

## Surrey cross country league match 1 – Epsom downs

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October saw the much-anticipated return of the Surrey cross country league.

In our first appearance in division 2 for a few years, Walton men did not manage to field a full team, with only 7 members running. Although this is disappointing (and the first time I remember us not being able to field a full team), the athletes that did run put in a brilliant performance.

Duncan Woolmer was mixing it up at the front of the field and finished an impressive 7<sup>th</sup> place and 1<sup>st</sup> V40. Joe Daws-Twilley ran an excellent race, leading a chase pack for a long distance and finishing in 13<sup>th</sup>. This was his first senior cross-country race, his first time running 5 miles cross-country and finished as 1<sup>st</sup> U20. Not a bad start to his senior cross-country career!

Robert Smith, Jamie McLoughlin, Jonathan Hiorns, Clint de Tarnowski and Matt Reed all had impressive races, ensuring that Walton did not finish bottom on the day, despite being the only team without 10 runners.

I'd just like to highlight Joe Daws-Twilley's as my performance of the day. The strength of the field in division 2 is not to be sneezed at, and as a first year U20, Joe looked comfortable in his surroundings and despite going out hard with Duncan, managed to hold on for a brilliant top 15 finish. Well done Joe.

Overall, we finished 8<sup>th</sup> of 9 teams. Not a great start but let us not take anything away from the runners on the day. I am hoping that a few more runners are competing with us in Walton vests at the next race on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November at Denbies. It is a great course so make sure you put it in your diaries, I shall be emailing with details soon.

A huge thank you to everyone who ran, making my first match as team manager a very enjoyable one.



Left to right: Jamie, Duncan, Matt, Robert, Joe, Clint, Jonathan