

37th Annual Humberside XC Championships
Sunday 8 January 2012
Report by Kay Farrow of Beverley AC



The 37th Annual Humberside Cross-Country Championships took place at Quibell Park in Scunthorpe last Sunday and attracted a field of several hundred athletes all competing for medals and the chance to represent their county at the national UK Inter-County XC Championships in Birmingham in March.

The weather was perfect for running, mild and dry, creating firm conditions underfoot which allowed athletes to achieve faster times. However it was a strange course for cross-country. There was a pleasant section snaking through the woods but the course also took runners out of the park to run along the grass verge next to a main road. There was also a surprising amount of tarmac path but overall the course was fairly flat with one significant hill.

Beverley Athletic Club fielded a squad of 41 runners, including 20 juniors, and was represented in every race. Against competition from the best cross-country runners in the county there were some notable successes for individuals and teams.

Beverley Juniors did particularly well at Quibell Park. Taylor Arnott won a silver medal in the U-11 boy's category and Oliver Cockerill (U-13 boys) and Kelly Dawson (U-15 girls) won individual bronze medals. The girls U-15 team, Kelly Dawson, Elizabeth Evans and Dayna Arnott, narrowly missed winning the gold medal. They finished only one point behind Hull Achilles and were awarded silver.

Junior coaches Neil and Rona Sergeant were delighted with how the youngsters performed. "All ran so well in high class fields," they commented afterwards, "we are so proud of them." The medals were a bonus as the main aim of the day was qualifying to represent

Humberside at the national championships in March. Nine Beverley juniors were selected to run for their county and another two have reserve places.



U-15 girls silver medal winners: Kelly Dawson, Elizabeth Evans and Dayna Arnott

Other Beverley juniors achieving notable performances were Andrew Harding (4th junior men), Kendall Arnott (4th junior women), Curtis Arnott (4th U-17 men), Nicole Dawson (4th U-17 women), Lauryn Garwood (4th U-13 girls).



Taylor Arnott, Oliver Cockerill and Lauryn Garwood

In the senior races Beverley fielded 2 men's teams and one ladies' team. With a significant number of the club's faster runners training for marathons, teams were not as strong as they might have been. The terrain in cross-country races presents more opportunities for injury than road races and those running marathons in the spring will not want to risk injury. Andy Johnson pulled out after the first lap with an ankle injury but hopefully this will be only a minor problem.



James Pearson was the first of Beverley's men to finish the four lap 12km course leading Beverley A home to fifth place in the team competition. He finished in sixth place overall in 44:30 despite having run over 100 miles in training in the week leading up to the race. Sixth place gained him automatic qualification for the Inter-County Championships and in his opinion "The standard for Humberside was generally higher than last year."

Pearson was followed across the line by newcomer Ross Flood competing in only his second race for Beverley. Flood impressed his club mates before the race with his eagerness to warm up. Pearson commented that Flood had set off very fast and had run a great race. Flood admitted to being outsprinted in the home strait and that he must work hard to improve his finish. "I'm happy with my time and my placing against good opposition." he commented afterwards. Pete Fielding-Smith, Stuart Little, Mark Dalton and Steve Peacock made up the rest of the A team.



In the senior ladies race it was Sam Allen who crossed the line first leading Beverley to sixth place in the ladies team competition. She completed the three lap 8km course in thirteenth place overall in 39:43. She was followed by Jayne Dale, Kate Ladell and Francesca Giuntini in 21st, 23rd and 24th places respectively. Allen was not impressed with the course. "I don't count grass verge at the side of a main road cross-country." she said after the race.

The first six to finish in each race gained automatic selection to represent Humberside at the national championships and the rest of the county squad will be selected according to the availability of the fastest runners. James Pearson was the only Beverley AC runner to qualify



automatically but after the meeting all Beverley ladies received availability requests as well as a number of the men.

Photos from top to bottom:
James Pearson
Ross Flood
Sam Allen

Beverley AC finishing times:

Senior / Veteran men – 12km – Beverley A 5th team, Beverley B 8th team

James Pearson 6th 44:30; Ross Flood 46:37; Pete Fielding-Smith 50:03; Stuart Little 50:13; Mark Dalton 51:09; Steve Peacock 52:49; Neil Bant 53:18; Mark Dawson 53:58; Gareth Jackson 54:34; Andy Tate 56:22; Jordan Arnott 56:58; Lucas Meagor 58:32; Paul Brittain 58:37; Pete Watkinson 58:57; Daniel Hardy 62:10; Kelvin Arnott 63:03; Neil Sergeant 65:05.



Senior / Veteran women – 8km – Beverley 6th team

13th Sam Allen 39:43; Jayne Dale 41:11; 23rd Kate Ladell 42:10; 24th Francesca Giuntini 43:09.



Jayne Dale, Kate Ladell, Francesca Giuntini and Sam Allen, Jayne Dale

Junior men – 8km

4th Andrew Harding 32:05.

Junior women – 6.5km

4th Kendall Arnott 30:32.

Under-17 men – 6.5km

4th Curtis Arnott 29:17.

Under-17 women – 5km

4th Nicole Dawson 24:20.



Harry Powell



Curtis Arnott

Under-15 boys – 5km – Beverley 4th team

Ethan Dalton 21:40; Coner Spilsbury 22:30; Harry Powell 23:20; Edward Prew 24:24.

Under-15 girls – 5km – Beverley 2nd team and silver medal

3rd Kelly Dawson 24:30; Elizabeth Evans 24:46; Dayna Arnott 25:39; Francesca Brittain 32:20.

Under-13 boys – 3.5km

3rd Oliver Cockerill 12:17.

Under-13 girls – 3.5km – 3rd team and bronze medal

4th Lauryn Garwood 13:55; Eleanor Boyd 14:44; Morgan Dennis 15:56; Laura Duncan 16:23.

Under-11 boys – 2km

2nd Taylor Arnott 06:56; Joe Cockerill 07:00.

Under-11 girls – 2km

4th Jordan Peacock 08:21.



Left Laura Duncan

Right Joe Cockerill





Kate Ladell, Francesca Giuntini and Pete Fielding-Smith



Stuart Little, Mark Dalton and Steve Peacock



Andy Johnson



Senior men start