

Hammer throwers dominated the action at Mansfield's first track and field meeting of the summer. An open meeting, promoted by Mansfield Harriers, attracted the UK's leading throwers and they didn't disappoint.

Alex Smith, son of former Commonwealth medallist Dave Smith, and competing for Sale Harriers, produced a personal best performance of 72.92 m, a throw that ranks twelfth on the UK all time list and which is the longest throw by a UK athlete for nearly nine years.

Smith was joined in the over 70 metre club by Sheffield's Matt Lambley who also produced a new personal best of 70.72m. Both Smith and Lambley recorded Commonwealth Games qualifying distances.

Six additional throwers produced performances of over 60 metres including Blackburn's Sophie Hitchon who set a new Women's UK Under 20 record of 65.83m, surpassing the qualifying distance for the Commonwealth Games later this year in Delhi and taking herself into fifth spot on the UK women's all time list.

Hull's Abbi Carter also used the strong field to spur her along to a qualifying distance for the European Youth Olympics. Carter threw a new personal best of 53.41m

Ashley Gilder from Notts AC, leading Under 15 Boy in the UK last year, showed no sign of nerves as he moved up to the Under 17 ranks. Gilder produced a new best performance of 65.73m, extending his lead at the top of this season's U17 rankings.

Elsewhere in the field there were double early season PB's for Mansfield's Steve Woolley – throwing 40.93m in the VM50 Hammer and 11.59m in the Shot. Daughter Becky, in her first outing as an U17, threw 8.52m in the Shot and 32.62m in the Javelin.

Father and son Lee and Thomas Peters ran each other close in the Javelin, Lee throwing 54.86m and Thomas recording anew PB of 54.86m.

In far from ideal blustery conditions on the track there was a double home victory for Sam Cordin, taking a comfortable win over 100m in 11.4 before going on to success over 200m in 22.8.

One of the closest finishes of the day came over 800m where local lads Martin Cook and Chris Brown fought it out, Cook, more accustomed to the shorter distance of 400m, managed to hold out to take victory in 1:57.9, Brown just behind in 1:58.1.

Davig Lagerberg, still running as an U17, wasn't daunted about running in a race with older athletes and powered to an excellent victory over 400m, dipping under 50 seconds for the first time to record 49.7.

Stuart King took the honours over 3000m, winning comfortably in 9:11.8. Robyn Foster came home first in her debut over 300m, clocking a highly respectable time of 44.5.