

PICHLER TAKES THE PLAUDITS ON AN ACTION=PACKED PENTATHLON

A PACKED Gateshead College Sports Hall was treated to a great day's athletics action when the North Eastern Counties AA hosted their annual Indoor Pentathlon Championships. A popular open event ran in conjunction with the championships which attracted competitors from near and far.

Despite failing to record any new pbs, Blyth's Luke Pichler, the current SIAB International and English Schools' gold medallist, was once again in record-breaking form as he smashed the existing under-17 county record of 3,156pts by 157 points, a record which was set back in 2016 by Gateshead's Joe Halpin. Pichler, was one of a number of competitors who led throughout the competition after the opening 60m hurdles. Leeds City's Leo Woodthorpe finished in second place ahead of Bolton's Herbie Kay. Darlington's Joshua Davison set a new pb in the hurdles on his way to finishing second in the county section.

There were no county representatives in the under-20 age group with victory going to City of York's William Reid. James Harney (East Cheshire) finished in second place ahead of Blackburn's George Whittaker.

Doncaster's James Simms set three new pbs – 60m, 60m hurdles and long jump – on his way to victory in the senior contest holding off team-mate Nathan Langley and Derby's Kacper Kukla while Darlington's Andy Harrison also claimed new pbs in 60m, 60m hurdles and shot to be crowned county champion.

Bolton's Alfie Dodds was in second place after the opening hurdles event but moved into pole position in the under-15 boys competition helped by new pbs in the 60m, long jump and shot. North Ayrshire's Nathan Mobbs finished runner-up while Matejus Varnelis (Leeds City) completed the one-two-three. In the county race for medals North Shields Poly's Eli Adams came out on top after producing four new pbs in the 60m, 60m hurdles, long jump and shot. New Marske's Daniel Banks claimed second place holding off Gateshead's Oscar Burton by just two points.

There were only two competitors in the under-13 boys age group but it proved to be a close-run affair as victory went to Darlington's Monty Bowden who, after setting new pbs in 60m, 60h, high jump and shot, totalled 1,210pts, just 11 more points than Blyth's Benjamin Compton, who set three new pbs during the contest and held a slight advantage after the hurdles and shot.

Darlington's Charlotte Rutter has been a great supporter of the championships over many years and while on this occasion no new pbs were forthcoming, she was still in good form to lift the senior women's title. City of Sheffield's Rebecca Lister finished in second place followed by Rutter's Darlington team-mate Iona Richings who received the county silver medal after finishing ahead of Gateshead's Gemma Smith.

Hallamshire's Millie Hardy, with pbs in the hurdles, high jump and shot, came out on top in the under-20 section with Gateshead's Georgina Mabbott claimin first place in the county section with pbs in the 60m, 60m hurdles, high jump and shot. New Marske's Molly Thrower finished third – county silver medallist.

The under-17 contest was another extremely close affair with the result only being decided on the final event, the 60 metres. Wigan's Amy Hewitt was in pole position leading by two points from Annan's Matilda Brockley with North Ayrshire's Shannon Brown over 50 points further adrift in third place. However, things all changed in the sprint and despite Brown being the quickest overall with a 8.04s clocking it wasn't enough with overall victory going to Brockley with Hewitt having to be content with third place. Blyth's Senna Gorvett, with pbs in the 60m, high jump and long jump, finished in fourth place overall and was crowned county champion ahead of Gateshead duo Tilly Lodge and Rebecca Harrison.

It was celebration time once again for the Brockley family after Matilda's sister Antonia came out on top in the under-15 age group to finish ahead of Wigan's Lauren Hewitt and City of York's Carys Francis. The Annan athlete was in second place behind Hewitt going into the 60m but a superb 7.91s clocking moved her to the top of the podium. There was an excellent entry of 20 for this age group as

Blyth's Hollie-Anne Sudder claimed fourth place overall and the county gold medal. Gateshead's Sky Marshall finished runner-up ahead of Blyth's Isla Bell.

City of York's Sophia Horsfall-Samb led throughout the under-13 contest setting new pbs in the 60m, 60m hurdles, high jump and shot. Altrincham's Clara Edwards finished in second spot ahead of Blyth's Amara O'Callaghan who set life-time bests in the 60m and shot to claim the county gold medal. Darlington's Beth Johnson claimed the silver ahead of Blyth's Aman Sanghera.

** Once again an excellent promotion by the North Eastern Counties AA with numerous plaudits being received from the visiting athletes and supporters. Thanks go to all the technical officials and especially meeting manager Keith Wilshire who worked tirelessly prior, during and after to make sure the event was a success. Well done.

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