

## McCain Cross Challenge Cardiff 16 January 2012

### **McCain Cross Challenge Cardiff January 15th 2012.**

On cold but bright day in South Wales the Northern athletes lined up against an England and Welsh select as well as a few top GB invited athletes

In the Under 20 race, Jennifer Walsh (Spenborough) running for England came in 2nd behind team mate Annabel Gummnow (Bristol & West). Jennifer had original been selected to run for the North in the Senior event but got a call up from England.

Senior Women's race was dominated by England, but again was won Northern athlete Lauren Howarth who was also called up late by England. Rosie Smith (Durham) had a great run to finish 5th taking a few England scalps on the way. Rosie was followed by Katie Walshaw (Holmfirth) 14th, Kirsty Longley (Liverpool Pembroke Sefton) 20th, Dionne Allen (Leigh) 21st and non scoring reserve Katie Brough (Warrington) had a great debut in 18th.

The senior men's race was again dominated by the England vests, only separated by Johnny Hay (Aldershot & Farnham) 2nd behind Frank Tickner, with Adam Hickey 3rd, Ashley Harrell 4th, Nelson Hall 5th, followed by a strong run by Northern athlete Pat Martin (Stockport) 6th, and Simon Deakin (Leeds) 8th. Peter Huck (Barrow & Furness) an under 23 Northern debut finished in a strong 12th, with Dave Webb (Leeds) in 15th

A big thank you must go to Graham Finlayson (Race Organiser) and Alex Donald (Welsh Athletics) for their kind hospitality and well organised event. Thanks also to Debbie Rowland in her 2nd event as women's team manager for Northern Athletics.

Rob Cameron