

Junior all-stars

ATHLETICS

# Chip off the old block for Gregory youngsters

**FAMILY FUN:** Jack Gregory shows off his long jump talent. Inset (from left to right): the Gregory family - Gail, Jack, Alicia and Dean. Photos: Carl Oak



## THE jumping genes seem to be woven into the DNA of the Belton-based Gregory family.

Two of Scunthorpe and District Athletic Club's latest young starlets to come to the fore, Jack and Alicia Gregory, are following fast in the footsteps of their parents, Dean and Gail.

Mum and dad both competed at national standard for Rotherham Harriers Athletics Club in their younger days.

Dean was capable of jumping an impressive seven metres in the long jump as a senior and took part in the English Schools Championships as a schoolboy.

Gail was one of the top 100m athletes in the country as a youngster and won a national bronze medal in the 60m hurdles as a 14-year-old.

Jack, 10, has certainly shown his intentions to try to replicate the success of his parents after a storming start to the season.

In the long jump, Jack is currently ranked sixth in the country after his personal best of

by David Freezer

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Dean Gregory

4.00m at the Cleethorpes Open last month.

That came after a successful day of sprinting at the Humberside Track and Field League meeting at Scunthorpe's own Quibell Park, which moved him to the top of the country's junior rankings.

A personal best time of 11.4 seconds in the 80m moved Jack up to second in the UK in the

under-11 rankings and 11th at under-13 level.

And another personal best of 21.1 seconds in the 150m saw Jack top in the under-11s and 17th at under-13 level.

At just eight years old the national rankings are not quite within reach for his sister Alicia, but her quick early form has left coaches at Scunthorpe and District impressed.

“They both absolutely love it, they can't get enough,” dad Dean told Junior all-stars.

“Jack has done really well this year since he started competing seriously.

“He has competed in five meetings and won something like 15 gold medals so far.

“He also won the Humber county championships for his age group in the 80m, 150m and 600m a couple of weeks ago.

“But the long jump event was a couple of weeks before and we didn't know about entering them so he didn't win that.

“But he took part in the event alongside and would have won if he was entered because he was

jumping further than boys older than him.

“Alicia is running quicker than Jack did at her age as well so she is doing well too, and she has started doing the long jump.”

But does Dean believe that his children's potential is a result of his and Gail's talents when they were younger?

“They might have got it from me,” Dean added, “but their mum was a lot quicker than I was!

“I could jump to a pretty good national standard, about seven metres, and that was my main event but I also threw the javelin.

“I never had any massive achievements but I was up to a pretty good standard.

“Gail maybe achieved more than me because she was ranked as one of the best 100m runners in the country at about 12.

“And I believe her best time is still one of the all-time best times at that age group.

“I competed at English Schools level so hopefully that is the sort of level my two can reach.

“But I just want them to enjoy themselves and keep competing.”

## JUNIOR SWIMMING

### CASA Green lead the way at Grimsby gala

ROUND two of the Lincolnshire League proved to be a successful one for Cleethorpes and Scunthorpe Aquatics Green.

CASA Green was made up entirely of Scunthorpe swimmers at Grimsby, with a second place finish just reward for a day in the pool.

The first event saw Aisley Leeman return to competition after a year's break, and in the open 100 metre freestyle he raced to victory in a time of 56.45 seconds, winning by over a second.

This was mirrored by Jasmin Kirk in the girls's event, gaining CASA Green six more points.

The boys 10-and-under free relay swam their way to second, while the girls took third.

The boys 14-and-under medley relay team fought tooth and nail against CASA White, pushing them into third place, a result highlighted by 11-year-old Scott Zimmerman, who was swimming in a higher age group in the event to join Adam Vaughan, Josh Jones and Kieran Skinner.

The girls 14-and-under team also had 11-year-old Ellie Chafer in their quartet, finishing a commendable fifth.

Jack Cowling and Ellie achieved personal bests in the 50m backstroke, coming in second and third respectively.

Steve Vaughan and Lauren York both brought in more points for CASA Green, finishing second and first respectively.

The 10-and-under 50m butterfly followed, with Travis Johnson in second place and Amy Baker winning the event by an incredible eight seconds.

Josh and Becci Foster competed in the 14-and-under 100m freestyle and both swimmers recorded personal bests, which was particularly impressive for Becci as she had been competing at Ponds Forge in Sheffield earlier in the day and returned especially to take part in the gala.

Scott and Yasmin Callaghan were the 12-and-under breaststroke swimmers and finished third and fifth respectively.

The girls open relay maintained the momentum with Emma Sanderson, Rhiannon Haber, Lauren and Jasmin Kirk winning comfortably.

William East, Jonathan Manchester, Travis and newcomer Ryan Connor were third in the boys 10-and-under relay, with the girls team of Amy, Eve McGrory, Lauren Gwynne and India Cowell pushing CASA White into second place.

Josh and Lauren Callaghan entered the 100m backstroke race, Lauren swimming a personal best and Josh taking maximum points.

Alan Snowden took third place for his 100m butterfly display, while Lauren finished ahead of the pack in a personal best time in the same event.

Kieran Skinner won the 14-and-under 100m breaststroke by a massive 10 seconds and Finley Fox also took maximum points in the 12-and-under 50m butterfly in a personal best.

Eve took second place in the 50m breaststroke, also in a new best time.

Kieran then proceeded to take maximum points in his favourite event, the 100m butterfly, with a five-second win over his nearest opponent.

Becci shaved three seconds off her time for the same event to gain third.

Sven Schygiol narrowly missed out on first place in the 50m freestyle, finishing in a time of 32.91 seconds.

The men's medley relay team were beaten by Vulcans to first place by just 0.1 seconds.

However, the girls replied with an exciting race against Grantham, leaving Rhiannon to swim the last 50 metres and anchor the team home to victory.

More firsts went to Travis and Amy in their 50m backstroke, and also to the boys's 12-and-under medley relay team.

In the final event of the gala, the 12-and-under girls medley team claimed fourth place to seal second place overall for CASA Green, and a place in the final of round three.



**ON FORM:** Lauren York.