



## SEAA Cross Country Championships – Parliament Hill Fields

Saturday 25 January

Last Saturday saw the annual SEAA Cross Country Championships at Parliament Hill Fields. As a result of the recent wet weather conditions were challenging to say the least. All races started just in front of the lido with the first of many climbs being the familiar 500m “slog” up to the supporting fans. First up for the club was Usamah Patel. Looking for a top 20 position he had trouble with the condition & had to settle for 44th place in the U15 race. Jack Maher, using these races in preparation for the track season found the going even tougher finishing 173rd place in the U 17 race.

The weather was still bright when the Women’s race set off over two laps of 5 miles. Jenni Sheehan, on her first appearance in the Southern’s didn’t disappoint as she was first Lady home in 238th . She was closely followed by Dianne Crisp in 267th and Breege Nordin, despite a fall in the closing stages in 277th. There were 466 finishers.

The last race of the day was the Men’s held over the “classic” 9 miles. By now the course was well churned. Malcolm Muir had an excellent run as he finished in 87th. Paul Holloway, also on his first appearance at these Championships, battled his way round for 314th. Kevin Newell, off the back of a few races, found the course challenging and was 391st. At this time the heavens opened as Ben Jones finished in 482nd. Tony Hyde was 607th, Bradley Brown 705th and Darren Bottrill 795th. The team was 59th and there were 988 finishers.

Report and pictures courtesy of Ian Gains, Neil “Wellies” Crisp & Jenni Sheehan



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