

Birmingham Sportshall League

NEWSLETTER (AUGUST 2013) – ISSUE 1

Welcome to the 1st Edition of the Newsletter which hopefully will run throughout the season.

The idea behind the concept is to keep you informed of outstanding results and issues arising. I am happy to receive articles, interviews and advertisements (subject to approval of committee). To submit please send to Chris Brook (Vice-Chairman) via e-mail (chris_brook@hotmail.com), commercial advertisement maybe charged to assist the running of the league.

Our first focal point is Phoebe White from Solihull & Small Heath AC; she emerged as future athletics star after winning the U15 All-Rounder competitions at the Aviva Sportshall Athletics UK Final; representing the Birmingham Sportshall League back in April of this year.



She joined an illustrious group of previous recipients of the prize, which includes sprinter Mark Lewis Francis, heptathlete Kelly Sotherton and long jumper Jade Surman. The All-Rounder event amalgamates an athlete's points to find the best individually skilled athlete in the country.

This year's win for Phoebe, was her 2nd in a row, only 4 other girls have gone on to retain her UK Sportshall All-Rounder title. We wish her all the best in the sport as she moves out of the qualifying age for the competition.

The Sportshall event sees the leading young athletes in an exciting team-based competition, which is starting back on Friday 18th October 2013 at our venue at Stockland Green Community Leisure Centre in Birmingham near Erdington. This season we will continue with our 5 meetings.

Sportshall is a competitive, almost quirky introduction to athletics for schoolchildren aged from nine to 15.

Please take time to look at our improved website or follow us on Twitter, Facebook or LinkedIn.

www.birminghamssportshall.com

Birmingham Sportshall League

Follow us on Twitter
@BhamSportshall

- + League Chairman – Mrs Sian Brook
- + Vice-Chairman – Mr Chris Brook
- + Treasurer – Sharon Jacks
- + Secretary – Lynne Moody
- + Welfare Officer – Tony Ashford
- + Other Committee Members –
Brian Holyfield, Phil McDonald, Stuart Paul,
Tessa Barnard, Liz Neville and Sharon Morris

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Sportshall was created in 1976 by George Bunner to introduce young people to athletics, encouraging those who may have been discouraged from training on dark winter nights by making most athletic events possible in a sports hall environment.



(George Bunner – Founder)

Janet Paul, a lifelong Birchfield Harrier and the Birmingham League founder; has introduced thousands of children from Birmingham and the West Midlands to the joys of sportshall athletics in the last quarter of a century and even received a prestigious national Torch Trophy Trust Award a few years ago;

The Award, presented by the Countess of Wessex at an Awards Ceremony in London, was only the twelfth made to an English athletics volunteer in 44 years. The Trust provides small bursaries to assist volunteers in sport and presents awards to individuals who have been identified as making an outstanding contribution as a volunteer in their chosen sport. The flaming torch symbolises its dedication to helping and recognising the efforts of volunteers in sport.

Mrs Paul joined Birchfield Harriers over sixty years ago when she was an eleven year old schoolgirl and says wryly: "It's the fault of two people, basically, that I'm still involved in athletics."

One was the late Mrs. Dorette Nelson-Neal OBE, such a famous Birchfield Harrier that one of the three grandstands at the Alexander Stadium in Perry Park is named in her memory.

... reflects Mrs Paul, whose current self-financing, five-club league attracts up to 250 youngsters on the first Friday evening of each month throughout the winter at Stockland Green Leisure Centre in Erdington...

Mrs Paul, whose two sons Stuart and son Andy are both Officers at Birchfield Harriers are still involved in Sportshall.

Current Team GB Superstar and High Jumper; Robbie Grabarz also competed at Sportshall as an 11-year-old onwards.

Kelly Sotherton, the 2004 Olympic heptathlon bronze medallist, won the final of Sportshall UK in 1992, and has never forgotten it.

"It's a massive platform for young athletes. Many have come through this and gone on to bigger and better things. We can use the 2012 Olympic Games to inspire youngsters, schools and clubs. Many won't make it into 2012, but they can make it to the Games in 2016, and that must be part of the legacy we create," she said.

Lewis-Francis was another who won Sportshall, in 1998. He was 15 then, and not long afterwards he sprinted to 100m gold in the World Youth Championships.

Others to come through the event are triple jumpers Jade Johnson and Nathan Douglas. What it remains, apart from a great deal of fun, is an indicator of all-round athletic talent on the rise.

Birmingham Sportshall League Key Dates

- ✚ 11th September 2013 (Annual General Meeting @ Solihull & Small Heath AC)
- ✚ 18th October 2013 (1st Sportshall Meeting)
- ✚ 15th November 2013 (2nd Sportshall Meeting)
- ✚ 13th December 2013 (3rd Sportshall Meeting)
- ✚ 24th January 2014 (4th Sportshall Meeting)
- ✚ 7th March 2014 (5th Sportshall Meeting)

Each meeting start at 7.30pm at Stockland Green Community Leisure Centre on Slade Road (Erdington, Birmingham B23 7JH).

Good Luck for the season

Yours in Sports

Chris Brook (Vice-Chairman)

