

Race Report - Hampshire Cross Country League Reading Saturday 12th Jan 2008

A busy weekend of fixtures meant that the seniors were slightly down on numbers for the penultimate Hampshire Cross Country League fixture at Prospect Park, Reading.

The senior ladies consolidated their 2nd position in the league with Lucy Elliott the pick of the team as she placed 2nd (21:15). Not far behind though were two of the Clubs' promising Under 20 girls, in India Lee who was 5th (21:51) and Rebecca Gough 6th (22:07). Michaela McCallum followed in 8th (22:26) with Sandra Bowers 19th (24:14), Jan Hardcastle 21st (24:27) and Madeline Vosser 39th (26:57) also starring for the Club. The veteran's team of Elliott, McCallum and Hardcastle had a magnificent result, as they proved to be the winning team. This means that going into the final fixture next month, they now head their category and therefore have an excellent opportunity to win the league.

The men also had a number of highlights. Newly recruited Tom Payne, running as a non scorer, whilst awaiting first claim status clearance, won the race by 27 seconds. Gavin Smith put the disappointment of a below par run at last weekend's County Championships, with a confidence boosting 3rd place (28:55). Andy Greenleaf was also to the fore, with 5th place (29:08) and Steve Phillips was another of the flying Winchester vests in 8th place (29:21), the men duplicated the ladies performance of providing four of the first eight runners in both events.

Julian Mann had his best run for a while in 17th spot (30:58) and David Vosser continued his return to form with by far his highest placing in the league this season in 43rd position (32:31). Over 60's veteran James Clune was the Clubs final runner in 173rd place of exactly 200 finishers as the team earned their best result of the year so far in this league, with runners up, leaving them 4th of the 10 Clubs in Division 1.

First off for the Juniors to face the mud of Prospect Park were the under 13 girls. Leading the team home was Rebecca Knapton in 12th with Jessica Maw 23rd and Emily Clark 30th. Rosie Upton had her best run of the season finishing 34th out of a strong field of 53 runners, Rosie having another two years left in this age group.

The under 15 girls were led home by a resurgent Jade Bowling in 7th place matching her place from the Hampshire championships achieved the week before. Jennifer McLachlin ran strongly for 16th place and Gabriella Oliver coming into form nicely completed the team in 23rd. The Team finished 3rd overall and lie 2nd in their category for the season with just one match to go.

The Under 17 girl's team who are unbeaten for the season, were put under pressure by local club Reading A.C, but managed to continued in their winning ways and will be looking for a clean sweep at the final match. The girls were led home by Holly Light, in 8th followed by Hannah Vosser in 10th and Elsie West having a super run to take 11th place.

The Under 13 Boys were again well represented. Ben Walters achieved another personal best place finishing 13th supported by Charlie Maw 21st, Callum Upton 33rd and Sean McCullach in 36th.