

Surrey Cross Country Championships match report

On 7th January 2023 the Surrey cross-country championships took place at Lloyd Park. Famous for being a tough course, especially when the weather has been poor, the park was at its muddy best (or worst if you'd prefer), being more suited in places for pigs to roll around in than for a race.

But race we did, and there were some impressive performances on the day despite the difficult conditions.

The day started with the U13s and Walton had two representatives in the boys race. First across the line in a Walton vest was **Theo L** in 28th place and less than a minute later in 44th was **Matthew W**. The boys found it hard going but toughed it out, well done boys.

Our next representative was **George P** in the men's U17 race. This was coupled with the U20 race so there was a very strong field. George romped home in 15th overall but finished a brilliant 5th place in the U17 standings, which means he qualified to represent Surrey at the inter-counties. Well done George, excellent running.

Following this was the senior women's race. **Mandy R** was first Walton athlete and 75th overall, followed by **Michelle T**, (running without spikes!!) in 90th overall. Well done both, very good runs on an extremely challenging day.

Last up was the senior men's race and a large field of 189 runners took to the now well churned up course for the 3-lap race. First home in Walton colours was **Robert S** in 63rd, **Chris C** in 130th and **Ollie S** in 152nd. Excellent work guys!

Unfortunately, I cannot find age graded rankings anywhere but I am sure there were a few excellent age group results too!

Overall, a great day out, in terrible weather and awful course conditions. It is what we call "proper" cross-country. Well done to everyone who raced and thanks to all those who came to support.

Robert