Hi all

Despite the persistent rain all day yesterday we had 32 tough and determined athletes travel to Birmingham for the National Road Relay Championships.  Many left home before 7am but were greeted by the Blackheath and Bromley tent and banners already set up in a prime location and relatively dry!  A massive thank you to Hanna and Dave Cordell and Track manager (amongst other things ) Ken Daniel for getting there early, setting up the tent and staying late to clear away when everyone had gone home.

The U13 boys were best represented on the day, with 9 boys making up three complete teams. Great runs by Angus Harrington, Peter Guy (with even shorter hair than last week!) and Henry James Cowie brought the A team home in a very respectable 8th place. Coleman Corry had a fantastic leg and along with very strong runs from Lewis Stickings and Lewis Warren the B team finished well up the field in 17th place. Keir Lundy was lead off leg for C team and his strong leg along with great runs from Harrison Parker  and Callum Myatt saw them finish in a creditable 36th place.

It's worth pointing out that 6 of these boys have never run in a National Championship before but all coped well and produced some great results.

The U15 boys had two complete teams with 3 of the 6 boys being new to this event while the other three all posted personal best times on their legs. Joss Barber, Aleksander Wiltshire and Jake Potter collectively brought the A team home in a strong 20th position followed by the B team of Niyi Akin Agunbiade, Charlie Davis and Josh Davidson finishing 14 places behind in 34th position.

The U17 boys finished in a respectable 17th place overall with great runs from Richard Webb and Will Fuller giving final leg runner Bailey Stickings the onerous task of trying to hang on whilst racing along side some of the top winter boys in the Country.

Tom Desborough was the lone runner in the U17 B team but ran his leg in a new personal best time.

The best team result of the day went to the U15 girls team of Jessica Keene, Naomi Kingston and Kelsey Fuss who all ran superb legs to win them all a National silver medal for their efforts.

The constant rain didn't dampen team spirits and with the doughnuts and chips flying about all the athletes seemed to cope well with the conditions. It was only the parents, team mangers, coaches and supporters who struggled!!

Many thanks must go to the parents and grand parents who would have spent at least 6hrs driving in the rain to support our young athletes.

Amongst them were Callum's grandparents and mum Kelly, Geoff Webb, Coleman's dad Nic, Nick Barber, Aleksander's dad Paul, Keir's dad David, Niyi's dad Funsho, Charlotte and Nigel Stickings, who always ensure  the boys and girls are warmed up and ready to go, and finally it was great to have our president Bob Cliff in attendance.

Two weeks time, Saturday 26th October is the second fixture in the Kent League at the lovely (but hilly) Tonbridge course.

A week later we have the National Cross Counrty relays 2nd November,  with an overnight stay on the Friday.

**Please let me know if you would like to do this event as teams (and room numbers if staying over) need to be confirmed.**

More details to follow in due course.

Regards

Paul Austridge