

Super Vets Take National CC Team Title

The British Masters Cross Country Championships at Ruthin saw the Wirral trio in the 55-64 age group take the team title in front of Tipton Harriers and another Midland club, Long Eaton RC. With the race including six 5 year age bands between 35 and 64 as well as three team races with 10 year bands, the team result was determined by the overall time of the three counters, rather than the usual method of adding up the finishing positions, which gave us a time of 1 hr 47min 22sec, a mere 13 sec ahead of Tipton.

Graham Ratcliffe led the team home and almost took an individual medal in the M60 age group, but a stumble close to the finish cost him third place by three seconds. Tony Devoy (17th, M55) and Brian Becroft (13th, M60) completed the count for the first club golds in BMAF Championships for some years.

The team in the 45-54 age group also got in the act, taking third place behind Thames Hare&Hounds and Salford Harriers, with John Hunt (7th, M45), Joe Johnson (11th, M45) and Dave Norman (21st, M50). Other members taking part included Mark Hulmston, 10th M40 in his first Masters Championship, Sarah Kearney (8th, F40) and Nick Lindesay (23rd, M65)

Cross Country Championship Round-up

We finished three teams in the National in the mud at Parliament Hill Fields. Jacob Quarmbly led the U13 Boys to 26th out of 42 teams in 66th place. Joe Wigfield had arguably the best run of the day for 44th as the U15 Boys finished 20th from 37. Phil Robertson won the Sam Dodd trophy for our first runner home in the Senior Mens race in 337 out of the 2000+ field, with a depleted team closing in 83rd out of 145.

By contrast the Inter Counties was held in spring-like conditions on a dry Cofton Park. Some 23 Wirral runners represented Merseyside, including six of the eight U13 Boys seen in the picture below. Joe Wigfield again produced a solid run for 37th as 3rd count in the U15 Boys helping the County team to 7th place. Second claim member, Ben Jones, led the Senior men in 78th with Xavier Desse and Phil Robertson also in the count. Emily Kearney, running as a Senior under IAAF rules, was 3rd count for the Senior Women (177th) with Sarah 5th count (187th)

The Senior Men were 3rd the L&D Champs at Clarke Gardens led home by Phil Robertson in 8th. Emily Kearney took the silver medal in the Ladies competition.



The Merseyside U13 Boys team at the Inter Counties in Cofton Park, including six Wirral runners. Left to right: Louis Johnson, Tom Clark, Sam Flaherty (L/pool H), Harry Martin, Jacob Quarmbly, Cieran English, Harry Ball, and Joe Houghton (LPS).

Northern Bronze for Chloe Penketh

Chloe Penketh made her way through the rounds of the U13 Girls 60m at the Northern Indoor Championships, winning her heat and taking 2nd place in her semi-final to win the Bronze medal in final in 8.79sec, beating two of the three semi-final winners in the process.

Obi Curry reached the semi-finals of the U15 60m, clocking 8.47secs in both rounds. Taylor Harry made the semi-finals of both the U15 200m and 60m, with bests of 27.72sec and 8.54sec in the heats. She also ran in the 60m at the England Championships, going out in the heats in 8.48sec.

Jasmine Passley, Jaime Stanton, Amber Harry and Maya Curry also competed in the Northern, going out in the heats.

Sportshall Review

Mark Roberts reports that Sunday 8th March marked the end of the season for Sportshall athletics. This was the Northern Counties event in Manchester and saw Wirral provide more than half the Merseyside team. The Under 13 Girls' team, led by Catherine Spencer, came within a whisker of winning and progressing to the national finals. In the January northwest club finals there were wins for the Under 11 boys and the Under 13 boys

Walloping from Wallasey.

Despite a score which would have won the first race of the season, the Senior Men were well and truly beaten by a rampant Wallasey AC in dismal conditions in the 4th round of the Borders League at Prestatyn. Kelvin Dickinson was first up in 14th. As a consolation we won the Ladies competition with Emily Kearney recording her second successive victory.

Phil Robertson Retains his Club Title

The club Senior Championships in Arrowe Park produced the same result as last year with Phil Robertson hanging on to his early lead, despite a persistent challenge from Xavier Desse, leaving Mark Hulmston a distant third. Graham Ratcliffe won the Houghton Trophy as the first Over 50 home with Mark Hughes taking the sealed handicap. Nick Wilson made a welcome return to competition following his accident last September. Sarah Kearney retained the Womens title with Caroline Brophy 2nd and Chloe Dalton 3rd.

The Cross Country league based on 8 races during the season was won by Phil Robertson who only dropped 2 points during the season. Joe Johnson was 2nd and Simon Fox 3rd. Our thanks are due to Simon for keeping the score.

Manchester Area CC League

The final race brought a win for the U15 Boys and 2nd place for the U13 Boys. Overall, Joe Fountain was 2nd in the U11, Jacob Quarmby 3rd in the U13, Emily Kearney 2nd in the U20 and Sarah Kearney tied for 3rd in the F40. Caroline Brophy was just out the frame with 4th in the F45 age group.

English Schools CC

A dozen Wirral members represented Merseyside in the English Schools Champs at Blackburn. Joe Wigfield had the best run with 54th in the Inter Boys, second count as Merseyside finished 8th taking the scalp of Joe Ford (LH). Juliet Hodder was the 8th counter in the Junior Girls team that was awarded the Stedman Trophy for the team with the highest 8th counter.

Coming soon.....

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 including Ednurance Series 1 mile
May 16	YDL Upper NW1	Wigan
	BMAF Road Relay	Sutton Park
May 23	Merseyside T&F Champs	Oval
May 30	YDL Lower Premier 1	Sports City
June 3	Birkenhead Park 5	Lower Park
June 6	Northern T&F League	Oval
June 10	Endurance Series – 3K	Oval 7.45pm
Jun13/14	Northern Sen /U20 T&F	Sports City
June 21	YDL Lower Premier 1	Sports City
June 28	YDL Upper NW1	Wavertree
July 8	Endurance Series – 10K	Oval 7.45pm

Athletic Shorts.....

- ◆ Joe Wigfield has been selected to represent the NW region in the Mini-marathon at the London Marathon, a fitting reward for a consistent series of performances in the major CC Championships this season
- ◆ Joe Fallon has a weights bench surplus to requirements. Contact Joe on 334 6148 if you are interested in acquiring it.
- ◆ Jordan Donnelly clocked 1m 53.42s to win the New England Indoor 800m in Cambridge, USA, and also ran 4m 12.4s mile indoors across the river in Boston.
- ◆ The first track Endurance race was won by Dave Alcock in 9m 33.1s for the 3000m. Richard Davies battled past Mark Hulmston in a tight finish to take 2nd in the 18 strong field.
- ◆ In the Northern Schools at Stretford, Hannah Durrant (Yr11+), Louis Johnson (Yr 7) and Tom Jordan (Yr 8) won individual titles. Jacob Quarmby (Yr 8), Arran Kearney (Yr 9), Joe Wigfield (Yr 10/11) and Will Patterson (Yr 12+) took 2nd place awards, with Martin Hurst (Yr 9) and Callum Seymour (Yr 12+) in 3rd place in their events..

Club Vests

The official stockists of club vests are:

Runners Sport & Leisurewear

28, Birkenhead Road, Hoylake, CH47 3BW

Vests : £15 ; Green shorts : £10.

They will deal by mail : 0151 632 3820