Havering AC

South of England Cross Country Champs – Beckenham Sat 24th January 2026

There were some gritty performances from Havering athletes at the South of England Cross Country Championships held at Beckenham Place Park. With a challenging course on a cold sunny day, two athletes finished in the top 10.

A week after racing for England at the Gold Series Cross Country International in Elgoibar, northern Spain she finished a credible 8th place for her country over the 7.6km hard fast course Kate O'Neill improved on last year's fourth place at the South of England Cross Country and was the clear winner of the **Senior Women's** race. Lydia Smith, returning to Beckenham after a ten year gap, also raced well to finish 56th, Ginte Bailey 86th with Robyn Matson 94th confirming their ninth place scoring quartet. Rebecca O'Rourke placed 262nd, Clare Rudgley 287th and team manager, Jane Hallam 314th.

The U17 Men were the club's best scoring team finishing seventh out of a strong field of nineteen scoring teams over the 6km tough terrain. Continuing his excellent performances this season and leading the table in the Essex Cross Country League, Findlay McLaren finished a superb 10th with Sam Horsley 30th, Shea Sweeney 42nd and Aidan Doherty 94th completing the scoring four.

The U15 Boys also had a full scoring quartet finishing 22nd. First timers Jake Tregidgo and Jack Rossington led the team coming in 97th and 146th, Callum Millard Jennings was 196th and Luke Brewington 197th also a first timer.

The Senior Men were led home in their tough 15km event with a good run by James Stewart placing 53rd, Sam Atkins 84th, John Whitehead 195th, Jake Harris 341st, Rob Trevor 361st and Tony Pecoraro 427th completing the scoring six who were placed 23rd – one position higher than last year. Gary Atkins 468th, Steve Walker 534th, Roy James 561st also ran.

The other three teams were all short of a complete scoring quartet. Ruby Beasley finished a fine 66th for the **Under 17 Women** with Grace Tilson 112th. **The U13 Girls** were led home by Molly Jenkinson-Smith finishing 117th, Lucy Tregidgo 137th and Esther Olemike 158th. **The U13 Boys** were represented by James Fenn 113th, Joseph Legg 136th and Parker Swaisland 140th who were all running the course for the first time.

Pics on club Face Book group (members only)