

## **Midland Vets League – Stratford 17<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

Things did not look especially promising for the men's team prior to the match at Stratford with several key stars missing due to injury or other commitments. They did not improve when your team manager aggravated an achilles issue in the 100m and ruled himself out of any subsequent running events. However thanks to some really impressive performances and people mucking in we still came out on top...just.

Derek Naish made his debut as a M70 athlete in great style by narrowly missing out on first place in the 100m in 15.9 and winning the M70 long jump in emphatic fashion with a leap of 3.19.

In the M60 100m Peter Roberts confirmed his recent good form and growing strength with a sparkling 14secs to get 2nd place. Stevie Bald also shone clinching second in the M50 100m in 13.9.

Lacking a M35 100m runner in his customary fashion Richard Drewett manfully stepped up to the plate to gather a few points with a sprightly effort of 16.6 secs.

The 800m also saw another debut with Mark Thomas making his first appearance for the club in many years. Not only that he was also running in a race in which he had never competed before. Undaunted he ran an excellently measured race to get 3rd place with 2:18 as an M40 rather than M50 which is his actual age category.

In the M50 itself race Chris Ness controlled things superbly for 650m only to be passed on the bend by the Halesowen runner who had decided to enjoy a free ride. Chris easily held on to second though with a time of 2:26.

No such issues for Toby Wort however who led from gun to tape to again win the M35 race after having done exactly the same at Redditch last time out. His time of 2:13 was just shy of of a pb which given the breeze and lack of help was most impressive.

In the M40 3000m Robbie Brennan muscled his way to maximum points in a time of 9:57 to continue his excellent return to form. Derek Jackson came second in the M60 race against a host of much younger athletes and in a time of 12:07. I understand this to be a new league record for his age category of M75 so hats off to you Derek. At the very last minute Alex Cale volunteered to fill the vacant M35 slot despite the fact that he was recovering from injury and had already stood in in the race walk. He ran well to pick up points and also put in a decent stint in the race walk- both of which we are very grateful for.

In the M50 race walk Richard Drewett lay down his hammer for 10 minutes to take second place in 10:53 and then dashed back for one last big throw of 15:80 to get 4th place in that event. Another string to Richard's bow who is rapidly becoming one of our most versatile athletes.

In the relays Toby Wort and Stevie Bald teamed up with Amy and Jade to take a superb first place in the M35 race. In the M50 race Chris Ness and Peter Roberts (running his first 400 in many years) ran with Lou and Angela to pick up a good third place.

Andi Cresswell impressed in the M35 hammer to get fourth place with a throw of 18:96. However his 1:60m to win the M35 high jump was quite superb and an exciting sign of things to come. Not only that it was also a new club record in the M45 age category.

Dean Yarranton wore the Worcester colours for the first time in the M35 discus and threw a meaty 8:06m to take fourth place.

Worcester Ladies Team maintained their excellent start to the season with another fine victory at Stratford-Upon-Avon.

The sprinters got us off to a superb start to this league fixture picking up maximum points for first place finishes across all five age groups, Ros Townsend-Hope at W70, Angela Bryant W60, Mel Garland, competing down into W50, Sara Saunders W40 and Amy Pinkney W35. These "super sprinters" were ably backed up by our non-scoring guest runners Jade, Julie and also Iris who set an all time Vet's League 100m record in her age group! Forty points out of a possible forty. What a fantastic way to start a league fixture!

Louise Kirby, running outside her comfort zone, stepped in at 800m at W50. Emma Oldham, recovering from injury, covered the event at W40 whilst Cat Hutchison dropped down into the W35 age group, but clinched first place with her quickest 800 time for several years.

Cat was immediately back on track for the one mile Race Walk (W35) where she was joined by Di Brian racing down two age groups into W50. Two more amazing victories for Team Worcester!

At 3000m we had Vicky Watkins at W35, Tracy Hinxman at W40 (both dropping an age group) and Maggie Johnson-Myers at W60. Another clutch of fine performances and 19 more team points in the bag!

In the field events the Worcester Ladies continued to deliver impressive results. Ruth Wells dropped two age groups (so used heavier implements) to compete in W35 Hammer and Shot Putt, snapping up 13 points out of a possible 16. It might have been more, but the Stratford club welcomed the return of GB International thrower, Paula Williams!

Mel picked up another 14 points winning the W50 Triple Jump and placing third in the W50 Discus

Clare Gratrix won the W35 High Jump with a super height of 1.32m and Iris clinched the W70 Long Jump setting club and league (W85) records

The two mixed 4x400 relay races are always very exciting and this time was no different as we obtained a third place and a first. The split times were as follows:  
Over 35's race - Toby 60.3, Jade 73.4, Stevie 62.2, Amy 69.3. Over 50's race - Chris 68.2, Louise 80.7, Peter 72.7, Angela 86.5.

In terms of the overall match it was another superb double victory for the Worcester Vet's against teams from across the South Midlands. Our men's team won by squeaky 6½ points and our ladies team by a more healthy 18½ points - in both cases Stratford chased us home.

Congratulations to all athletes who participated on the night and helped keep Worcester at the top of the league standings at the half-way stage of the season.

Finally - a really big "thank you" goes to our hard working officials who not only made the trip to Stratford, but thanks to their dedication made the whole event possible. Lest there be any doubt, No Officials means No Event!! Worcester's officials on the night were Tris Elmhirst and Derek Cowdrey (Time Keepers) Richard White (Track Judge) Ian Atkins (Starter) Clive Spencer and Claire White (Field Judges). Thank you as well to one or two other club members (athletes and spectators) who also helped out on the night

Roger and Hugh

