

# Sport

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Hampshire Track and Field Championships – Guernsey win 24 medals including 10 golds

## Brothers' triple gold strike

### ATHLETICS

by Matt Lihou

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ALASTAIR CHALMERS moved a step closer to following in his brother Cameron's footsteps of being a Great Britain international after a weekend to remember in Hampshire.

Both of the Chalmers siblings shone at the county championships, as did a number of other Guernsey athletes, with the island winning 24 medals – 10 of them gold – over the two-day event.

The likes of young sprinters Amelia Lees and Hannah Lesbirel stood out, as did long jumper Ben Solway, but it was the Chalmers who stole the headlines.

Older sibling Cameron was always the big favourite to win the under-20s 400m race, but he did so in a time of 47.26sec. that broke the 31-year-old championship record of athletics legend Roger Black in the process.

And despite being just 16, younger brother Alastair also went sub-50 in winning the under-17s version, in a time of 49.59 that made it a memorable double for him.

That is because his winning 52.86 time in the 400m hurdles – his favoured event – was inside the qualifying standard for the inaugural European Youth Championships later this summer.

If selected, he will replicate his brother in being selected for Team GB.

'Both of them had performances that will be big confidence boosters for them moving forward ahead of some big events this summer,' said athletics development officer Tom Druce.

'They both executed their races superbly, as did several other members of the Guernsey team across the ages and it was a very successful weekend.'

Another athlete in the frame for GB selection this summer is Ed Mason, who was just 0.86sec. outside of the qualifying time in winning the 2km steeplechase with 6-05.86 ahead of training partner Dan Galpin, while Alex Rowe won the under-17s title.

Sam Wallbridge and Toby Glass both won silver medals over their respective 400m hurdles events, which was a feat replicated by Josh Allaway and Lesbirel in their 100m and 200m events.

There was more 200m success as Teddy Le Clerc took under-20s bronze in a new PB of 22.98, while Guernsey's fastest resident female sprinter, Abi Galpin, took fifth place in the under-17s final with 26.17.

She was extremely unlucky not to come away from the 100m with a new PB as the wind crept



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up to +2.2m/s on what was an otherwise neutral-winded Saturday, meaning her 12.69 will not officially overhaul her 12.87 best from last summer.

Galpin's training partner Amelia Lees had even worse luck with the tailwind in her under-15s 200m – but she was not going to let it spoil her day as she returned home with a gold medal.

The 14-year old's time of 26.50 was almost a full 2sec. faster than she had ever run before and indeed over 2sec. faster than she clocked in the same championships in 2015.

A hurdler with English Schools aspirations who fell foul of the temperamental electronic timing

was Rhiannon Dowinton, who saw the timing system fail for both her heat and final. Fellow under-15 competitor Eve Bott claimed a bronze in the high jump having cleared a new PB of 1.50m.

Ben Solway was the male star of the younger age groups as he took two titles and leapt to a new PB of 4.66 in the under-13s long jump.

He could not improve on his classy showing the previous weekend over the sprint hurdles, but still stopped the clock in a high quality time of 12.97.

There were plenty of starlets in the under-13s girls including Vicky Hancock who took an 800m silver in a great time of 2-34.

Making a name for himself: Cameron Chalmers, seen winning the recent British Universities title. (Picture by Mark Shearman, 14952514)



Into the Euro mix: Alastair Chalmers is now ranked No. 1 under-17 in Britain for the 400m hurdles. (14952517)