

Race Report 7th October :The National Road Relays at Sutton Park

This year's National Road Relays, as nail-biting as ever, saw monumental efforts from many Chiltern Juniors. Hosted in Sutton Park, a course notorious for its gradual inclines and never-ending finish, it wasn't an easy task. Yet, as ever, the results show grit and drive from our Chiltern athletes.

The day began with the highly competitive under 13 boys, for which we had Isaac Taylor (16.17) and Albert Rushton (18.25), both respectable efforts in such a bustling race.

Just after followed the powerful under 13 girls team, who managed to place 8th team, an incredible achievement, finishing top ten nationally. The reputable Kara Gorman had the fourth fastest time overall (14.14), Nia Clarke (16.15) kept their team high in the rankings and Maya Davis (15.28) secured their top 10 finish.



Following them was the under 15 category; the boys team had Aidan Suleyman battling the start (13.09), James Holdsworth a strong middle leg (13.33) and Isaac Collier (13.15) finishing the job with a time of 39.57, placing them 15th in the country. Again, a fabulous accomplishment. Straight behind the boys, next to hurdle down the near-vertical start was the under 15 girls team. Issy Robinson (15.24), a strong middle leg from Marlie Nkoane (14.55) and Megan Lockwood (16.06) ensured an admirable finish of 46.25. Evident by the tomato-red faces, these teams destroyed Sutton Park's deceptively tough course with no fuel left in the tank, as Chiltern always do.





The temperature was rising and so were tensions as the under 17 races approached. As always, Alex Hughes (11.45) started the race with a bang, leading the race through 3km of undulating paths, finishing 6th in his leg. He passed onto the highly capable Isaac Jessop Tranter (12.33) who stormed second leg to hold a top ten place. Completing the race was Daniel Munn (13.41) who made the team proud with a great time of 37.59.

The day concluded with the under 17 girls race, Frankie with a bold start to her leg to finish 16th (14.26), Isabel Martin (16.38) continuing with strength, and Lily Jessop Tranter (15.23) speeding round Sutton Park to finalise the day with a team time of 46.27

Overall, remarkable efforts from all athletes. Chiltern Harriers are always sure to give it their all, and the times achieved show great promise for the upcoming Chiltern Leagues, cross-country events and any sheer, muddy hills yet to be conquered.



Report by Frankie Baxter