

## Northern Athletics Cross Country Relays Report

The first Northern Athletics cross country relay championships took place at Graves Park on 9th October. The event sponsored by Balfour Beatty and supported by Sheffield City Council proved popular with the athletes. Clubs turned out in force for a short but very challenging Graves Park course.

### Senior Men

Steve Vernon made light work of this undulating two mile course on leg 1 by recording the fastest time of the day and also giving Stockport a 32 second advantage. Simon Horsfield of East Cheshire overturned that lead on leg 2, while pre race favourites Leeds City AC crept into 4th. On leg three Gavin Hill kept the lead for East Cheshire but it was all very close at the final change over with only 7 seconds separating the first three teams as the ever dependable Martin Roscoe brought Leeds within touching distance of the title. Alan Buckley using all his experience ran a perfect anchor leg, quickly moving to the front he brought Leeds home with a 15 second margin over Stockport with East Cheshire taking the bronze medals. [Results](#)



*Winning Leeds City AC Senior Men*

*Martin Roscoe, Julie Maund (Balfour Beatty) Alan Buckley, Martin Burrett Chris Birchall*

### Senior Women

Hallamshire made the most of home advantage as they lead from start to finish, a race in which the only serious challenge came from their club mates in their B & C teams. Lizzie Adams lead home the A team on the opening leg handing over to Zanthé Wray who increased the lead over their B team. Nicola Squire running the fastest time of the day brought home the A team to victory. As B teams can't win medals the silver went to Bingley with Leeds picking up the bronze, interesting to note that Hallamshire produced 7 of 10 fastest times in this race. [Results](#)



Hallamshire winning Ladies A Team with Lady Mayor and Lord Mayor Cllr Alan Law and Julie Maund from Sponsors Balfour Beatty

### **Under 17 Men**

Leeds City were denied a second relay championship success in seven days after administration error deprived them of being listed amongst the under-17 men's entries. *(They had failed to enter formally but were allowed to run as a good will gesture by the referee)* However, just as the trio of Elliott Todd, Harry Foster and Gordon Benson had done in the road relays in Wythenshawe Park, the referee allowed them to compete and though they were first home they were denied the winner's medals once more. Tom Burns had Hallamshire in pole position at the end of the first 2.3km stage posting the joint second fastest time of the day as Todd chased him home one second back with Leigh in third place. On leg two Lancaster and Morecambe (Callum Mason) went into the lead with Kingston upon Hull's James Lamswood improving nine places to second with a time exactly the same as Bains on the opening stage. East Cheshire moved up to third with Leeds City's Foster slipping down to fifth. On the final stage, Benson repeated his Manchester run by posting the fastest time of the day which saw the Tykes come home 22 seconds clear as Kingston upon Hull (Peter McGill), who didn't contest the road relays, held off fast-finishing Luke Johnston (Warrington), to take second place and the gold medals. Warrington, who were crowned road relay champions, were denied a second set of gold medals by just one second. [Results](#)

### **Under 17 Women**

Hallamshire's Fiona Bell led the under-17 women's contest at the end of the first 2.3km stage, posting the fastest time of the day. Eventual champions East Cheshire were in second place (Emma Peters) six seconds down with Leigh's Shannon Johnson a further 15 seconds behind. On stage two, East Cheshire, who were victorious in Manchester, moved to the front thanks to Sally Ratcliffe's effort. Leigh (Elizabeth Lee) moved up into second with Hallamshire dropping to third. The fastest stage time was posted by East Cheshire's Katie Reynolds who improved the B team up six places to eighth. It was a formality for Georgia Taylor-Brown on the final leg as she brought East Cheshire home by 14 seconds. Leigh, with a good last leg by Bethany Jones, won the silver medals ahead of Vale Royal (Laura Gray), who added the bronze to the silver won seven days earlier. [Results](#)



East Cheshire Under 17 Women's Champions

### **Under 15 Boys**

Matthew Shirling (St Helens Sutton) took the first of the under-15 boys 2km stage by storm in doing so posting the fastest time of the day by a huge margin. Joseph Lancaster (City of Sheffield) edged second place ahead of Skipton's Thomas Blanchard with eventual winners Warrington back in fifth place. Liam Burthem moved Warrington to the front at the changeover at the end of the penultimate stage with Kingston upon Hull (James Needham) in second place and Vale Royal (Matthew Sheen) in third. However, the fastest athlete on stage two was East Cheshire's Michael Murphy who improved 13 places sixth. On the glory leg Matthew Hulse, with the fastest stage time, brought Warrington clear by 22 seconds from Kingston upon Hull (Michael Adlard) with Vale Royal (Elliot Bowker) a further three seconds behind in third place. [Results](#)

### **Under 15 Girls**

In the under-15 girls championships, East Cheshire (Megan Ashelby) were ahead by one second from Vale Royal (Jessica Parsons) with Wakefield's Rebecca Firth a by further three seconds back in third. Wakefield moved to the front on leg two thanks to Libby Greatorex's effort as Emma-Louise Pyatt consolidated Vale Royal's second place as Lincoln Wellington (Rebekah Ward) moved into a medal position for the first time. Chelsea Jarvis was the biggest mover on the stage bringing Stockport up to seventh after taking over in 17th place. On the last leg positions changed once more as Emma Tonner, with the second fastest time of the day, brought Lincoln Wellington home in first place ahead of Vale Royal (Jade Evans) and Birtley (Lydia Turner). Just as she had done in Manchester, Scarborough's Bronwen Owen posted the fastest time of the day to bring the coastal side through to ninth. [Results](#)

### **Under 13 Boys**

Daniel Evans (Warrington) headed the field at the end of the first stage of the under-13 boys contest. Two seconds behind was the Rotherham athlete with Vale Royal's George Challinor a further second back in third place. Warrington's Patrick Iredale continued to lead on the second stage with the black vest of Rotherham still in second place with Wakefield, thanks to the fastest second stage time by Ben Read, up to third. Rotherham extended their lead on the final leg with Warrington (Robert Dykes), who also finished runners-up in Manchester,

lifting the silver medals once again as Will Parsons brought Vale Royal up to third. Lewis Byram, with the fastest overall time of the day, just failed to bring Holmfirth into a medal position, the Yorkshire outfit having to be content with fourth place. [Results](#)

### **Under 13 Girls**

Warrington, after being in fifth place at the end of the first stage of the under-13 girls contest, came through strongly to win the 3x1.8km championship. Bethany Donnelly had East Cheshire in front at the first changeover with Preston (Bethany Blackwell) in second place and St Helens (Rose Johnson) third. With the fastest time of the day, Harriet Knowles-Jones brought Warrington into the lead on the second leg with St Helens (Lucy Griffiths) pushing Preston (Maxine Smith) back to third. Jessica Coulson had no trouble in bringing Warrington home in first place on the last leg as Lucy Donaghy (Stockport), with the fastest stage time, coming home in second with East Cheshire (Lily McGuinness) edging out St Helens' Danielle Webb to lift the bronze awards. [Results](#)

*Report Bill McGuirk*

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