



# Wirral A C Newsletter

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Editor: L J Carroll

## Hanna Tarver on Song

**H**anna Tarver kicked off the serious half of the cross country season with a run in an England vest in the IAAF U20 event at the UK Cross Challenge in Cardiff on Jan 15th. She was the fourth England runner to finish in 5th place overall, a very satisfactory outcome for her first representative race at this level. She confirmed her form with a confident 4th place in the Northern U20 Championships at Pontefract, an encouraging run for her first year in this age group.

Hanna's run at Pontefract was the best Wirral performance, in a day of varying fortunes for club teams. The best outcome came in the U15 Boys with 6th place, despite losing James Taylor in mid race when he was in the first ten. In his absence at the tape, Niall Flanagan led the team home in 33rd, supported by Will Patterson (60), Christian White (62) and Charlie Quinn (80) for a total of 235. The third team scored 150, so even with a healthy James Taylor, we would not have picked up any medals. No less than 13 Wirral vests crossed the line in the U13 Boys, the first worn by Mike Smith (42nd). Alex McBain (56), Ieuan Kearney (73) and Gabriel Cooper (80) completed the count as the team finished 7th.

The Senior Men were well below full strength closing in 33rd, at least maintaining our third Merseyside spot – see below. Mark Hulmston was first up in 153rd, with Kev Buxton (245), Tony Devoy (281), Simon Fox (354), Will Ferguson (393) and Nick Wilson (468) completing the counting six.

We started a team in the U15 Girls, but failed to close after Heather Nuttall carried off the course with a severely sprained ankle. Sophie Tarver was first up in 17th, a solid run in her first year in the age group, followed by two more first years, Aileen Kearney (97) and Nicola Harris (110). In the U17 Women, Emily Kearney confirmed her Merseyside form with 20th place. She, Fiona Nuttall (54) and Lauren Brett (62) will all be eligible to run next year, hopefully with a fourth counter. Best of the rest was Sarah Kearney with 55th in the Senior Women, Richard Evans, 48th in the U17 Men and Jon-Seymour 44th in the U20 Men.

## Two Merseyside Team Titles at Sherdley Park

The U13 Girls sprang the surprise of the day in the Merseyside County Championships, placing 4 in the first 7 to deny Liverpool Harriers the team title for the first time since 1994. Beth Foster led them home in 3rd, with Hanna Das (4th), Olivia Waring (5th) and Juliet Hodder (7th) in support. The second team win came in the more familiar territory of the U15 Boys, from Southport Waterloo and Liverpool Harriers. James Taylor picked up the silver medal with Niall Flanagan, Will Patterson and Christian White filling 6th to 8th for a convincing win.

U13 Boys, U15 Girls and U17 Men and Women all took silver with individual medals for Sophie Tarver (2nd, U15) and Emily Kearney (2nd, U17).

The Senior Men finished a comfortable 3rd, though well adrift of Liverpool H and Southport Waterloo. Matt Donnery was first up in 9th, with John Hunt (18), Mark Hulmston (20), Peter Scarrett (27), Kevin Buxton, who took the 50+ silver in 30th, and Tony Devoy (35) completing the count.

Sarah Kearney and Lisa Grantham came 4th and 5th in the Senior Womens race, collecting the leading 35+ medals. With Aimee Bartley the only other finisher in 14th, we failed to close – sad because any other runner would have ensured 2nd place. It was a similar story in the U20 Men – Phil Robertson (8th) led home J-P Seymour (11) and Tim Gordon (12) and a 4th count would have delivered the bronze. The non-championship U11 races saw Sam Cross, Jacob Brophy and Arran Kearney take 2nd, 3rd and 4th while Catherine Spencer was just out of the awards in 4th.



The victorious U13 team in the Merseyside Cross Country Championships at Sherdley Park. L to R: Hannah Das, Olivia Waring, Juliet Hodder and Beth Foster.

## Northern Indoors

Wirral sprinters visited Sheffield for the Northern Indoor Championships on the week-end of Jan 14/15th. Their best runs came from Sam Landsborough, who was 7th in the Senior 60m final with a 7.12s clocking in the semi and made the 200m final with 22.65s, but did not start due to a hamstring twinge. Best of the rest was Kristian Brown who made the final of the U17 60m with a best of 7.39s in a consistent series of times and went out in the semi-final of the 200m after returning 24.02s in the heats. Emma Wilson made was edged out of the final of the U17 60m with 8.35s, just 0.2 adrift of a qualifying place. Lauren Sharp jumped 4.69m for 11th in the U17 Long Jump. Andy Boyd and Gareth Jones went out in the heats of the Senior 60 and 200m, as did Kristian Evans in the U20 event.

### Manchester Area CC League

In the fourth match at Woodbank Park, Stockport, the U11 Boys and the U17 Women were both second to Stockport. Arran Kearney was first up for the U11 in 5th, while Emily Kearney led the U17 home in 2nd.

Overall the U11 lead the team competition with one match to go and have four runners in the top seven with Arran Kearney 3rd, Sam Cross 4th, Jacob Brophy 5th and Sam Tempest 7th. The U17 Women are second with three in the first seven overall – Emily Kearney (3rd), Fiona Nuttall (5th) and Lauren Brett (7th).

Sarah Kearney was 7th in the Senior Womens race and is in 6th overall (3rd F35). Ronan Kearney (87) and Jim Atkin (199) kept the Wirral flag flying in the Senior Mens race.

### URENCO renew Sponsorship

URENCO have kindly agreed to support the Birkenhead Park Road Races in the Lower Park once again. Because of the double Bank Holiday on June 4 / 5 to celebrate the Queen 's diamond jubilee, the event will be held a week later than usual on Wednesday, June 13th. Put the date in your diary and keep the date free. Seniors – this is after the Welsh Castles this year so there can be no excuses for not supporting the race.

### Borders League – Feb 26th

The next Borders League is the day after the National and many of the regulars will be still in London. Any Senior not travelling is asked to show up and run to ensure that we turn out ten counters. Wreccsam Tri are organising the race – a map to the venue will appear on the Borders League web-site: [www.bordersleague.org.uk](http://www.bordersleague.org.uk)

## 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.....

|          |                         |                   |
|----------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Feb 4    | Merseyside Schools CC   | Sefton Park       |
| Feb 11   | Manchester CC League    | Clayton Vale      |
| Feb 19   | L/pool&D CC Champs      | Clarke Gardens    |
| Feb 25   | National CC Champs      | Parliament Hill   |
| Feb 26   | Borders Road League     | Wreccsam Tri 11am |
| Mar 3    | Northern Schools CC     | Stockport         |
| Mar 4    | Club Senior CC Champs   | Arrowe Pk 11am    |
| Mar 6    | Schools Short Course R1 | Arrowe 4.30pm     |
| Mar 10   | Inter Counties Champs   | Birmingham        |
| Mar 11   | Borders Road League     | Helsby 11am       |
| Mar 13   | Schools Short Course R2 | Arrowe 4.30pm     |
| Mar 17   | English Schools Champs  | Ilton, Somerset   |
| Mar 17/8 | BMAF Indoors            | Lee Valley        |
| Mar 20   | Schools Short Course R3 | Arrowe 4.30pm     |
| Mar 21   | Endurance Series –5k    | Oval 7.45pm       |
| Mar 25   | BMAF CC Champs          | Bath              |
| Mar 31   | Northern 12 /6 stage RR | Sefton Park       |
| Apr 7    | Merseyside Fell Champs  | Rivington         |
| Apr 14   | National 12/6 stage RR  | Sutton Park       |
| Apr 18   | Endurance Series - 3k   | Oval 7.45pm       |
| Apr 25   | Borders Road League     | Deestridders      |
| Apr 29   | National Junior League  | Oval              |
| May 2    | Wirral AC Inter-Schools | Oval 4.30pm       |
| May 5    | Northern T&F League     | Blackpool         |
| May 6    | NYAL T&F League         | Blackburn         |
| May 12   | Merseyside T&F Champs   | Wavertree         |
| May 16   | Endurance Series – 5k   | Oval 7.45pm       |

## Athletic Shorts.....

- ◆ Phil Davies-Peerless came 7th in the 4 Villages Half Marathon in 73m 40s, a respectable time in the windy conditions. Simon Fox (85.06) made the first 100, while Peter Weatherhead (94.38) was 4th M60 home. Jane Fraser led the Wirral female finishers, taking 4th place in the F55.
- ◆ Ronan Kearney improved on the 600m time reported in the last Newsletter by more than 2 seconds, recording 1m 27.58s in the Manchester Open just before Christmas.
- ◆ The Chester Round the Walls saw Sarah Kearney take 3rd female spot (2nd F35) just in front of Lisa Grantham. Peter Weatherhead was first M60.
- ◆ Julie Gibson has taken over the role of Membership Secretary from Sue Wilding who is retiring after more than 16 years in the post. Julie's address is 12 Tyburn Road, Spital, CH63 9HJ and telephone number 0151 200 7252.
- ◆ After 5 of 8 events, Mark Hulmston is leading the Cross Country Grand Prix with 137pts from Kev Buxton (133pts) and Simon Fox (114pts).
- ◆ The Endurance series on the track started by Mark Hulmston last year is on again. The March to May dates are in the fixture list above.