



English Schools Cross Country Championships, Pontefract Sat 16th March

There were mixed fortunes for the three Havering AC athletes selected to represent Essex at the English Schools Championships held at Pontefract on Saturday.

Orla Friel's good run of form continued as she excelled in her national schools' debut, finishing 25th in a field of 339 in the Junior Girls' event, as the strong Essex team came an excellent second. There was disappointment for Emmie Lole however in the same event as she found out after arriving in Yorkshire that due to an administrative error by the team managers that she was not one of the eight strong Essex team despite receiving a selection email and her name appearing in the event programme. She was allowed to take part without a number and crossed the line in around 82nd.

National Under 15 cross country medallist Freddie Rowe, competing in the Intermediate Boys race where he is a bottom year as the age groups differ, had expected to finish high up the field but he was pushed over in the first kilometre of the race and his number, which contained his timing chip, became detached and he was shortly afterwards pulled out of the race by a steward so he failed to finish.

Pic: Orla Friel (Credit: Steve Wilkin, Chelmsford AC)

