

Good results in national league

6th June 2011

# Athletes hit marks

TWO Channel Islands records, one Jersey Spartan AC record and third place in their first national athletics league outing this season for the men's team plus fifth for the ladies.

No wonder that coach Andrew Winnie was 'ecstatic' after his Channel Islands Sportingbet squad returned home following the men's debut in the British Athletics League, Division III, in Glasgow on Saturday. While a depleted ladies' team richly deserved to finish above the relegation zone in Division III of the UK Women's Athletics League at Kingston yesterday.

'I was particularly pleased for the women,' Winnie said. 'We only had nine athletes when it should have been 15.'

## Exceptional

'As for the men - third place was exceptional considering this was the first time of competition after moving up a division.'

'I don't like singling out individual athletes from either squad but we had

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new Island and Channel Islands records, plus more than one PB, and some of our athletes, like Guernsey's

Louise Perrio, ran in the 3,000m (finishing second in the A-string), won the 1,500m B-string and was second in the A-string steeplechase, all in one day!

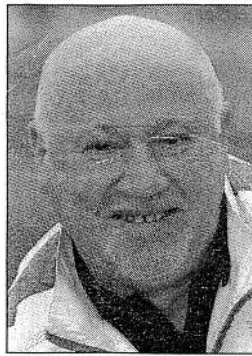
'All the girls are walking wounded at the moment.'

The women's squad, in particular, was depleted because of school exams, half-term holidays and university, and even the men's team consisted of a miserly 12 athletes.

However, some of them performed far, far better than they could have hoped so early in the season. Take, for example, Jersey's hammer thrower, Donnie Rockett, who destroyed his own CI record of 49.25m with a colossal throw of 52.70m.

Meanwhile Ross Jeffs broke Scott Roberts' JSAC 1995 long jump record of 6.80m with 6.83m, although both records have yet to be confirmed.

**(Cont on page 45)**



**Andrew Winnie**

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Not to be outdone, Guernsey's Kylie Robilliard broke the CI women's 100m record with a time of 12.09 sec which, as Winnie said with a smile of satisfaction, was 'much faster than a lot of men!'

Jersey's Peter Irving added valuable points to the CI team's total by winning the B-string 400m hurdles, sprint hurdles and 400m. Claire Wilson finished second in both the A-string 800m and 1,500m yesterday, her points ensuring that her team didn't finish in the bottom two (of eight) which was a scenario Winnie was dreading.

'I have nothing but admiration for both teams,' he said. 'Neither finished in the relegation zone - which was a fantastic achievement. To say this has been a hectic weekend would be an understatement.'

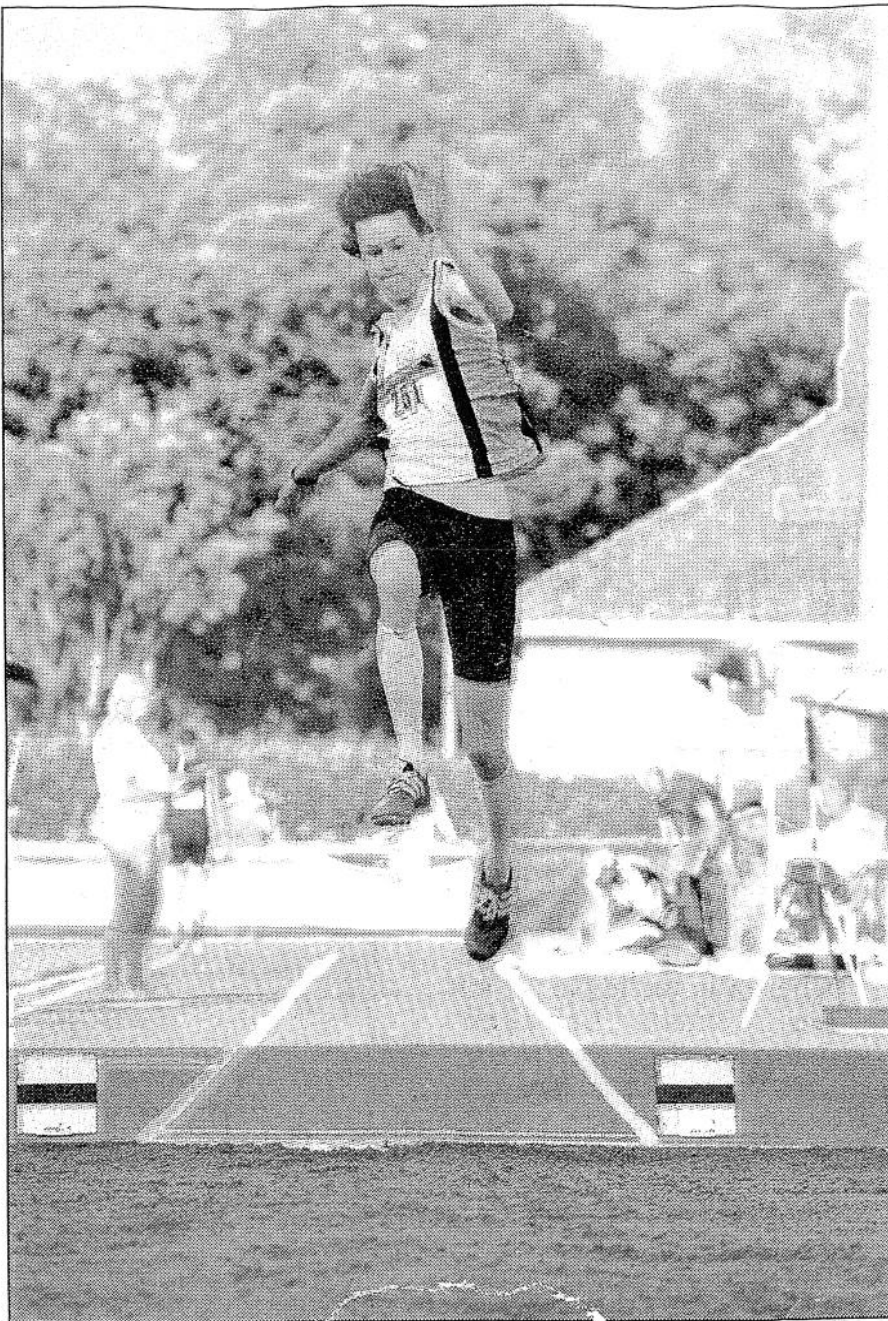
'For myself and Sandra (Winnie) we had to fly first to Edinburgh, where we stayed

the night, before traveling to Glasgow; saying goodbye to the men's squad who travelled home on the Saturday before we joined the women's team at Kingston. Herne Hill Harriers, the host club, won the women's competition and Glasgow won the men's; but that's usual for teams, if they're competing at home.'

Hopefully the Islands will be sending a full complement of athletes to their next league fixtures on 2 July: Crawley (women's Division III) and Yeovil (men's Division III).

Jersey squad members, Men: Zane Duquemin, Peter Irving, Sam Dawkins, James Cunningham, Donnie Rockett, Ross Jeffs. Women: Gemma Dawkins, Kathryn Rothwell, Sophie Twinam, Nicole Twinam, Claire Wilson, Helen Butler, Hazel Le Cornu.

National League III men: 1, Glasgow, 379pts; 2, Kingston: 360pts; 3, Channel Islands, 281pts; 4, Swansea, 269pts; 5, Yeovil, 253pts; 6, Havering, 245pts; 7, Cambridge, 217pts; 8, Leeds, 170pts. Ladies' results not yet released.



**Ross Jeffs improved the JSAC long jump record to 6.83 metres**