

National Cross Country Championships 22 February 2011



Stockport's Steve Vernon delivered the ultimate revenge for his Northern defeat at Alton Towers on Saturday with a decisive victory over Mike Skinner and his Northern nemesis Tom Lancashire.

A delighted Vernon crossed the line with arms aloft and a huge grin after a gruelling race through mud which had at times threatened the continuance of the meeting.

The casualty list early on in the meeting had prompted an emergency consultation amongst race organisers, but after delaying the start of the U15G race and shortening the lap to cut out the areas most badly affected by the liquid mud the championships continued with some excellent races culminating in Vernon's senior victory.

In addition to Steve's win, the Leeds City team once again proved victorious with a performance no doubt dedicated to their late legend John Lunn, some of the team probably still heard his bellows of delight at their win echoing across the Alton Towers landscape. Led home by James Walsh in 4th the Leeds team packed well to record a 47 point gap over runners up Tipton Harriers.

Two other Northern athletes achieved 1st places both of them in the U15 age groups. In the Boy's race Adam Howard of Oldham & Royton HAC raced to an impressive victory and in the corresponding Girl's event Bronwen Owen of Scarborough AC took the title ahead of Abbie Hetherington of Carlisle Aspatria AC.

Leading Northern athletes and teams in the other races are as below, Northern Athletics would like to congratulate all those who took part – well done.

U13G 3rd Harriet Knowles-Jones Warrington AC
Team 4th Warrington AC

U13B 3rd Christopher Brown Oldham & Royton HAC
Team 3rd Sale Harriers Manchester

U15G 1st Bronwen Owen Scarborough AC
2nd Abbie Hetherington Carlisle Aspatria
Team 2nd Birtley AC

U15B 1st Adam Howard Oldham & Royton HAC
Team 2nd Trafford AC

U17W 4th Megan Huxley Vale Royal AC
Team 2nd Vale Royal AC
3rd East Cheshire Harriers



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U17M 3rd Mark Shaw New Marske Harriers
Team 3rd Gateshead H&AC

Junior Women

8th Kate Avery Shildon RAC
Team 5th Lincoln Wellington AC

Junior Men

3rd Ben Connor Derby AC
Team 2nd Derby AC

Senior Women

2nd Hatti Dean Hallamshire harriers
Team 2nd Bingley H&AC

Senior Men

1st Steve Vernon Stockport Harriers
3rd Tom Lancashire Bolton Utd Harriers
Team 1st Leeds City AC



[Link to full Results](#)

Report Judith Temperton

Photo Steve Gains & [Mick Hall photo of Steve Vernon](#)

Top Steve Vernon comes home to win the National Cross Country title

Middle Bronwen Owen

Bottom Hattie Dean and Liz Yelling force the pace while winner Louise Damen waits



Now a V/70 the former National, Northern and Lancashire Cross Country Champion Ron Hill was a competitor at the 2011 National