



Wirral A C Newsletter

No 179 Dec 2010

Editor: L J Carroll

Seniors Second in Liverpool&District League

Having finished third in all three league races, the Senior Men achieved the impossible by ending up second in the Liverpool&District Cross Country league, a mere 2 points ahead of a resurgent LPS. This apparent miracle was the result of both LPS and Southport Waterloo having one poor race contributing to their aggregate score which determines the final league placings. Matthew Donnery confirmed his Arrowe Park form by leading the team home at Sefton and Beacon Parks in 6th and 4th. In the Euro trial race at Sefton, Jordan Donnelly was 30secs adrift of Matthew in 8th, with Phil Peerless showing a return to form with 14th. Mark Hulmston (29th), Peter Scarrett (34th) and Steve Spence (37th) completed the count for third behind Liverpool H and Southport Waterloo, with LPS *sans* their U20s, a distant fourth. In a depleted field at Beacon Park, Peter Scarrett (13th) was second up and Will Ferguson made the first 20 when the guests were removed. Graham Ratcliffe (24th), Tony Devoy (37th) and Stephen Laker (39th) made up the counting six for another third behind Liverpool H and LPS, just enough hold off the LPS bid for second league spot.

There were encouraging performances in the younger age groups at Sefton Park, with pride of place going to the Tarver sisters, Sophie finishing third in the U13 and Hanna fifth in the U17. Ieuan Kearney and Ben O'Connor came 10th and 13th in an U11 field of 106, while Dan Jarvis also made the first twenty in the U15.

Youngsters Star in the Manchester League

The U11 boys lead the Manchester league after three races. Ieuan Kearney shares the first individual place after finishing 3rd at Sherdley Park and 4th at a frozen Boggart Hole Clough. Ben O'Connor lies third after improving from 8th to 2nd at the same venues, with Arran Kearney and Sam Cross completing the counters.

The U15 Girls were led home by Fiona Nuttall with Emily Kearney second count at Sherdley, but the positions were reversed as Emily finished 3rd at Boggart Hole. Heather Nuttall and Fiona Stuart shared third counter spot.

Sarah Kearney kept the Senior flag flying with 10th and 11th in the Womens race, second F35 in both races.

Hanna Tarver had an easy win in the Sherdley U17 Womens race and saw off the majority of the U15 Boys in the combined race in the process.



The Award Winners at the Presentation Evening with Mrs Barbara Keenan, who presented the trophy for Achievement in Sprints dedicated to the memory of Phil to the first winner, Sam Landsborough.

Left to right: James Taylor, Amy Tarver, Hanna Tarver, Sophie Tarver, James Pinnington, Paul Derbyshire, Ieuan Kearney, Mike Carter, Mariella Catton, Harry Sutton, Mrs Barbara Keenan with the bouquet, Rebecca Blacklock, Sam Landsborough, Kristian Brown, Lauren Sharp (partly hidden), Nick Jones (only hair showing), Ryan Higginson, Laura McGoldrick, Megan Price, Georgia Rowan and Hannah Jones.

Borders League Report

The second race at Capenhurst saw the Men take over at the top of Div 1 and for good measure provide the winner in Alan Woods and third with Phil Peerless. Mark Hulmston was 14th while Steve Spence (31st) led the rest home as the team packed 7 into the next 35 places for a convincing win.

The Ladies finished 3rd, led home by Sarah Kearney (6th) with Lisa Grantham (14th), Aimee Bartley (22nd) and Ali Lewis (33rd) keeping the score low enough to move the team up to third overall.

Our race at Hoylake was declared a non-scoring event because of the slippy going caused by persistence of the frost in places on the promenade and embankment and the delay in the start for the same reason. Ben Costello (12th) and Phil Robertson (13th) led the Mens team home with Lisa Grantham our first Lady. While the team positions have not been published as they will not count, we did in fact win the Mens event and finished third in the Ladies.

This was a frustrating outcome for runners and organisers alike and highlights the uncertainties of winter road racing. Thanks go to the team of more than a dozen who staffed the finish, marshalled and provided refreshments.



John Oxton with guest of honour, Beth Tweddle, at the Merseyside Sports dinner at the Adelphi on Nov 12th. As reported in the June/July Newsletter John won the Lifetime Achievement Award from Wirral Sports Forum and attended the dinner as Wirral's nominee for the Merseyside honour. John was nominated by Julie Money for his contributions to our sport as athlete and coach over 50 years..

Photo: Julie Money

Club Vests

The official stockists of club vests are:

Runners Sport & Leisurewear

66, Bebington Road, New Ferry.

Vests : £13 ; Green shorts : £10.

They will deal by mail – 0151 644 8384

Coming soon.....

Dec 26	Chester Walls	Chester	11am
Jan 2	Manchester CC League Open Indoor Meet	Stockport Sports City	
Jan 8	County CC Champs	Stadt Moers Pk	
Jan 15	Merseyside Schools	Wavertree	
Jan 15/16	Northern Indoor Champs	EIS, Sheffield	
Jan 23	4 Villages Half Marathon	Helsby	
Jan 29	Northern CC Champs	Sunderland	
Feb 5	Northern Masters Indoors Merseyside Schools CC	EIS, Sheffield TBA	
Feb 6	L&D CC Champs	Clarke Gardens	
Feb 13	Borders Road League	West Cheshire	
Feb 19	English National CC	Alton Towers	
Feb 27	Wirral AC Senior Champs	Arrowe Pk	11am
Mar 5	Inter Counties	Birmingham	
Mar 12	Northern Schools	Stockpot	
Mar 13	Borders Road League	Mold	
Mar 19	English Schools CC	Nottingham	
Mar 20	Northern 12/6 stage relays	Catterick	
Mar 27	Borders Road League	Deeside College	

C C Championship Entry Deadlines

A reminder for coaches and team managers.

The entries for the National at Alton Towers **must** be with Leo Carroll by Jan 2nd and for the Northern in Sunderland by Jan 5th. Only those with an up-to-date registration with England Athletics can be entered.

The Merseyside are due in by Dec 17th

Merseyside CC Champs Time Table

The schedule at Stadt Moers Park on Jan 8th is the same as previous years

11.00	U13 Girls.	11.20	U13 Boys
11.40	U15 Girls	12.00	U15 Boys
12.25	U17/Jun Women	12.50	U17 Men
01.15	Sen Women	02.00	Jun/sen Men

Wirral AC Club Champs will be decided within all races except the Seniors.

Athletic Shorts....

◆ Graham Ratcliffe represented England in the M55 competition at the British and Irish International held in Dublin on Nov 13th. Despite his training being limited by a back injury recently, he finished 13th overall and 4th Englishman home as the team took second place behind the hosts. We will be adding his name to the Masters Honours Board in recognition of this well-deserved honour.

◆ We are taking booking for the Centenary Dinner at the Leverhulme Hotel, Port Sunlight, on Saturday, May 14th. Ron Hill has agreed to be the guest speaker at the event. Tickets are £35 per person and can be booked through Julie Gibson: Tel: 0151 200 7252 email : julie.gibson60@ntlworld.com