

ATHLETICS REPORT

10.02.2008.

ALL ROUND ATHLETIC TALENT IN EAST LothIAN

This past week has demonstrated very clearly to the Councillors of East Lothian the need for a specialised Athletic facility in East Lothian. The remarkable talent that has been on display from young and not so young athletes has been highly visible both on the indoor and outdoor arenas.

On Thursday last a number of East Lothian Secondary school pupils went to Kelvin Hall in Glasgow and gave of their best. Most notable were the two 16 year old girls and two young boys all capable of great futures in athletics.

Sarah Warnock from Musselburgh Grammar School came away with a Gold medal in the over 16 yr Long Jump with a leap of 5m39cm. A member of Edinburgh Athletic Club and coached by John Scott, she said after her win that her main priority at present is her forthcoming exams, but looks forward representing Scotland in the future. She also reached the final of the O.16 60mt sprint and clocked 8.27s for 6th place. Fiona Cleat from Knox Academy in Haddington won her heat and semi final in the u/16yr 60mts sprint event and in very close finish in the final lost out by just one hundredth of a second in a superb time of 8.00secs. Clearly a girl with great talent. Ross Matheson from Ross High School in Tranent won his heat in the u/16 1500mts in 4m 38s having suffered from a severe chest infection earlier in the week, and then went on to finish 5th in the final in a personal best time of 4m27s behind Marcus Cram son of the former world record holder Steve Cram.

Preston Lodge's Lindsay Gordon also gained a personal best performance in his o/16yr 1500mts heat of 4m34s behind the eventual final winner Chris O'Hare. Lindsay also turned out again on Sunday at the East Lothian Open Cross Country Championships and was given a tough battle in the under 17 yr event with Dunbar's new young star Andrew Chrichton just getting the better over his rival.

At the other end of the age range scale several East Lothian runners went through to the Scottish Masters Cross Country Championships at Irvine. Whilst Dunbar Running Club had the highest number of athletes and acquitted themselves with a creditable 10th team place. Ian Sills 40th ; Stuart Hay 37th; George Gilhooley 62nd and Suart Symington 65th plus Ian Rowland 81st.

It was HELP that came away with the individual medals. Peter Probin a former sub 2hrs 30m marathoner in his hay day with Bingley Harriers took the silver medal in the Over 60 category and Ironman George Armstrong took the over 65 silver medal.

Whilst the relatively low numbers for the first East Lothian Open Cross Country Championship on Sunday at Meadowmill were mainly due to the late advertising of the event it never the less gained positive praise from SAL officials present especially as this is where the proposed and long hoped for athletic track would be built if agreed to by East Lothian Council at their budget meeting on 25th February.

East Lothian Athletics has a great future, lets hope it is supported.

Henry Muchamore
Pacemaker 11.02.2008

