

2023 BC MASTERS INDOOR ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2023 BC Masters Indoor Championships were held on February 24-26, at the Tournament Capital Centre on the campus of Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops. Unfortunately the Canadian Masters Indoor Championships were held on this same weekend in Toronto. This scheduling conflict plus the winter storm which made driving hazardous on the Coquihalla Highway, were reasons that more athletes did not compete in this meet. Despite the small turnout, there were many outstanding performances.

Canadian records were broken by world champion Marek Glowacki in the M80 weight throw (14.85m) and by Patty Szybunka in the W65 60m hurdles (11.47). Marek just missed another Canadian record in the shot put by only 5 cm but his put easily broke the BC record. Including the hurdles, Patty broke five BC W65 records in total. Monica Pomietlarz tied her own Canadian W60 high jump record (1.40m). Monica just brushed the bar on her final attempt at 1.45m.

In total, 23 new BC Masters records were established and one tied. In addition to her hurdles record, Patty added four more BC Masters records in the 60m, 200m, long jump and triple jump. Juliette Christie broke two W60 records while running strong races in the 800m and 1500m. Karl Mey excited his home town when he broke the M85 200m record with a strong sprint to the finish line. He broke another BC record in the triple jump.

Thirteen athletes each broke one BC Masters record. Cindy O'Brien Hugh and Jeannette Van Den Bulk broke records in the 60m hurdles. Cindy bettered her own W60 record while Jeannette added a new W45 record. Ian Sharp (M40) and Eric Hurlen (M45) had a great race while breaking records in the 800m. Corri Fell, who just entered the Masters category, broke the W35 60m record while 81 year-old Pat Harton broke the M80 3000m record. Besides Marek, three more athletes broke BC records in the weight throw. Nicole Carlos broke the W45 record and missed the Canadian record by only 5cm. Christine Dalglish broke the W55 record and Kathy Brand bettered Hall of Fame Olga Kotelko's W80 record. Bob Currie broke the M70 1500m race walk record.

Setting new records were Renate Cheetham in the W85 3000m race walk, Miriam Dziadyk in the W50 pole vault and Matthew Brown in the M45 pentathlon.

Special thanks to the Kamloops Track and Field Club for another well-run meet. Also thank you to all of the volunteers who unselfishly give up their time for the athletes.