

# BRITISH ATHLETICS INTER COUNTIES CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2018 at PRESTWOLD HALL, LEICESTERSHIRE

Results:- <http://www.uka.org.uk/competitions/the-british-athletics-cross-challenge/>

## Senior Women (Report by Ian Wilson)

I looked at the results on Saturday evening and must say that I was very pleased to see that the senior women finished 4th team out of 30 teams that closed in, with 288 points. That is our best senior women's team performance since 2008 when we were 3rd team of 27 with 277 points. The team were 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1991 but our next best team performance in recent years is 7th of 27 in 2010.

On the day we were without our County championship runner up Sophie Coldwell who is preparing for the Commonwealth Games triathlon and Anne Holyland who was 3rd in the County but got injured just before this race. Had these two run on the day I think a team win could have been on the cards. Still excellent performances from all those that ran on the day and promising for the future.

I am sure the inter-counties at Prestwold Hall in 2018 will go down in the annals of cross country running as one of the muddiest courses ever! Certainly, in the area of the County tents!

Gemma Steel lead the team home in 2nd place, this year keeping both shoes on all the way round. Amy Griffiths not, I hear, one that likes the mud, finished an excellent 6th, so dispelling this rumour as a myth. She had been 4th for much of the race but fell in the closing stages so did well to hold on to 6th. It was great to see our county champion, Lucy Crookes, showing signs that she is returning to full health, running strongly to finish in 19th place. These three were brilliantly supported by Claire Fitzpatrick in 66th, Joanna Male, making her first appearance in this event finishing a fine 80th and Elise Butler, another first timer, closing the team in 115th. Our other runners were ever reliable Claire Shea-Simonds in 146th and Natasha Cuthbert in 173rd and our 9th to finish was first timer Natalie Teece in 218th out of 270 finishers.

**U20 Women (Report by Ian Wilson)** This race is run under IAAF age rules and not UKA age rules. This is so



that it can easily be used as the selection race for the GB teams in the World Championships. The World Championships are now held every other year, the next being in 2019. Our County U20 championship is held under UK age rules and 6 ran. 3rd place Hannah Cox is too old for this race so 5 were entered. Unfortunately, Paige Stevenson and Aimee Seager were both injured and unable to run.

*L to R are Amy Hammersley, Megan Rowley and Jordan Waine. On the left behind them is, possibly, Elsie Robinson U13.*

So, we started 3 but 4 are required for the team. We were lead home by Jordan Waine in 41st place and Amy Hammersley in 81st. Both have another year in this, IAAF, age group and another 2 years in the UKA U20 age group. Megan Rowley in 153rd place closed in our runners.

For the record the performances were: -

### Senior Women (8k)

2nd Gemma Steel 33:33  
6th Amy Griffiths 34:03  
19th Lucy Crookes 35:18  
66th Claire Fitzpatrick 37:39  
80th Joanna Male 38:05  
115th Elise Butler 39:06

### Team 4th with 288 points

146th Claire Shea-Simonds 40:27  
173rd Natasha Cuthbert 41:23  
218th Natalie Teece 42:46

### U20 Women (6k)

41st Jordan Waine 29:03  
81st Amy Hammersley 30:50  
153rd Megan Rowley 35:18

**Younger Girls (Report by Rob Griffiths):** The course would've been testing enough for the athletes without the addition of the mud bath that resulted from the heavy overnight rain. The gloopy mud was so thick in parts that it was physically draining without even running in it!

**The U13 girls** were one of the final races of the day and by the time they raced there was no 'green grass' to be seen at any point on the course. Madeline Mayes had a brilliant race to finish in 32<sup>nd</sup> place with Elsie

Robinson, who had been struggling with illness in the lead up to the race, finishing just behind her in 37<sup>th</sup> place.

The remaining scorers for the teams 10<sup>th</sup> place was Isabella Wrightman in 55<sup>th</sup> place and Sophie Dunbobbin in 103<sup>rd</sup> place. Unfortunately, Rachel Newport was unwell and pulled out just before the start of the race and it was first reserve, Isla Cullen, who stepped into the team as her last-minute replacement. Considering her late 'call up' she ran well to finish in 236<sup>th</sup> place.

**The U15 girls** were led home by Indienne King, whose 24<sup>th</sup> place finish was one of the L&R best placed female finishers of the day. Another of those was Lexie McLoughlin, whose 28<sup>th</sup> place was just two seconds behind Indie. Rachel Nealon was the third team scorer finishing in 155<sup>th</sup> place and Hollie Gamble made up the quartet in 165<sup>th</sup> place and the team finished in 23<sup>rd</sup> place overall.

Mia Atkinson was the highest placed female L&R athlete in the younger age groups with her 19<sup>th</sup> place. Emma Richards followed her home in 40<sup>th</sup> place, with Grace Smith in 59<sup>th</sup> place and Hannah Seager in 140<sup>th</sup> place. The team finished in 15<sup>th</sup> place overall.

Full Team Results:

### **U13g (3k)**

10<sup>th</sup> place Team

Madeline Mayes (32) 15.15  
Elsie Robinson (37) 15.20  
Isabella Wrightam (55) 15.33  
Sophie Dunbobbin (103) 16.00  
Grace-Rose Walters (151) 16.32  
Poppy Adkin (170) 16.44  
Isla Cullen (236) 17.37  
Lyla Bryan (258) 17.57

### **U15g (4k)**

23<sup>rd</sup> place Team

Indienne King (24) 20.18  
Lexie McLoughlin (28) 20.20  
Rachel Nealon (155) 22.13  
Hollie Gamble (165) 22.20  
Gemma Newport (174) 22.29  
Olivia Bailey (200) 22.52  
Maya Stokes (210) 22.59  
Rosie Timlock (231) 23.16



### **U17g (5k) Team 15<sup>th</sup> place**

Mia Atkinson (19) 23.47  
Emma Richardson (40) 24.34  
Grace Smith (59) 25.06  
Hannah Seager (140) 26.56  
Hannah Ord (156) 27.17  
Beane Moores (213) 28.39  
Peta Jarvis (263) 32.06

All of the athletes acquitted themselves perfectly on the day and I would like to thank them for their efforts and dedication to the team.

Also, a big thank you must also go to the travelling reserves, of whom, thankfully only Isla was required to step in at the last minute, but their team ethic and commitment didn't go unnoticed.

At this point there are no reports from the Managers for any of the Male Teams – but huge congratulations to Sam Stabler in second place.

Sen Men – 11<sup>th</sup> 608 Leicestershire & Rutland (2 55 91 111 144 205) – Sam Stabler 2nd  
20 Men - 18<sup>th</sup> 377 Leicestershire & Rutland ( 33 48 130 166 ) – Tom Gostelow our best  
U17 Men – unplaced team – Zach Spence was the only L&R athlete in the results  
U15 Boys - 237 Leicestershire & Rutland ( 31 45 68 93 ) – best placed – Vincent Dawson  
U13 Boys - 220 Leicestershire & Rutland ( 39 46 54 81 ) – best placed – Alex Keeble