**Southern Athletics League 2018 – Report for AGM, February 2019**

Our senior team bounced back from relegation into Division 2W in 2017 with a strong overall performance. BMHAC finished in 3rd place, equal on league points with 2nd place Bournemouth but losing out on promotion back to Division 1 by a mere 2.5 match points.

Competition in the SAL has been especially strong in recent years and this was also the case in Division 2W.

BMHAC finished 1st in 4 of the 5 matches with a good turnout and strong performances from both men and women. Match 4 saw BMHAC compete against the other two leading clubs; local rivals Woking, who hosted the match, and Bournemouth. Woking came out on top with Basingstoke finishing 3rd, just 3 points behind 2nd place Bournemouth. This match clashed with the English Schools Championship so, whilst we were able to fill most of the events, we missed a number of our high performing U17 and U20 athletes, tipping the balance against us on the day. This proved to be the decisive match.

Support from our athletes was outstanding. They were enthusiastic, committed, and determined. Our multi-event athletes made a significant contribution, both men and women. Special mention to Ryan Bonifas who put in strong performances across a range of track and field events in all 5 matches.

Team managers encouraged contributions from seasoned athletes as well as junior athletes transitioning into senior competition, creating a blend experience and youth. Team spirit was particularly strong, evidenced by a very strong turn out for our final match in Plymouth.

Josh Strudwick and Glen Jepson did an excellent job managing the mens team and made a significant contribution to team spirit. Sue Scouler-Davison stepped down as ladies team Manager after 5 years and hands responsibility to Devon Mather and Maddie Deadman. Sue will continue to offer support and guidance.

Finally, a big ‘thank you’ to all our officials for their excellent support and professional contributions. Our officials are highly respected, not only by our own athletes but by those we compete against and the volunteers we work with at host clubs. Their support is very much appreciated.