Perkins scoring maximum points in the 200mt (60+ age group) backed up by a very rapid Laurence Oldfield as a non-scoring guest, such is the strength in depth in the Worcester team. Richard White (50+) scored well in the 200mt then achieved an excellent first place in the 800mt. Dave O'Brian and Ed Gerrard came 4th in their respective 200mt races whilst Dave Waldron (60+) and Dave Hall secured 1st and 2nd in the 800mt. The team also had solid support from Phil Bullock and Stewart Hallion running as "guests" in the 800mt.

Dave Waldron doubled up with the 2k walk where he was joined by Les Scriven, both scoring valuable points for the club. Meanwhile, Dave Hall, Warren Miles and Martin Cole competed in the 3000mt where they scored 20 points out of a possible 24. The track events were rounded off by a fine win for the Worcester 4x100 relay squad in a time of 53.9sec's beating Birchfield Harriers in the process.

In the men's field events, Mark Flannery (50+) won the pole vault and the shot putt then came 2nd in the long jump. Phil Goddard won the 60+ long jump then dropped down an age group to also win the 50+ javelin. Team Manager Dave Hope stepped in to secure 2nd place in the 60+ pole vault and Ian Bowles (60+) threw 26.44mt to get maximum points in the hammer.

As a result of these performances the Worcester team secured a hard fought victory and now head the men's league going into the final match.

In the ladies events, Worcester runners Maggie Crosswell (60+) Ros Hope with a PB (50+) Mel Garland (40+) and Sandra Lane (35+) obtained a superb 28 points out of a possible 32 in the 200mt. Three of these athletes, Maggie, Ros and Sandra also competed in the 800mt securing more good points for the team. Wendy Bennett (35+) and Gill Repton (50+) managed a splendid 1st and 2nd in the 2k walk followed by Deb Hodson (40+) and Sandra Lane (50+) in the 3000mt where they were joined by Tracy Miles (35+) who set a PB with 12min 43secs. The 4x100 relay squad were pipped on the line by Halesowen, but still set a Worcester Veteran Ladies record of 65.7 secs. - especially commendable given the awful weather conditions.

In the field events, Ruth Bird won the 35+ shotput with 8.86mt then took second place in the javelin. Gill Repton, with a throw of 19.48mt set a PB in the discus, whilst Mel Garland won the long jump. Pam Price secured 3rd place in the 60+ shot putt and 2nd in the 60+ long jump for more valuable points.

Due to this magnificent team effort Worcester ladies achieved their highest Veterans League points total in the history of the club and a match victory that keeps their league hopes alive. The final match of the season takes place in Bromsgrove on the evening of Wednesday, 3rd August. For further details call Roger or Melanie Garland on 01905 458 533.