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Alan Newman's reports appear in the KM every Friday

KENT CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

Danson Park, Bexleyheath. Saturday 28th November 2015

Senior Women

Ashley Gibson took her second race win of the Kent Women's cross-country league season, leading Tonbridge AC to team success at Bexleyheath on Saturday afternoon, writes Alan Newman. Gibson was always in charge of a field of 83 starters in this third race of the winter series, held on a revised course in the southern half of Danson Park. Her winning margin was 73 seconds as she covered the 5k, three-lap circuit in 17min11sec.

Tonbridge club-mate, Chloe Bird (under-20), just held off Paddock Wood's fast finishing Sarah Shephard for second and the top six was completed by Maria Heslop (W45 Paddock Wood), Shauna Paice (U20 Tonbridge) and W45 Tina Oldershaw (Paddock Wood). Tonbridge claimed the team victory at three-to-count from Paddock Wood and Blackheath and Bromley Harriers and they also won at six-to-score from Blackheath and Greenwich Tritons Triathlon Club.

With the league's final positions to be decided at Foots Cray Meadows on February 13, the consistency displayed by 48-year-old Tina Oldershaw has been rewarded with the overall lead by two points from her 22-year-old club colleague, Sarah Shephard. Stephanie Hearn (Medway & Maidstone) and Anoushka Johnson (Dartford Harriers) are disputing the bronze medal.

The much-improved Paddock Wood squad is now just ahead of Blackheath on a tie-break in the battle for the team trophy, with Tonbridge two points in arrears. Meanwhile, at six-to-score, Blackheath now have a commanding advantage over Greenwich Tritons and Cambridge Harriers.

Young Athletes – Male

Bashiri Ryan (Medway & Maidstone) won his first league race of the season in the under-13 race at Danson Park but it was not enough to stop Rowan Fuss (Blackheath) taking the individual title with three previous wins. Ryan was two seconds clear of Fin Croll, who led his Tonbridge side to team success on the day and overall. Fuss was six seconds behind but a worthy champion by one point from Ryan.

The unpredictable under-15 age group saw a win for Cambridge Harriers' Matthew Francis from previous winner James Stoney (Tonbridge) and Tom Simpson (Cambridge Harriers). Stoney claimed the individual honours from Francis and Quinn Austin (M&M). Tonbridge were clear team winners on the day and overall from Blackheath and M&M.

Alasdair Kinloch maintained his 100% success record as he led Tonbridge to the team award in the under-17 race. He was followed home by team-mates James Puxty, Jamie Goodge and Sam Crick for the perfect score. As Kinloch strode to the individual title, his team has dominated the league to win by a distance from M&M and Blackheath.

A much better attended under-20 race was won by Stuart Brown (Tonbridge) from the improving Teweldebrhan Menges (M&M) and Tonbridge's Chris Cohen. However, the consistent Jamie Atkins (Dartford Harriers) lifted the individual trophy ahead of Cameron Payas (M&M). Tonbridge completed a clean sweep of the team awards ahead of M&M and Bexley.

Young Athletes – Female

Ellie Dolby led Blackheath to a maximum points score with her fourth successive league victory in the under-13 girls' race to claim the trophy. Morgan Squibb and Jessica Neal closed out the team race ahead of league runner-up Katie Goodge (Tonbridge). Blackheath were comfortable team champions from Tonbridge, Medway Tri Club and M&M.

Elizabeth Miller (Tonbridge) enjoyed a close win over M&M's Matilda Atkins and Beth Williams (Thanet Road Runners) at under-15 level. Tonbridge won on the day and overall from Blackheath, with Invicta East Kent third overall.

Holly Page (Dartford Harriers) was well clear of five members of Blackheath Harrier's league winning squad in the under-17 race. Jessica Keene led her Blackheath team-mates to victory and helped herself to the league trophy. Blackheath powered through to the team awards ahead of Tonbridge.

Bonnie Maughey (Dartford Harriers) was the only under-20 competing in the final race and was rewarded with the individual title as the only athlete in this age-group to complete all four races. Sadly there was no team interest. Full results at www.kcaa.org.uk

Alan Newman