

Six Titles at the Merseyside CC Champs

Wirral AC members had a successful, if somewhat damp, outing to Sherdley Park for the Merseyside Cross Country Championships early in the New Year. Our first medallist of the day was Gina Nuttall who was 3rd in the race for 9/10 year-olds, the title collection opening with comprehensive win in the U13 Boys with the 4 counters in the first 6 and the individual winner in Jacob Quarmby. In the U15 Boys we provided half the field and while no individual made the frame, four counters in the first nine ensured a comfortable victory ahead of Liverpool Harriers and St Helens Sutton. We also picked up the Combined U17/U20 Womens title as the only club to close with Emily Kearney taking the U20 title and Sophie Tarver the silver in the U17 age group. Other medals in these races went to Tom Clark (2nd U13) and Heather Nuttall (3rd U20).

The U13 Girls led by Ellie Tilston in 5th took the silver medals behind Liverpool H with Ella Head, Ellen-Mary Kearney and Isobel Tilston the other counters. Juliet Hodder led the U15 Girls in 5th, followed by Katie Thompson (9th) and Phoebe Croft (11th), but with Krystina Martindale still sidelined with injury and others not available, the team failed to close.

James Taylor provided the sixth gold of day by winning the U17 Men by more than half a minute. In a very tight race, the team was edged into second by Liverpool Harriers by a mere 2 points. Alex McBain (4th), Callum Seymour (6th) and Matt Green (8th) completed the count.

In the Senior Mens race, Jordan Donnelly improved on 5th the last two years to take the silver behind the defending champion, Richie Burney (L/pool H). The team race proved much closer than expected, but sadly a poor turn-out on the day meant we missed a rare opportunity to steal the march on Liverpool Harriers, who were also depleted. Phil Robertson (9th) and Xavier Desse (10th and 2nd M40-49) made it three in before Harriers 3rd counter, with Mark Hulmston (21st), Joe Johnson (29th) and Luke Proudfoot (56th) completing the count for 127 points to Liverpool's 88. Wallasey AC just pushed Southport Waterloo AC into fourth, their first team medals in a local championship since the early 1970s.

In a contrasting day at Pontefract for the Northern Championships, the damp was all underfoot, with the tented village becoming a sea of mud by the afternoon. While we finished teams in seven of the ten events, hopes of medals for the U15 Boys team did not materialise. Arguably, the U13 Boys produced the best outcome, finishing 7th out of 26. The form runner, Jacob Quarmby led them home in 25th, with Tom Clark 50th, Cieran English 58th and Harry Martin 76th completing the count. The U15 Boys were 8th out of 22, with Joe Wigfield who was away on the day of the Merseyside, first up in 28th. As expected James Taylor led the U17 Men, though a fine run by Alex McBain for 17th almost upset the form book and helped the team to 6th from 13 clubs to close. The U15 Girls ended up 10th from 14 led by Juliet Hodder in 37th, while the young U13 team came 26th with Ellie Tilston first up in 97th place.

The Seniors managed a creditable 22nd with Phil Robertson just edging in to the first 100 in 99th. The first Womens team to close since 2004 at Sherdley Park, when famously Helen Lawrence won the individual title in a Wirral vest, was led by Sarah Kearney (104) and helped to 24th place out of 41 by a useful championship debut from Elsa Bromhall (167) supported by Caroline Brophy and another first timer, Chloe Dalton.

We only had individuals in the U20 races, in which Emily Kearney finished 25th, Will Patterson 44th and Charlie Quinn 65th.

Full results are on the Northern Athletics web-site – there is also a link to that site in the event list on the Sportsoft web-site.



The first Senior Womens team ready for action at the Northern.
L to R: Caroline Brophy, Chloe Dalton, Elsa Bromhall, Sarah Kearney.
Photo : Emily Kearney

Sam in Northern 60m Final

Sam Landsborough was the most successful Senior among a group of Wirral sprinters at the Northern Indoor Championships in Sheffield, producing a PB of 6.96s for 6th place in the 60m final, following a 6.98s in the semi-final. Among the rest, Gareth Jones' 22.56s for 200m, close to his PB of 22.41s set a couple of weeks earlier, caught the eye. Best in the younger age groups was Aileen Kearney's 5th in the U20 400m final, after a PB of 58.25s in the heats, finishing second behind the eventual winner. This was another fine performance to go with her 600m in 1min 35.93s at an Indoor Open meeting just before Christmas.

Club Senior CC Champs Date Change!

Given the interest among members to compete in the British Masters CC Championships in Ruthin, our Senior Championships have been switched from Mar 15th to Mar 1st – 11am in Arrowe Park as usual.

Borders Road Running League

The third round in Birkenhead Park, hosted by Birkenhead AC, saw the Senior Men climb to 2nd overall but Wallasey edged away by another 20 points. David Brockway continued to show improvement, leading the team home for the first time in 13th place. Stephen Laker had a fine run for 18th with Callum Seymour hanging on well for 21st after an over-enthusiastic start to stay ahead of fourth counter Mark Hulmston (25th).

The Ladies finished second to Ellesmere Port on the day but closed the gap on the leaders, Tattenhall, in what is shaping up as a close title battle between the three clubs. Emily Kearney was 1st female finisher, supported by Sarah K (3rd), Caz Hall (18) and Aimee Bartley (43rd)

Manchester Area C C League

A thin turn-out at the fourth match at Boggart Hole Clough due to a clash with the Merseyside Schools League at Wavretree saw Jonathan Head, Tom Rogers and Sam Tempest keep the U15 Boys team in second overall with second place on the day behind leaders, Manchester Harriers. Joe Fountain was 3rd in the U11 and is joint 2nd overall. Ellen-Mary Kearney continued to show she is recovering well with 7th in the U11. Sarah Kearney and Caroline Brophy finished within seconds in the Womens race and are 2nd and 6th in their age groups overall. Among the absentees on the day, Emily Kearney is 3rd overall in the U20 Women and Jacob Quarmby third overall in the U13 with the last round at Wythenshawe Park on Feb 14th

Coming soon.....

Feb 7	M/side Schools Champs	Croxteth Park
Feb 8	L&DCCU Champs	Clarke Gardens 11am
Feb 14	Manchester CC League	Wythenshawe Pk
Feb 21	National CC Champs	Parliament Hill
Mar 1	Club Senior CC Champs	Arrowe Pk 11am
	NOTE: Change since last Newsletter to avoid the BMAF CC Champs	
Mar 3	Wirral Short Course CC	Arrowe Pk 4.30pm
Mar 7	CAU Inter Counties	Cofton Park
Mar 8	Borders Road League	Prestatyn 11am
Mar 10	Wirral Short Course CC	Arrowe Pk 4.30pm
Mar 14	English Schools CC	Blackburn
	BMAF CC Champs	Ruthin
Mar 17	Wirral Short Course CC	Arrowe Pk 4.30pm
Mar 19	Endurance Series – 3K	Oval 7.45pm
Mar 21	Northern Schools CC	Stretford
Mar 22	Borders Road League	Mold 11am
Mar 28	Northern 12/6 stage	Sefton Park
Apr 4	Merseyside Fell Champs	Rivington
Apr 8	Endurance Series – 5K	Oval 7.45pm
Apr 11	National 12/6 stage	Sutton Park
Apr 12	Borders League	Caernarfon 11am
Apr 15	Chester Spring 5	Chester
Apr 18	YDL Upper NW1	Blackburn
Apr 22	Borders League and presentation evening.	Wrexham
Apr 26	London Marathon	London
Apr 29	Wirral Schools T&F	Oval 4.30pm
May 2	YDL Lower Premier 1	Sheffield
May 3	Northern T&F League	Wigan
May 10	Wirral AC YA Medal Meet	Oval
May 16	YDL Upper NW1	Wigan
	BMAF Road Relay	Sutton Park
May 24	Merseyside T&F Champs	Oval
May 30	YDL Lower Premier 1	Sports City
Jun 3	Birkenhead Park 5	Lower Park

Club Vests

The official stockists of club vests are:

Runners Sport & Leisurewear

28, Birkenhead Road, Hoylake, CH47 3BW

Vests : £15 ; Green shorts : £10.



Some young Wirral runners with Alistair Brownlee at the Northern (Pontefract)
L to R: Ebrahim Hanifehpour, Will Atherden, Jackson Sloan, Alistair,
Jacob Brophy, Martin Hurst