

Chiltern Harriers 2024

It was another good year for Chiltern Harriers in 2024 with successes in cross country, track field and in road running.

The first big event of the new year was the Buckinghamshire Cross Country Championships at the Shothill Park in Bedfordshire in January. There were wins for Richard Slade (Senior Men), Logan Gaskell (U13 Boys) and Kara Gorman (U13 Girls) and team wins for the U13 Girls, U13 Boys and U15 Boys.

There was more success as the 2023/2024 Chiltern League came to a conclusion at a very muddy Horspath in February. The Chiltern team won on the day and were second overall after two years of club victories. There were team wins for the U15 Boys, Junior Women and U13 Girls. Individually Richard Slade, Mike Turney and Kara Gorman all won league titles and there were medals for Adam Shute, Neil Turner, Tom Ford, and Juliette MacDougall.

After a turbulent league season a revamped committee saw Tom Dixon, Sue Slade and Katie Royals form part of the set-up that should see the league prosper in the coming few years.

Several Chiltern athletes were selected to run in March's end of season inter county matches. In the National Inter Counties Richard Slade, Adam Shute, Katie Royals, Logan Gaskell, Kara Gorman, Maya Davis, Nia Clarke, Bea Robinson, Tom Ford, Aidan Suleyman, Charlie Quantrill, James Holdsworth, Frankie Baxter, Alex Hughes, Euan Pinder, Archie Pinder, Dan Munn, Jack Turner, Toby Radbourne, Maddie Hughes, Ellie Shield, Charlotte Docwra, Maddie Rae, and Ash Finch all ran for their counties. At English Schools Alex Hughes had a great run to be third in the Inter Boys race and Tom Ford was fourth in the Junior Boys race, both gaining England vests for the following week's SIAB international in Ireland where Alex was third and Tom tenth.

Chiltern Harriers had runners at big city marathon events such as London and Manchester, not to mention further afield (Boston, Copenhagen). Fifteen of our runners pounded the streets of London, with several PBs, top 20 age category finishes and times worthy of the championship start in 2025. The Club also continues to show real form in the ultra marathon discipline, with members competing on the trails closer to home (for example, the Chiltern Ridge or XNRG events), as well as on the big stages of Snowdonia, the Jurassic Coast, South Downs Way and more. Ali Young continued to run around and around: this time clocking new British records for her age category both for 24 hours on the track (220km) and 100 miles.

At the Pednor 5 in May Chiltern Harriers men gained a team win with the women in second place. The men's team was Adam Shute, James Holdsworth, Neil Turner and James Repper. The women's team comprised Ali Young, Mairead O'Rourke and Katie Royals.

It was a busy summer for league track and field with a Chiltern team involved in the YDL Lower Age Group, and Wycombe and Chiltern composite teams involved in the YDL Upper Age Group and the Southern Athletics League. All teams finished solidly in mid-table and the SAL team did well, after two years of promotions through the divisions, to be tenth from eighteen in the top division of the league.

At Bucks County Track and Field Championships in May there were medals for Alice Martin, Bea Robinson, Emilia Ingham, Kara Gorman, Evelyn Wildman, Ffion Harman, Charlotte Docwra, Abi Masters, Edward Johnson, Aidan Suleyman, Amariah Odogwu, Emile Morti, Taye Awuku-Chan, Mila Luker, Florence Lee-Rubis, Chisom Nwafor, Sarah Cross, Anais Majekodunmi, Kieran Mortimer-Saunders, Bethan Lloyd, Holly Knott, Harrison Lawrence, and Issy Robinson.

Several Chiltern athletes were selected to compete in the prestigious English Schools Championships in July - Alex Hughes, Kara Gorman, Evelyn Wildman, Issy Robinson, Emilie Morti, Taye Awuku-Chan, Ffion Harman, Tom Ford, Emily Ford, Leon Doran, Frankie Baxter, and Chisom Nwafor (who retained her Senior Girls long jump title).

At Shardeloes 10k in September Alex Hughes took the win and led the Chiltern team that was second. Tom Dixon, Mike Turney, and Russell Vandembrekel completed the team, The Chiltern women went one better with Mairead O'Rourke, Jenny Bizley and Jessie Keighley combining for the win.

There was a good turnout at Southern Road Relays and Southern Cross Country Relays in October. The club fielded two complete Senior Mens teams at Aldershot for the first time with the As a creditable 30th. The U17 Men just missed the podium in fourth. However, the Cross Country Relays at Wormwood Scrubs saw the Senior Men third, the U17 Men and U20 Men both second.

The Chiltern League recommenced in October with Chiltern in the medal mix in most team categories and second overall after three matches by the end of the year. Juliette MacDougall, Tom Ford, Edward Johnson and Mike Turney were all well up individually in their age groups.

The year ended with a busy December – at the Pednor 10 on the 29th Aran Davidson was third man, Adam Shute won Vet 40 and Edward Johnson and Jack Turner won the mens' 2 x 5 mile relay prize.

On the 14th the Bucks County Cross Country came early with wins for Juliette MacDougall and Edward Johnson, and medals for Alice Martin, Nell Frost, Maya Davis, James Holdsworth, Isaac Jessop-Tranter, Toby Radbourne and Harrison Lawrence.

Things look busy for 2025 with the Chiltern League to conclude, the club hosting a YDL match at Little Marlow on June 1st, and a full programme of cross country and track and field events to look forward to.