



Midland Vet's Track & Field League – Match Report

Wednesday 23rd June 2021 – venue Redditch

It had been a long time coming, but all the planning, the negotiating with UKA, revisions of the timetable and everything else involved in trying to stage an athletics meeting whilst still in the grip of a global pandemic. Eventually, one year and nine months since our last Vet's League match, we assembled at Abbey Stadium in Redditch to defend the league titles (x2) we won back in 2019.



Laurence in the 200mt

As is normally the case, the event got underway with the sprints.

In the men's match: David Shaw got the proceedings underway with a stunning 28.5 sec in the 200mt at M60, whilst at M70 Laurence cruised home in 34.0 sec for maximum Team points. Richard White (competing down an age group) returned an impressive 27.3. Nick Hitchings (covering for Richard Houchin) also picked up valuable Team points at M40, as did Hugh Davies in the M35 age group.

At 800mt (M35) Tony Farnsworth making his club debut, achieved a fine victory in 2'13.9. Not to be outdone, Matt Moon went even quicker (2'07.8) in winning the M40. Nick Hitchings returned an excellent 2'27.7 in the M50 age category.

With two sets of races completed, into the lead in the Team event, a lead whole evening.

In the 2k Race Walk Hugh Davies and achieved excellent times and jointly points.



Worcester had edged we would retain for the

Richard Drewett both gathered 14 Team

At 3000mt another newcomer, Mark Fritchley (M35) together with Mike Jeavons (M40) each ran really well and both clinched second in their respective age groups, Mark setting a PB. Meanwhile, another athlete having his first track race for Worcester Vet's, Frank Tota (M60) achieved 11'08.4 to win his age category

Richard & Gill one lap into the 2k Race Walk

by more than a minute. This performance, a new PB, moved Frank to number one in the current UK rankings.



Frank in the 3000mt

In the Field Events, David Shaw was again the first away, clearing 8.33mt in the Triple Jump (M60) for a new PB and maximum points for the Team.

In the M40 Javelin, making his first club was Nick Jones. He for a comfortable second category Richard Drewett

also finish second. Richard in the

Nick in the Javelin



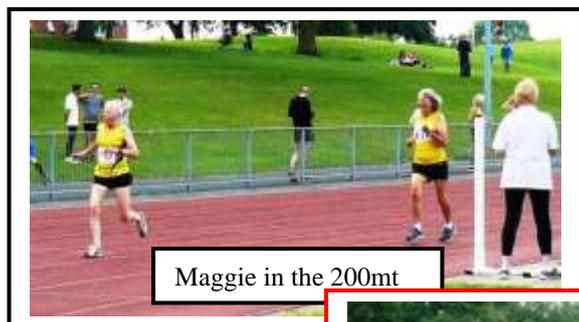
another athlete appearance for the hurled his Jav 26.42mt spot. In the M60 managed 22.32mt to This was a PB for Javelin.

High Jumper David Mehaffey cleared a tidy 1.45mt competition where the winning jumper managed

in a close fought 1.50mt.

David Shaw was back in action in the Long Jump, this time competing down into the M50 age group, but David still managed second place with 4.28mt.

And so to the ladies events:



We started with the 200mt where Angela Bryant (W60) scampered home in 33.1 sec for maximum Team points. Maggie Crosswell (currently training for a marathon!) helped out as a sprinter and achieved second place in the W70 category for excellent Team points, but Maggie sadly suffered a hamstring injury as she fought off a fast finishing athlete from Stratford.

team mate Deb Ricci Sara Saunders (W35) setting a PB, as they Team



In the W50 age group Mel Garland raced to victory in 31.4 sec, just ahead of her GB from B&R. Vickie Watkins (W40) and both clocked 31.9 sec with (newbie) Sara each gathered valuable points to add to our total.

Vickie was soon back completed in 2'54.5.

on the track in the (W35) 800mt which she Becky Selvey (W40) recorded 2'50.7 to finish second in her age group whilst Ros



Townsend-Hope competing down an age group at W50 also finished second with 3'14.5.

The 2k Race Walk was next. Nicola Guiver, normally a sprinter, stepped in to cover at W35 for her first ever Race Walk. Although registering a relatively slow time, Nicola came second in her age group to pick up 7 Team points. In a more competitive W50 Race Walk, Gill Repton recorded 14'54.8 and secured more points for "Team Worcester".



In the longest event of the evening, 3000mt, Alison Buttle made a welcome return to the Team, recording 13'23.5 in the W35 category. Rachael Alexander (W40) clocked 13'17.3 whilst in the W60 age group Ros (coming in for the now injured Maggie) led the others home with 13'57.9 for maximum Team points.

In the Field Events, Worcester ladies also scored consistently well. The W35 Triple Jump saw Jan Timberlake cover 8.21mt in an event won by Jo Willoughby (MMAC) in a new league record of 10.09mt.

Gill Repton in the W60 Javelin (500g) recorded a PB of 13.19mt for second place whilst in the W40 High Jump Mel Garland (competing down into a lower age group) matched the winning height of 1.33mt but was allocated second place on countback.

Jan Timberlake was then back in the sandpit, this time in the Long Jump where Jan cleared 3.84mt for second place and another 7 Team points.

Even with no competitor in the W70 High Jump, collectively the Worcester ladies scored 27 points in the Field Events, that was just 2 ahead of our nearest rivals, Stratford-on-Avon and 4 ahead of B&R. All of B&R's Field Event points were obtained by Julie Wakelam. Julie also ran 200m plus a leg in the Relay!

Whilst I remember, a big THANK YOU to all the Track Officials, Field Officials, Team Managers and lots other volunteers behind the scenes who made it possible for this event to go ahead.

Finally it was time for the Relays - always great fun and very exciting. This time the Relays were 4x400mt. and they did not disappoint!

In the men's event Richard White got us off to a great start, handing the baton and a lead to Nick Hitchings, with Sparkhill Harriers in hot pursuit. Nick ran a good leg and retained the lead as he passed the baton to Tony Farnsworth, but now it was B&R giving chase. Tony extended the lead to around 30mt before handing the baton to Matt Moon. Although the B&R athlete tried to close him down, Matt was too strong and brought the team home in first place with a time of 4'02.3

Men's Relay Team - L to R
Tony, Nick, Matt & Richard



In the ladies Relay, Angela Bryant took the first leg and handed over in first place. Mel Garland filled in on leg two covering for an injured athlete. Mel went off far too fast and really struggled over the second half of the lap but still managed to retain the lead.



Angela gets away well at the start of the ladies 4x400 Relay

Vickie Watkins cruised around lap three in 73.8 sec and we had Becky Selvey, on the final lap. Becky, complete with a massive smile, stopped the clock in 5'12.8 for another top points finish for the Worcester ladies.

So there we were, the match was over and the Worcester teams had secured a magnificent and hard fought double victory in the Midland Vet's League.

Job done guys and gals, in our opening match of the season the men's team scored 132 points (winning by 20) and the ladies scored 123 points (winning by 13). In both cases the runners-up were Stratford. The next league fixture is being hosted by, you've guessed it, Stratford. That will give them a boost by having home advantage, so we will need to bring our "A" game. I hope you will all be up for the challenge!

Later in the year we hope that both our teams will be heading for the MIDLAND VET'S CUP FINAL at Nuneaton. This is scheduled for Sunday 5th September so please be sure to keep the date free.

Roger Garland
Worcester AC

28/06/2021