

Javelin battle of the generations

WHEN one of Britain's brightest young javelin talents, Matti Mortimore, took on veteran Roald Bradstock earlier this week in a battle of the generations, there was not a spear in sight.

The implements ranged from a kitchen sink to a paper aeroplane in a battle of the generations in which experience ultimately trounced youth.

The contest, filmed for a television programme, saw Bradstock, a 47-year-old double Olympian for Great Britain, now resident in the United States, challenge the UK under-15 record-holder to a "throws decathlon".

Mortimore, who is now 16, is one of the subjects of a series called the McCain Track and Field Show, which will air on Sunday mornings this summer.

Although Bradstock, who competed for Britain at the 1984 and 1988 Olympics, stands fifth on the UK all-time list with 83.84m, he has also become known for hurling unusual objects a long way.



Roald Bradstock and Matti Mortimore: threw a variety of strange items

In the course of winning the contest 8-3 on Monday, he impressively threw a vinyl LP record 112.10m. He reckons he therefore may have set a record for throwing a "record".

Among the other remarkable distances recorded was 33.65m for a paper aeroplane – an appropriate implement given the setting was an airfield in Westbury, Buckinghamshire.

He also threw a snooker cue 60.04m

and a disk-shaped piece of chocolate 89.00m.

However, Mortimore, fresh from setting a PB with the under-17 javelin of 68.88m last weekend, fought back with wins in the welly, golf ball and toothpick rounds but when the time came to throw the water balloon, it exploded, leaving the athlete 31 years his senior the chance to record a tactical 3.80m.

"I think he was expecting to walk away with it but part of my idea was to show it's not just about youth, it's about experience and to do with different ways of throwing difficult objects," said Bradstock. "But it was tricky trying to stay warm for three hours and keeping having to wait for aeroplanes that were taking off and landing."

Bradstock, who is known as "The Olympic Picasso" because of his flair for art (see www.roaldbradstock.com), is no stranger to the unusual.

A 1985 clip of him called "World's longest standing throw ever?" is on

Not just a sink

ROALD BRADSTOCK did not fly to Britain from his home in the United States just to throw a kitchen sink and a few other items. He was here to pilot an initiative for the Youth Sport Trust and the scheme will be rolled out nationwide next year.

Bradstock, a keen artist, formulated a cross-curricular education programme combining sport, art and technology and took it to a sport college in Buckinghamshire and one in Hertfordshire.

"This initial test run was very successful and is now going to be expanded over the next year – the details are being worked out now. It is very exciting," he said.

YouTube and, whether or not his 75m claim is accurate, it has attracted 300,000 views. A clip of him throwing an iPod more than 150 yards is also popular on YouTube.

However, on the more serious side, Bradstock is enjoying an excellent season as he takes root in the M45 age category. After last year qualifying for his seventh Olympic Trials on either side of the Atlantic, he has improved further.

"I saw myself on TV last year and decided I needed to lose some weight so I lost 20 kilos, increased my strength and I'm throwing further than I did last year," he said.

Bradstock has this year thrown 72.49m and last weekend, in his first competition in the UK for 15 years, recorded 69.63m in the Southern League at Sandy.

"I'm really pleased and looking forward to next year and 2012," he said. "My goal is to make the Olympic Trials in 2012 as a 50-year-old."

■ Throws 'decathlon'			
Item	Bradstock	Mortimore	
Snooker cue	60.04m	53.65m	
Welly	25.00m	40.60m	
Water balloon	3.80m	Exploded	
Mullet	33.10m	27.40m	
Golf ball	97.60m	108.90m	
Guinness Book of Records (1976)	50.55m	39.75m	
Toothpick	13.30m	15.10m	
Paper aeroplane	33.65m	2.80m	
Choc disk	89.00m	39.23m	
LP record	112.10 m	13.00m	
Kitchen sink	14.40m	12.40m	

GB team for Mannheim announced

SIXTEEN British athletes will compete in a junior international in Germany this weekend.

The Mannheim International will serve as preparation for the European Junior Championships in Novi Sad, Serbia, next month.

Among the team are Chris Clarke, Curtis Griffith-Parker, Junior Ejehu and Shaunagh Brown, who competed at last year's IAAF World Junior Championships.

UKA team leader Alison Wyeth said: "A number of key athletes in our junior women's relay squad were unable to compete in Mannheim this year due to

exams falling on or close to this weekend, reducing our team size – but we know that those able to attend will make the most of this valuable opportunity."

■ Men

100m: Andrew Robertson (Sale Harriers); Deji Tobais (Windsor Slough Eton & Hounslow); **200m:** Junior Ejehu (Woodford Green with Essex Ladies); Antonio Infantino (Shaftesbury Barnet); **400m:** Chris Clarke (Marshall Milton Keynes); Louis Persent (Colchester Harriers); Nathan Wake (Herts Phoenix); **110mH:** Lawrence Clarke (Windsor Slough Eton & Hounslow); **400mH:** Niall Flannery (Gateshead); Jack Green

(Kent); **Shot:** Curtis Griffith-Parker (Cambridge Harriers); **Discus:** Curtis Griffith-Parker; **Javelin:** Daniel Pembroke (Windsor Slough Eton & Hounslow); **4x100m:** Eugene Ayanful (Woodford Green with Essex Ladies); Junior Ejehu; Andrew Robertson; Olufunmi Sobodu (Worthing); Deji Tobais; Antonio Infantino; **4x400m:** Chris Clarke; Niall Flannery; Jack Green; Louis Persent; Nathan Wake.

■ Women

400mH: Lauren Bouchard (Chelmsford); **Shot:** Shaunagh Brown (Blackheath & Bromley); **Discus:** Shaunagh Brown.



Dan Pembroke: part of squad for Mannheim

Keith Mayhew