



Essex Cross Country League – Round 5 – Writtle Sat 19th February

Havering teams ended their Essex League season in style with seven team wins on the day to end their season with four team titles and another four runners up spots in the ten age categories. And there were three further wins, three runners up and five third place finishes in the individual standings, to make it one of the most successful league campaigns for some years from the club.

The organisers had done a great job in keeping the show on the road after the efforts of Storm Eunice the previous day, but a strong cold wind remained and an already difficult course got worse as heavy rain set in during the later races.

The day had started in dry but windy conditions and in the first race Freddie Rowe's clean sweep of wins for the **Under 13 Boys** set the scene for team victory on the day and earned him the individual title. The team win also ensured that Havering held off Chelmsford for the league title with Stevie Reynolds a brilliant fourth on his club debut, as Findlay McLaren returned to action in seventh and Liam Batrum ensured all four scorers made the top ten. Another debutant Oliver West was 22nd and Ethan Carroll 25th.

The **Under 13 Girls** have had a difficult season but equalled their best finish with fourth. Jessica Page, who has smashed her 800m PB indoors a few days earlier, was first home in 11th, with Isabella Taylor-Bush and Ruby Price 13th and 14th and Callie Ziepe's 25th place completed a scoring quartet.

The **Under 15 Girls** ended the season with their back-to-back wins but their late charge was not enough to overhaul Chelmsford for the league title as they finished second in the table. Charlotte Evans was runner up, with Rosie Warner fourth and Hannah Evans made it three in the first five as Abigail Swan's 12th place confirmed a narrow win over the champions. Rosie was third in the individual stakes.

The **Under 15 Boys** confirmed their league runners up spot after finishing fourth on the day. Jack West led the squad in tenth, with Daniel Lammas (12th), Sean Langan and Oliver Taylor-Bush (15th & 17th) the other scorers, with Oscar Shearing in 22nd and Nathan Hart placing 26th.

The **Under 17 & Under 20 Women** finished their season unbeaten to be crowned as league champions. Natalie Sewell and Maddie Barker were fourth and fifth on the day, to finish one and two in the Under 17 standings with Sydney Foley's seventh place earning her third in the Under 20 stakes, and Hannah Yexley's ninth place ensured team victory.

The **Under 17 Men** also made it back-to-back wins as the weather worsened but it came too late to lift the title, and they had to settle for second in the table. Matthew Blacklock was fourth, to win third place in the individual standings, with Shane Hart, Charlie Burgess and Finley Wolton ninth, eleventh and thirteenth.

The **Senior Women's** second win of the season was almost enough to earn them the title, and the league shield was presented to them in error after the race, before the organisers realised that Southend had held on to win the title. Ginte Bailey was fifth with Morgan Campbell in eighth, to win second and third place individual trophies, and Robyn Matson's 16th place and Clare Davies ensured all four scorers in the top 20 of the hundred plus finishers. Emily James, Charlie Yexley and Georgia Phillips all placed between 60th and 64th and Tracy O'Neill and team manager Jane Hallam completed the line up in 74th and 75th.

Havering's **Senior Men** won their fourth victory of the five races to secure the league title for the fourth season in succession, and they had three of the first five finishers. They were led home by another superb run by James Connor in second, followed by Rob Warner in his highest result of the season in fourth to ensure his individual Vet 40 league title. James Stewart chased Warner all the way to the finish with a very good run in fifth earning him third in the senior men's standings. Kieran O'Hara and Jason Lendon in 23rd and 24th and Barry Smith in 38th all competed well to complete the scorers, with Louis Berrett just outside the scoring team in 39th. Vets Rob Trevor 47th and Steve Rand 48th raced each other to the line with identical times with Rob claiming the last Vet scoring place as the **Veteran Men's** team ended the season unbeaten to defend their league title.

Under 20 Luke Chester did well in 60th and was followed by Ian Anthony 66th just in front of Gary Atkins 68th. Martin Chester couldn't catch his son and finished in 72nd while Matt Bland after a long injury lay-off next home in

83rd. Graham Hogan 89th Steve Walker 92nd all made the top one hundred, and Roy James 117th and Tony Collins 143rd completed the eighteen Havering athletes.

Essex Cross Country League – Round 5 – Results

Senior Men: 2nd James Connor 28:41; 4th Rob Warner M40 29:25; 5th James Stewart 29:32; 23rd Kieran O'Hara 31:53; 24th Jason Lendon M45 31:56; 38th Barry Smith M40 33:04 (**Team 1st – 96 points**); 39th Louis Berrett U20 33:07; 47th Rob Trevor M40 33:43; 48th Steve Rand M45 33:43; 60th Luke Chester U20 34:46; 66th Ian Anthony M40 35:20; 68th Gary Atkins M50 35:21; 72nd Martin Chester M45 35:51; 83rd Matt Bland 36:26; 89th Graham Hogan M45 36:54; 92nd Steve Walker M50 36:55; 117th Roy James M50 39:48; 143rd Tony Collins M40 42:017.

Teams: 1st Havering 96; 2nd Southend 138; 3rd Thurrock 144

FINAL LEAGUE (after 5 of 5): 1st Havering 5 (**CHAMPIONS**); 2nd Southend 9; 3rd Orion 11

Veterans Teams (four to score): 1st Havering 113; 2nd Ilford 136; 3rd Chelmsford 212

FINAL LEAGUE (after 5 of 5): 1st Havering 4 (**CHAMPIONS**); 2nd Ilford 12; 3rd Southend 13.

Senior Women: 5th Ginte Bailey W35 24:40; 8th Morgan Campbell 25:25; 16th Robyn Matson 27:00; 20th Clare Davies W35 27:07; (**Team 1st – 49 points**); 60th Emily James 32:07; 63rd Charlie Yexley W45 32:57; 64th Georgia Phillips 33:15; 74th Tracy O'Neill W55 33:56; 75th Jane Hallam W50 34:22

Teams: 1st Havering 49; 2nd Southend 66; 3rd Colchester H 67.

FINAL LEAGUE (after 5 of 5): 1st Southend 5; 2nd Havering 6; 3rd Billericay 15

Under 17 Men: 4th Matthew Blacklock 22:21; 9th Shane Hart 23:42; 11th Charlie Burgess 23:53; 13th Finley Wolton 24:13 (**Team 1st – 37 points**); **Teams:** 1st Havering 37; 2nd Chelmsford 15 (3); 3rd Basildon 3 (1 runner)

FINAL LEAGUE (after 5 of 5) Teams: 1st Chelmsford 5; 2nd Havering 6; 3rd Southend 18.

Under 17 / Under 20 Women: 4th Natalie Sewell U17W 19:45; 5th Maddie Barker U17W 20:02; 7th Sydney Foley U20W 20:08; 9th Hannah Yexley U17W 20:15; (**Team 1st – 25 points**). **Teams:** 1st Havering 25; 2nd Basildon 24 (3); 3rd Chelmsford 31 (3)

FINAL LEAGUE (after 5 of 5) Teams: 1st Havering 4 (**CHAMPIONS**); 2nd Chelmsford 8; 3rd Orion 14

Under 15 Boys: 10th Jack West 15:35; 12th Daniel Lammas 15:50; 17th Oliver Taylor-Bush 16:05; 22nd Oscar Shearing 16:17; (**Team 4th – 54 points**); 26th Nathan Hart 16:33 **Teams:** 1st Chelmsford 36; 2nd Southend 48; 3rd Colchester & Tend 50; 4th Havering 54;

FINAL LEAGUE (after 5 of 5) Teams: 1st Chelmsford 5; 2nd Havering 8; 3rd Southend 12.

Under 15 Girls: 2nd Charlotte Evans 16:34; 4th Rosie Warner 16:37; 5th Hannah Evans 16:49; 12th Abigail Swan 17:52 (**Team 1st – 23 points**) **Teams:** 1st Havering 23; 2nd Chelmsford 24; 3rd Colchester H 17 [3].

FINAL LEAGUE (after 5 of 5) Teams: 1st Chelmsford 5; 2nd Havering 6; 3rd Southend 12

Under 13 Boys: 1st – Freddie Rowe 10:06; 4th Stevie Reynolds 10:33; 7th Findlay McLaren 10:40; 10th Liam Battrum 11:04; (**Team 1st – 22 points**) 16th William Tillson 11:57; 22nd Oliver West 12:27; 25th Ethan Carroll 12:39. **Teams:** 1st Havering 22; 2nd Chelmsford 25; 3rd Harlow 67.

FINAL LEAGUE (after 5 of 5) Teams 1st Havering 5 (**CHAMPIONS**); 2nd Chelmsford 6; 3rd Southend 13.

Under 13 Girls: 11th Jessica Page 12:41; 13th Isabella Taylor-Bush 12:46; 14th Ruby Price 12:47; 25th Callie Ziepe 14:40 (**Team 4th – 63 points**) **Teams:** 1st Chelmsford 15; 2nd Basildon 38; 3rd Thurrock 56; 4th Havering 63.

FINAL LEAGUE (after 5 of 5) Teams: 1st Chelmsford 4; 2nd Basildon 8; 3rd Thurrock 11.... 5th Havering 19.

For pics: See next page





