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

### **KENT WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE**

Beth Carter of Invicta East Kent stepped up from the under 20 age group to win her first Kent senior women's cross country league race in a wet and windy Swanley Park on Saturday, writes Alan Newman. The Kent and South of England junior champion finished seven seconds clear of defending champion Deirdre McDermot of Tonbridge AC, who took the runner-up spot for the third time this season.

The podium was completed by another top junior, Jen Hamer of Blackheath and Bromley ahead of Nicola Groom of Larkfield AC, who enjoyed her best run in this league. Lauren Fawke and Kylara Hassell of Folkestone Running Club completed the top six and Melanie Burdett of Beckenham Road Runners was the leading W35 master in ninth place.

Defending champions, Medway and Maidstone AC, fielded an incomplete team led by twelfth placed Jenny Fowler and now slip from contention. Invicta East Kent pipped Tonbridge AC by a single point in the team race with Dartford Harriers third. However, Tonbridge take a four point lead into the final match from Folkestone Road Runners, with Invicta East Kent third. The final women's league match is at Parkwood School, Swanley on February 13 and the full results are available at [www.kcaa.org.uk](http://www.kcaa.org.uk)

### **KENT YOUNG ATHLETES CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE**

Tonbridge AC won five of the eight team races in the Kent Young Athletes cross country league at Swanley Park on Saturday, writes Alan Newman. The only other club to taste success was Invicta East Kent in the under 20 men's and the under 13 girl's races. No club finished intact in the under 20 women's event.

George Duggan took the under 13 boy's race for Tonbridge from team mate William Round and Jamie Grain of Cambridge Harriers. Will Seymour sealed the victory for Tonbridge from Medway and Maidstone AC, who filled the next three places through Ashley Nisbet, Louis Jennings and Stephen Jones. Dartford Harriers were the third team to finish.

Charlie Joslin-Allen was victorious in the under 15's race from Luke Dawson (Invicta) and Tonbridge colleague Corey De'ath. Sean Molloy completed the winning team in fifth place behind Jack Wreathall (Ashford AC). Bexley and Ashford AC chased the Tonbridge team home with M&M fourth.

Robbie Farnham-Rose held off the spirited challenge of Adam Gilbert of M&M in the under 17's race, where the top six leader board was filled by members of the victorious Tonbridge team. This time it was Henry Pearce, Luca Russo, Jamie Bryant and Jack Keywood who froze out the opposition. Tonbridge AC easily won the team race from Invicta, Blackheath and M&M.

Jason Prickett won the under 20's race for the successful Invicta East Kent team, with Robert MacDonald (Cambridge Harriers) and James Pigot (Tonbridge) completed the podium.

Invicta East Kent won the girls under 13's race from Blackheath, Tonbridge and M&M. Bobby Clay of Invicta was the race winner from Sian Driscoll (Tonbridge) and Anna Weston (Invicta), with Lily Coward fifth for the winners. Samantha Leighton was fourth for Blackheath and Jacinta Barham (13th) led the fourth placed M&M squad.

Alice Wood of the winning Tonbridge team took the under 15's race from Amber Reed (Blackheath) and Nicole Taylor of Tonbridge. Blackheath and Cambridge Harriers were the only other teams to finish. Ellen Holmes of Tonbridge took the under 17's race from Megan Hawes of Sevenoaks and Rebecca Farrell of Bexley AC. Tonbridge claimed an unopposed team victory.

Ejiro Okoro of Medway and Maidstone won the under 20's race from Rebecca Smith of Blackheath and Isobel Dickinson of Ashford AC. The final young athletes' league races will be held at Danson Park, Bexley on Saturday, December 5 and the full results are available at [www.kcaa.org.uk](http://www.kcaa.org.uk)

**Alan Newman**