

Surrey cross country league match report – Fixture 3, Richmond Park

Match 3 of the Surrey cross country league was run at Richmond Park on Saturday 15th Jan, and Walton had their best placed result of the season thanks to a strong team performance, finishing 5th overall. This means our league position remains 6th, but puts us in a stronger (but not invulnerable) position going into the final match.

The 8km course was very slippery and wet in places with a few long climbs and a long downhill section which rewarded the more gutsy and nimble runners able to weave in and out of the wetter patches and mounds and stay upright! It was overall, a lot of fun.

Coming home as first Walton athlete was **Alex Kilby** with his second 4th place finish in a row. Second across the line in black, red and gold was **Duncan Woolmer** in 8th, also for the second race in a row. Excellent runs again, as we have come to expect from these two, well done guys!

We then had **Craig Jarman** finishing 12th overall, a great performance, 12 places higher than he finished at Denbies. Well done, Craig!

Next to finish was **Richard Singleton**, (making his debut in a Walton vest, and a very impressive one at that!), followed by **Jonathan Hiorns**, **Robert Smith**, **Jamie McLoughlin**, **Clinton de Tarnowski**, **Matt Reed**, **Hugo Fleming**, **Christopher Coppellotti** and **James Bartosik**.

Every team member had a strong race, thank you all for coming and your incredible efforts.

Although, as a team, we are not challenging for promotion, we do have a few athletes that are vying for individual league titles as it stands:

In the U20 age category, **Alex Kilby** and **Joe Dawes-Twilley** sit at the top with one race to go. Well done lads, I am looking forward to seeing you battle it out in the last match.

In the V40 category, **Duncan Woolmer** has all but guaranteed the individual title with three first places in his age category and perhaps even more impressively, sits 4th overall in the senior rankings.

The fourth and final match of the season is a favourite to many – Lloyd park! This takes place on Saturday February 19th. Please make a note of this as we need a full strength team to ensure we can avoid relegation and push on in division 2 next season.

Many thanks and best regards

Robert

