

Reprinted by kind permission of Alan Newman and Kent Messenger Group

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

KENT SENIOR MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE, SWANLEY PARK

Medway and Maidstone AC won the third round of the 2010-11 Kent Men's cross country league by the tightest possible margin at New Barn Park, Swanley on Saturday, writes Alan Newman.

The men in red and black tied on points with the white vested Tonbridge team but fourth scorer Dan Evans (M&M, 10th) sprinted two seconds clear of Greg Cole (Tonbridge, 11th) to secure the team victory through the count back rule.

Welsh Masters international, Huw Evans of Tonbridge set off in determined fashion at the head of a reduced field of 107 athletes on a challenging three and half lap course provided by Swanley and District AC.

When Evans began to fade, Tom Collins (M&M) appeared to be heading for his first league victory until Alex Bruce-Littlewood (Blackheath and Bromley Harriers) swept past for an exciting win by five seconds, following two earlier second places this season.

Collins and Evans held their form and places to lead their respective clubs home. Collins was backed by Ben Tyler (5th) and M40 Barry Royden (7th) and Evans was followed by M40 Darryl Smith (4th) and Dan Bradley (6th) before the vital fourth scorers settled the issue in M&M's favour.

Also enjoying the heat of battle in the top ten were Chris Minns (Beckenham, 8th) and Mark Wilkins (Invicta, 9th) and not far away were James Hogg (M&M, 12th), Andrew Pickett (Dartford Harriers, 13th), Andrew Walpole (Tonbridge, 14th) and M40 David Weekes (Folkestone, 15th).

Tunbridge Wells Harriers were well represented at Swanley and finished a commendable third with M40 Andy Howey (16th) their top scorer.

The Duodec 12-to-score competition was won by Tonbridge from Tunbridge Wells Harriers, who move to third in the league table behind Tonbridge and Blackheath and Bromley Harriers.

The four-to-score trophy battle is hotting up with Tonbridge leading M&M by two points and Blackheath and Bromley Harriers third.

The final trophy positions will be decided on Saturday, March 12 at Parkwood School, Swanley.

KENT YOUNG ATHLETES CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE, SWANLEY PARK

Tonbridge AC claimed five team and four individual trophies in the Kent Young Athletes cross country league at the final match of the 2010-11 winter season at Swanley on Saturday, writes Alan Newman. The other winning teams were Cambridge Harriers in the under 20 men's and Blackheath and Bromley Harriers in the under 13 girl's and the under 20 women's categories.

Toby Ralph and league champion Thomas Kendrick were separated by two seconds as a Tonbridge clean sweep was prevented by Charlie Davis (B&B, 3rd) in the under 13 boys' race. Luke Melvin (6th) completed the winning Tonbridge team. Medway and Maidstone finished second on the day and overall with Cameron Payas (8th), Scott Rowatt (9th) and Tom Whiley (12th). Bexley AC was third with Lewis Caiels (7th) leading scorer.

George Duggan also had a narrow margin of two seconds in his victory for Tonbridge over William Somogyi (Bexley) in the under 15s race. Corey De'ath (Tonbridge) was third and his team's victory was sealed by Alistair Bishop (6th). Bexley finished second through the efforts of Andre Stone (5th) and Joseph O'Hara (7th). Jack Goss (4th) led Ashford AC to second overall in the league ahead of Bexley.

Laurie Probert stepped up to take his first win for Tonbridge in the under 17s race from Lewis Eley (Bexley) and league champion, Jack Keywood (Tonbridge). Cameron Knapp (6th) secured the Tonbridge title from Invicta East Kent and Bexley AC, who did well at Swanley with Adam Willis (4th) and Thomas Wright (7th).

Individual champion Rob MacDonald strode to victory in the under 20 men's race for the team winners, Cambridge Harriers. John Dickinson (Tonbridge) and Andrew Robertson (Ashford) kept the champion honest to the finish line.

Sabrina Sinah-Coe of Cambridge Harriers was first home in the under 13 girl's race as Blackheath and Bromley Harriers took the team title from Invicta and Cambridge Harriers. Georgina Taylor (B&B) and previous race winner Megan Marchant (Cambridge Harriers) completed the podium places. Charlotte Rhule (5th) and Jessica Keen (9th) scored the points for B&B on the day.

Bobby Clay of Invicta maintained her 100% unbeaten league record in the under 15 girl's race with a comfortable win over Leah Melvin and Sian Driscoll of the winning Tonbridge team. Isobel Connelly (7th) completed the Tonbridge team that took the title from Blackheath and Bromley and Invicta East Kent.

Title winner Nicole Taylor led Tonbridge to more success in the under 17's race despite the absence of team support. Ellie Hume (Invicta) and Beth Armstrong (Bexley) completed the podium on the day but Tonbridge had done enough to take the team trophy from Invicta and Blackheath and Bromley.

Blackheath and Bromley athletes filled the first three places in the under 20 race through Melody Kane, Claire Parkin and the league winner, Danielle Critchley. This was enough to clinch the team title unopposed in this category.

Final Individual Results

U13B: 1 Thomas Kendrick (Ton), 2 Bailey Stickings (B&B), 3. Cameron Payas (M&M). U15B: 1 George Duggan (Ton), 2 William Somogyi (Bex), 3 Jack Goss (Ash). U17M: 1 Jack Keywood (Ton), 2 Will Mercer (B&B), 3 Adam Willis (Bex). U20M: 1 Rob MacDonald (Camb H), 2 John Dickinson (Ton), 3 Jamie Bailey (Inv). U13G: 1 Georgina Taylor (B&B), 2 Megan Marchant (Camb H), 3 Anna Weston (Inv). U15G: 1 Bobby Clay (Inv), 2 Sian Driscoll (Ton), 3 Ellen Newark (Bex). U17W: 1 Nicole Taylor (Ton), 2 Ellie Hume (Inv), 3 Beth Armstrong (Bex). U20W: 1 Danielle Critchley (B&B), 2 Samantha Beckett (Ash), 3 Michelle Fewster (B&B).

Alan Newman