



National Cross Country Championships – Chester Sat 25th February

Over 20 club athletes made the long trip to a chilly Bolesworth Castle Estate, Chester to wear the club colours with distinction at the prestigious English National Cross Country Championships on Saturday.

The **Senior Men** had a good turnout with twelve men lining up in a field of nearly two thousand entrants. Ben Davis led home the club dozen, finishing just outside of the top one hundred in a very good 112th, followed in by a strong run from James Stewart in 156th, not far in front of Rob Warner 224th and Sam Atkins 245th both competing well on a crowded course. James Blogg in 597th and Barry Smith 637th made up the scoring six who placed 29th out of 99 complete finishing teams.

The rest of the Havering men's contingent was made up from Martin Chester 771st, John Whitehead 874th, Steve Walker 983rd and Gary Atkins 984th who all ducked under the one thousand mark, as Tony Pecoraro 1026th and Roy James 1211st completed the Havering team.

The **Senior Women** fielded a full scoring quartet who placed 31st of the 93 completed teams. Morgan Campbell was first home in 149th, with Robyn Matson 192nd, for her highest National placing since 2014. Clare Davies finished 287th for her highest National placing, and Stephanie Phillips was 406th in her second National.

In the **Under 20** races Maddie Barker was a good 46th in her second national in the Junior Ladies event and Luke Chester was 127th in the Junior men's race on his National debut.

Two other club youngsters made the trip to Cheshire. Freddie Rowe was a fine 18th in the **Under 15 Boys** race and has another opportunity in this age group next year, and in the **Under 13 Girls** Jasmine Asmal was 66th in her first race at this level.

Lauren Reed, the former Miss Deadman, returned to high level competition after her maternity breaks and excelled with victory in the Wokingham Half Marathon in a new personal best of 74 minutes 11 seconds, just 15 seconds outside Faye Fullerton's club record of 73:56 set in much better conditions in Valencia five years ago. It improved former GB International Lauren's best from 2016 by over 40 seconds.



Senior Men: 112th Ben Davis 39:51; 156th James Stewart 40:32; 224th Rob Warner M40 41:31; 245th Sam Atkins 41:47; 597th James Blogg M45 46:38; 637th Barry Smith M40 47:10; (**Team 29th – 1975 points** 771st Martin Chester M50 49:01; 874th John Whitehead 50:35; 983rd Steve Walker M50 52:11; 984th Gary Atkins M50 52:11; 1026th Tony Pecoraro M60 52:49; 1241st Roy James M50 56:35

Senior Women: 149th Morgan Campbell 35:31; 192nd Robyn Matson 36:35; 28th Clare Davies W35 38:48; 406th Stephanie Phillips 41:36 (**Team 31st – 1034 points**);

Under 20 Men: 127th Luke Chester 39:04; **Under 20 Women:** 46th Maddie Barker 26:07;

Under 15 Boys: 18th Freddie Rowe 15:26; 208th Stevie Reynolds 17:34; **Under 13 Girls:** 66th Jasmine Asmal 12:28