

Twenty four competitors representing five different clubs contested events at the first of this season's Tommy Clay Track & Field Development Series events on Friday (April 10th) evening. It was a dry fine evening for the first match of the year although there was a distinct chill in the air towards the end of the programme and a number of promising early season performances were achieved. This was the first opportunity for athletes to compete in the new age groups and a number responded well to the different challenges that the 2026 changes present. In the Under 16 age group after a good winter of Sportshall Athletics performances, Lexi Mindham laid down an encouraging marker for the outdoor season. Moving up to 80m. Hurdles Lexi recorded 13.7 secs. on her first run out and also clocked 14.2 secs in the 100 Metres for two good 2026 benchmarks in the new age group. In the same age category Caleb Cowley clocked an encouraging 12.7 secs in his first 100 Metres of the year and cleared 5.19m. for a comprehensive victory in the Long Jump competition. At Under 14 level Rose Pell carried on from where she left off last season in Long Jump with a promising leap measuring 4.11m.. Recording 15.3 secs for 100 Metres Rose then experienced some necessary adjustment in her stride pattern in the 75m. Hurdles race following what looked like a really good start. Emily Ward clocked 14.8 secs for 100 Metres and notched up her first performance over two laps recording 3 mins.25.4 secs. in the 800 Metres. Samuel Ajayi had an encouraging debut finishing the 100 Metres in 13.5 secs., the 80 M. Hurdles in 14.7 secs. and achieved a putt of 5.51m with the 3k. Shot Putt. Toby Nicholson competed in two of his possible three events and finished the 800 Metres in 3mins.01,4 secs and recorded 4.02 m. in the 3k. Shot Putt. Debra Ajayi clocked 12.4 secs in the Under 12 age group 75m. Sprint and cleared 2.19m in Long Jump before running the 600 Metres in a time of 3 mins. 02,3 secs. Two Under 10 "Gold Tops" made a good start to their outdoor athletics season. Lottie Blossom Amos was first in both the 50 Metres in 8.7 secs, and the 150 Metres in 28.4 secs. and cleared 3.04 m. in her first Long Jump competition. Millie Penson's early season marks were : 10.8 secs for 50 Metres, 8.65 m. for the Vortex (Whizzer) and 1.93m. in Long Jump. At Under 8 level Rupert Ellis ran 50 Metres in 12.1 secs. cleared 1.26m. in Long Jump and threw the Vortex a distance of 5.58m. and Caleb Tyler recorded 2.49m. in Long Jump and 10.29m. in the Vortex Throw. The second event in the Tommy Clay Track & Field Development Series is on Friday April 24th at 6-30pm with registration from 5-50pm. and includes Sprints, Hurdles and Middle Distance (800m. & 1500m.) events on the track with Long Jump, Triple Jump, Hammer, Shot, Discus and Vortex field events for specific age categories.