



South of England Indoor Championships Part 1 – Under 13. 15 & 17s Lee Valley Sat 13 & Sun 14th January

The indoor season started in style as sprinter Joel Ajayi struck gold in impressive style at the South of indoor championships for the Under 13, Under 15 and Under 17 age groups at Lee Valley at the weekend.

The 16-year-old from Hornchurch had shown outdoor promise last summer when making two national 100m finals but had never previously competed indoors but quickly made his marks winning his 60m heat in 6.90s – to not only break the club Under 17 and Under 20 records but also the club senior record dating back 20 years. A semi-final win in 6.92s saw him line up for the final as clear favourite and he did not disappoint, not only improving his club records set a few hours before but also the Championship Best performance with his winning 6.84s clocking to take U17 men's 60m gold. The quality of his performance was such that his winning time was the joint sixth fastest ever time by a UK Under 17.

There were no other podium places for the other club athletes competing but several promising performances. Jack Hignett was closest to a medal placing joint fifth in the U17 men's high jump, while Maggie Smith was closed to her best in finishing sixth in the U17 Women's equivalent. Freddie Rowe just missed out on an 800m final places as he finished a close second with only the five heat winners and the fastest second place athlete progressing.

The other five club athletes in action gained useful experience at this level and will hope to improve in later indoor competitions.

SEAA Results

Under 17 Women: 200m: Heats. Amy Mansell 27.68s; High Jump 6th Maggie Smith 1.55m; Long Jump: 7th Amy Mansell 4.40m; SP: 10th Amy Mansell 8.99m; PV Scarlett Woods NM

Under 17 Men: 60m **1st** Joel Ajayi 6.84s **CBP** (Heat: 6.90s; Semi: 6.92s) **u17, u20 & senior record**; Heat: Thomas Backham 7.73s; 200m: Heat: Thomas Backham 24.93s; 800m: Heats: Freddie Rowe 2:02.88s; Shea Sweeney 2:13.13; High Jump; =5th Jack Hignett 1.75m; **Under 15 Boys:** 60m Hurdles: Heat: Oliver Cambridge 10.21s

