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**Alan Newman's athletics reports appear in the Kent Messenger each Friday**

### **KENT WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE, DANSON PARK**

Jenni Pereira of Medway and Maidstone AC made a rare appearance to deny Deirdre McDermott of Tonbridge AC a third consecutive victory in the Kent Women's cross country league at Danson Park, Bexleyheath on Saturday, writes Alan Newman.

The fourth ranked junior 5000m runner in Britain in 2004 was in good form and had the upper hand throughout to win by 33 seconds. Defending champion McDermott had a similar margin to spare over former winner Helena Penfold of Medway and Maidstone.

Shavaun Henry was a close fourth, W35s Jennie Butler seventh and Jane Bradshaw eighth for Blackheath and Bromley Harriers before W35 master Louise Watson and Ejiro Okoro sealed the team victory for Medway and Maidstone.

Blackheath and Bromley were second team and Tonbridge AC third, although Tonbridge still hold on to second place in the league table from Medway and Maidstone with the final positions to be decided on February 12 at New Barn Park, Swanley.

### **KENT YOUNG ATHLETES CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE, DANSON PARK**

Tonbridge AC remain the team to beat in the Kent Young Athletes cross country league after notching up five team and four individual wins in the third fixture of the 2010/11 season at Danson Park, Bexleyheath on Saturday, writes Alan Newman. The other successful teams were Cambridge Harriers in the under 20 men's race and Blackheath and Bromley Harriers in the under 13 girl's race.

Tonbridge took a clean sweep of the podium positions in the under 13 boy's race through Euan Nicholls, Thomas Kendrick and Luke Melvin. Jordan Muir was fourth ahead of Cameron Payas and Scott Rowatt, who ran well for the second team, Medway and Maidstone. Harry Jarvis (10th) was third-placed Bexley's top performer.

In the under 15s, Max Nicholls and George Duggan were at the front for Tonbridge but William Somogyi of second-placed Bexley AC joined the podium in third place. Sean Molloy and Hanro Rossouw then made sure for Tonbridge before James West completed the top six for Medway and Maidstone. Jack Goss (7th) was third-placed Ashford AC's team leader.

Tonbridge athletes dominated the under 17s race where Robbie Farnham-Rose took his second league race victory by six seconds from Henry Pearce. Charlie Joslin-Allen was third for Tonbridge ahead of Adam Gilbert of Medway and Maidstone, Dominic Brown (Tonbridge) and Luke Dawson of team runners-up, Invicta East Kent.

Jason Prickett of Invicta won the under 20 men's race from champion elect Rob MacDonald of Cambridge Harriers and Ben Cockburn of Dartford Road Runners. Cambridge Harriers were the unopposed team winners.

Megan Marchant of Cambridge Harriers was first home in the under 13 girl's race as Blackheath and Bromley athletes dominated the team race through Niamh Bridson Hubbard (2nd), Georgina Taylor (4th) and Charlotte Ruhle (5th). Kelsey Fuss of Invicta was a close third and with Anna Weston sixth, Invicta finished second team. Medway and Maidstone were third with Sian Keegan (9th) their top scorer.

Bobby Clay of Invicta maintained her unbeaten league record in the under-15 girl's race with a comfortable win over Alice Wood and Leah Melvin of the winning Tonbridge team. Invicta finished second and Blackheath and Bromley were third as Sian Driscoll clinched the victory for Tonbridge.

Tonbridge also won the under 17's team race where the top three individuals were Nicole Taylor (Tonbridge), Ellie Hume (Invicta) and Beth Armstrong (Bexley). Pandora Banbury (4th) and Nicola Wilkinson (6th) completed the winning team with Cerys Sanders (5th) of Medway and Maidstone in the mix.

Four athletes contested the under 20's race where Danielle Critchley and Krystal Galley of Blackheath and Bromley Harriers and Chloe Forsyth of Istead and Ifield were the podium finishers. Samantha Beckett of Ashford was fourth. The Kent Young Athlete's League concludes on December 4 at New Barn Park, Swanley.

**Alan Newman**