

Four Stratford AC junior athletes competed in the AAA Under 17 & Under 15 UK Championships held at Birmingham's Alexander Stadium, and against the very best athletes in the UK they all performed very well with Chris Bartlett again winning another medal at a major championship.

Bartlett went into the Under 17 Triple Jump competition nursing a troublesome groin injury, which restricted his range and movement, but he still managed to produce a jump of 13.58m in the 4th round, which was good enough to claim the bronze medal.

Andrew Pozzi was competing in the adjoining pit in the Under 15 Long Jump had the frustration of seeing a bronze medal snatched from his grasp in the final round. Pozzi jumped confidently and his 3rd round jump of 5.91m, saw him through to the final in 3rd place, a position he held until the final round, when in the space of 3 jumps from his rivals he slipped into 6th place, with only 4 centimetres covering 3rd to 6th. He had the opportunity to regain a podium place on the last jump, but he just fell short and finished 6th.

The following day Pozzi lined up for the Triple Jump against some outstanding jumpers and despite some erratic distances through the rounds he jumped very well to finish 7th in a high class field.

Amanda Evans only joined the club's jumps training squad 8 weeks ago and she has literally come on in leaps and bounds, which gave her the opportunity to compete in her first major championship in the Under 17 Triple Jump. As the youngest in the competition, (she only scrapes in the age group by a single day), she jumped to a PB of 10.85 in the 2nd round which put her in 5th place, but as with Andrew Pozzi she saw her rivals edge in front 1 by 1 in the 3rd round to leave her 1 centimetre short of qualifying for the final, but still it was a very fine performance in her first year in the event.

Only 4 weeks after competing in the English Schools Championships with Bartlett and Pozzi, Charlie Burn had to raise his game again to compete in the UK Championships and he did just that by finishing a comfortable 4th in his heat of the highly competitive Under 17 400 metres in a PB of 51.1 secs. The semi final, however, proved to be a step too far when, after a slowish, first 150 metres, he left himself with too much to do in the home straight and he slipped to 6th in a time of 51.35. Despite an injury hit pre season Burn has finished the season strongly in his first year as an Under 17 which augers well for next year.

Holidays and other commitments hit the junior team hard in the 2nd Heart of England match, which meant the team finished a disappointing 6th out of 8 teams in the overall match.

All the athletes who competed, as always, put everything into their events and in particular there were some good individual performances from Clemie Holden, Georgie Evans, Patrick Fetherston, James Clark, Charlie Burn and Amanda Evans, who all won at least 1 of their events.

Teams & Results

FEMALE UNDER 11's finished 2nd

Clemie Holden Ellen Scholes Hannah Taylor Molly White

FEMALE UNDER 13's finished 3rd

Eleanor Johnston Georgie Evans Hannah Noble Katie Taylor Lauren Stephens Zoe Chandler

FEMALE UNDER 15's finished 7th

Emma Laws Emma Stubbs Jemma Lane Rebecca Kay Sarah Woollacott

FEMALE UNDER 17's finished 7th

Amanda Evans Liz Weir

MALE UNDER 11's finished 4th

Alex Grant George Mitchell Joe Noble Troy Stephens

MALE UNDER 13's finished 7th

Liam Dowd Max Wright Michael Suren Patrick Fetherston

MALE UNDER 15's finished 8th

Bryn Stretton Jack Mc Mullen James Johnston Matthew French Sam Taylor Scott
Harmon

MALE UNDER 17's finished 3rd

Charlie Burn Chris Bartlett James Clark Seb Croft