

ENGLISH CROSS COUNTRY ASSOCIATION REPORT 2019-2020

A season that opened with optimism was just about completed but the future looks hazy and season 2020 – 2021 looks in doubt because of the Corona Virus but that is for next year's report.

After all the doubt about the Relays taking place, everything went smoothly at Berry Hill Park, Mansfield. With Mansfield District Council now in charge a lot of doors and gates opened, and the local Council welcomed the event. However, the weather was uncooperative and for most of the day it rained making parking difficult on the soft surface but the athletes as usual enjoyed themselves. There were no records either entries or size of fields but still 1223 teams took part in all the age groups and the events were fierce with several close finishes.

Again, it was the wet weather that was a problem in the leadup to the National at Wollaton Park, Nottingham. The continuous rain made the ground exceptionally soft and there were huge puddles in the planned start area and around the course. Nottingham City Council had decided to organise the parking this time and declared that certain parts of the Park were to soft for any parking to take place. There were several emergency meetings held in the week before the Event and there was even talk of cancellation which would have been a first outside of wartime. Lots of alternatives were discussed and a few sites outside of the Park were found to park on but directing traffic to these proved difficult resulting in a long que of traffic.

On the day there was no rain I am pleased to say, and once again large numbers of athletes tackled the pools of water, the mud and heavy going throughout and it turned out to be a memorable day. The two Senior races had large numbers of athletes running in each race. The Senior Men had 1716 finishers while the Senior Women had 920 and there were over 5000 runners counting all the age groups. Once again Saucony our sponsors dressed the course magnificently. They have been great sponsors over the years and continue to support the Association both financially and in kind.

The International programme again took place with trips to Spain and Belgium as well as the Home Countries International in Scotland. The Senior Women's team, the Junior Men's and Junior Women's teams are generally near to the strength the Team Managers wish to select. However, when it comes to the Senior Men's team Eamonn Martin our Team Managers can never pick the team he wants and sometimes approaches 10 plus athletes before he can select 4. Indeed, things got so bad with the Seville fixture that he decided with the Officers backing not to send a team as there were not enough athletes of the required ability for the race. It just amazes me that talented athletes will not take up these opportunities.

Once again, I thank all the volunteers and officials that help the Association with its programme. The season ahead will be testing and with lots of them shielding for various reason the sport will find out if it can continue during testing times.

Ian Byett
ECCA Honorary Secretary

CHAMPIONSHIP MEDALLISTS 2019 - 2020

National Relays: Berry Hill Park, Mansfield – 2nd November 2019

Results:

Under 13 Girls (3x2K): 1 Wolverhampton & Bilston AC 'A'; 2 Rotherham H&AC 'A'; 3 Stockport H&AC 'A'
Under 15 Girls (3x2K): 1 Vale Royal AC 'A'; 2 Hallamshire H Sheffield 'A'; 3 Windsor Slough Eton & Hounslow AC 'A'
Under 17 Women (3x2.5K): 1 Aldershot, Farnham & Dist AC 'A'; 2 Shaftesbury Barnet H 'A'; 3 City of Norwich AC 'A'
Junior Women (3x2.5K): 1 Wolverhampton & Bilston AC; 2 Herne Hill H 'A'; 3 St Mary's College AC; 4 Bracknell AC 'A'
Senior Women (3x3K): 1 Aldershot, Farnham & Dist AC 'A'; 2 Leeds City AC 'A'; 3 Cambridge & Coleridge AC 'A';
Under 13 Boys (3x2K): 1 South London H 'A'; 2 Shaftesbury Barnet H 'A'; 3 Winchester AC 'A'
Under 15 Boys (3x2K): 1 South London H 'A'; 2 Vale Royal AC 'A'; 3 Cambridge & Coleridge AC 'A'
Under 17 Men (3x3K): 1 Windsor Slough Eton & Hounslow AC 'A'; 2 Vale Royal AC 'A'; 3 Tonbridge AC 'A'
Junior Men (3x3K): 1 Shaftesbury Barnet H 'A'; 2 Invicta East Kent AC; 3 St Mary's College AC 'A'; 4 Cambridge & Coleridge AC 'A'
Senior Men (4x5K): 1 Leeds City AC 'A'; 2 Cambridge & Coleridge AC 'A'; 3 Bedford & County AC 'A'

National Championships: Wollaton Park, Nottingham – 22nd February 2020

Results:

Under 13 Girls: 1 Zoe Gilbody (Chiltern HAC); 2 Shaikira King (Wreake & Soar Valley AC); 3 Scarlett Williams (Wolverhampton & Bilston AC)
Teams: 1 Tonbridge AC 136 pts; 2 Wreake & Soar Valley AC 144 pts; 3 Wolverhampton & Bilston AC 158 pts
Under 15 Girls: 1 Kiya Dee (Highworth RC); 2 Grace Roberts (Vale Royal AC); 2; 3 Jessica Bailey (Leven Valley AC)
Teams: 1 Vale Royal AC 77 pts; 2 Windsor Slough Eton & Hounslow AC 106 pts; 3 Blackheath & Bromley HAC 156 pts
Under 17 Women: 1 Maya Todd McIntyre (Rushcliffe AC); 2 Kirsten Stilwell (Wycombe Phoenix H & AC); 3 Lara Crawford (Salc H Manchester)
Teams: 1 Aldershot, Farnham & Dist AC 119 pts; 2 Blackheath & Bromley AC 119 pts; 3 Shaftesbury Barnet H 147 pts
Junior Women: 1 Amelia Quirk (Bracknell AC); 2 Isobel Fry (Newbury AC); 3 Giorgia Chattwood (Wolverhampton & Bilston AC)
Teams: 1 Bracknell AC 55 pts; 2 Aldershot, Farnham & Dist AC 56 pts; 3 Herne Hill H 65 pts
Senior Women: 1 Anna Moller (Aldershot, Farnham & Dist AC); 2 Jessica Judd (Blackburn H & AC); 3 Bronwen Owen (Leeds City AC)
Teams: 1 Aldershot, Farnham & Dist AC 48 pts; 2 Leeds City AC 58 pts; 3 Highgate H 159 pts
Under 13 Boys: 1 Alden Collier (Chiltern HAC); 2 Gianleo Stubbs (Shaftesbury Barnet H); 3 James Lewis (Winchester & Dist AC)
Teams: 1 Chiltern HAC 100 pts; 2 Winchester & Dist AC 160 pts; 3 Windsor Slough Eton & Hounslow AC 193 pts
Under 15 Boys: 1 Lewis Sullivan (Saint Edmund Pacers); 2 Benjamin Peck (Thetford AC); 3 Christopher Perkins (Birtley AC)
Teams: 1 South London H 62 pts, 2 Tonbridge AC 140 pts, 3 Windsor Slough Eton & Hounslow AC 141pts
Under 17 Men: Will Barnicoat (Windsor Slough Eton & Hounslow AC); 2 Flynn Jennings (Bideford AC); 3 Mohamed Ali (Ealing Southall & Middlesex AC)
Teams: 1 Windsor Slough Eton & Hounslow AC 86 pts; 2 Tonbridge AC 109 pts; 3 Aldershot, Farnham & Dist AC 200 pts
Junior Men: 1 Zakariya Mahamed (Southampton AC); 2 Joshua Lay (Rugby & Northampton AC); 3 Samuel Moakes (Sutton in Ashfield H&AC)
Teams: 1 Shaftesbury Barnet H 133 pts; 2 Tonbridge AC 166 pts; 3 Aldershot, Farnham & Dist AC 242 pts
Senior Men: 1 Calum Johnson (Gateshead H&AC); 2 Joe Steward (East Cheshire H & Tameside AC); 3 Linton Taylor (Leeds City AC)
Teams: 1 Tonbridge AC 246 pts; 2 Leeds City AC 280 pts; 3 Bristol & West AC - 301 pts