**Northamptonshire County Championships**

*Laurence Ryan*

Over the weekend athletes from all over Northamptonshire gathered at the home of Corby Athletics Club and competed in the County Championships, all aiming to strike gold in their respective events.

Here’s how the weekends action unfolded…

Saturday’s action kicked of with the multi age discus event, both men and women competing, with Rugby & Northampton Athletics Club winning 4/5 available gold medals, with Northampton Athletics Club also picking up their first gold through Florence Smith in the women’s U17 event, throwing 18.17 metres.

Rugby & Northampton swept all available medals in the long jump, before Daventry and Kettering Town Harriers opened their accounts for the weekend, picking up golds in the high jump, sharing the spoils with Rugby & Northampton Athletics Club, taking their total for the day to 8.

The first track events of the weekend saw a range of finals and heats in the 200m, with Rugby & Northampton’s Jaunty Archer and Northampton Athletics Club’s Savannah McKenzie Morgan picking up the first track medals of the weekend.

In other events, Sammy Lok and Scarlett Blackman of Corby AC opened the hosts gold medal account in the shot put, with Rugby & Northampton also picking up gold medals here.

The boys long jump was a share of the golds, with Corby picking up gold and silver in the U17s through Noble Unanka and Sammy Lok, with Daventry also picking up a gold, alongside two more golds for Rugby & Northampton.

Matthew Oluwagbeminiyi secured gold for Northampton Athletics Club in the 150m by 0.2 of a second, before the hurdles saw three more golds for Rugby & Northampton, and two for Northampton Athletics Club.

An impressive showing from Rugby & Northampton’s Finlay Ward saw him not only win gold in the U20, but also set a new championship record, as he finished first overall with a time of 15:29.40, over 20 seconds faster than M35 gold winner and second runner to finish, Mark Hill, also of Rugby & Northampton in the 5000m.

Elsewhere in the 5000m Adam Eales and Ashleigh Walters of Corby won gold in the men’s and U20s category respectively, and Wellingborough AC and Silson AC won gold in the women’s and W35 category, opening their accounts for the weekend.

With the 5000m concluded, the finals of 200m, 600m and 800, rolled around, with Corby keeping up their hot streak, winning two more golds, with the finals also seeing Northampton AC picking up three golds, and Rugby & Northampton as well as Kettering Town Harriers picked themselves up two gold medals.

600m saw another gold for Kettering Town Harriers, taking their track total for Saturday to three, before the 800m rolled around.

The 800m events saw yet more domination from Rugby & Northampton, as they managed to pick up five gold medals, with Northampton AC also picking up two, and Corby, Kettering and Daventry all won one gold medal, rounding off Saturday’s action.

Much like Saturday, Sunday kicked off on the field, with the Hammer throw event, seeing four age categories competing. William Speed-Andrews won Rugby & Northampton their first gold of the second day, with Al Nisbet also striking gold for them.

The final two medals of the hammer throw went to Kettering Town Harriers and Woodford Green AC, before the women’s long jump took place.

The women’s long jump yielded yet more success for Rugby & Northampton, as they picked up yet another gold, with Kettering Town Harriers continuing their fine start to the day by picking up another gold medal.

Attention once again turned to the track, with the boys U17 400m final taking place, seeing Luke Turner win gold for Northampton AC, with a time of 52.75, beating Rugby & Northampton’ Alexandro Illioaie by just under a second.

The 100m followed the 400m, with a mixture of heats and finals seeing Savannah McKenzie Morgan win the girls U15 100m for Northampton AC, finishing over a second faster than second place.

Northampton AC enjoyed early success in 100m, picking up two golds in two finals, after Jasper Smith picked up gold in the boys U15 100m final, whilst all the other age categories competed in heats and waited for their finals later.

Off the track, the high jump and javelin throw took place, with Rugby & Northampton and Northampton AC both picking up golds in the girls to add to their weekends tally in javelin, and in the men’s high jump Daventry added to their tally with an impressive showing from Leon Michael Martin-Evans, with Rugby & Northampton and Northampton AC also picking up gold.

Devon Alan Edwards, Jasper Smith, Harry Pritchett, and Leon Michael Martin-Evans won gold in their efforts in the boys and men’s javelin events, before Daventry took most of the gold in the long jump, winning the girls U15 through Hattie Askew, and the women’s U20 through Cleo May Martin-Evans, with Shanice Ighalo also picking up a gold for Rugby & Northampton.

Isabelle Smith won gold for Northampton AC with a time of 43.45 in the girls U15s 300m final, before Samuel James Lickerish ran a time of 43.58 to win Northampton AC a second gold in the boys U15s 300m final.

It was Corby, host of this weekend’s events, who took home gold through Sofia Isabella Barrett in the girls U17 300m final, before Hannah Smith and Natalie Goddard won gold for Northampton AC in the 400m finals in the U20 and Senior categories respectively.

The U11’s took to the track to complete the 75m sprints, with Rugby & Northampton’s Sophia Marie Aguis, and Northampton AC’s Matthew Oluwagbemininyi Oluptian picking up golds in the girls and boy’s races, before Jasmine Jessamey of Northampton AC and Harry Thomas Jack Flowers won gold in the girls and boys U13 100m finals.

With the U15 100m finals taking place earlier in the day, the U17 events rolled around, with Efua Boateng winning gold in the girls final, and Fabian Powell winning gold in the boys, before the senior events saw Craig Christian, Holly Victoria Abbott, Erin Healy and Wilika Carr all win golds in their dashes down the 100m straight.

The final races of the weekend were the 1200m and 1500m, and in the U11 1200m, Bella Lamb crossed the line first for the girls and Oliver Groves first for the boys, as the weekend closed with the 1500m races.

Thomas Leeson win gold for the boys U13 1500m, and Jess Lamb won gold for the girls in the girls U13 1500m, followed by Ella Darby and Nathan Lamb in the U15 girls and boys categories, then Thea Mae Oakley and Lucas Rogers rounded up the youth gold medals for Northampton AC and Kettering Town Harriers in the 1500m races.

All that remained was the crowning of the senior gold medallists in the 1500m, seeing Erin Treacy win in the women’s U20, Julie-Ann Hammond in the W35, Will Lagesse for the men’s U20, Jack Bond for the men’s senior and finally Chris Wood for the M35, wrapping up the weekends action as the rain began to fall in Corby.