



# Hampshire League Match Report

**12 November 2022 at Aldershot**

## **Ray Stevens Wins Trophy**

Ray Stevens won the Hampshire League Popplewell Trophy in 2022.

"Ray has been doing most of the organizing for our home fixtures for many years, as well as being the Men's Team Manager. He is up early on race day to set up the course, and is there until last thing to clear up".

We all know and appreciate how much work is entailed in setting up, marking a course and breaking it down at the end of the day. To add to this, being the Team Manager and having to collect numbers and bring envelopes to the Results team is a day's work in itself!

From our point of view, Ray always ensures that we have a tent/shelter for the results, that we have a table and chairs, and more importantly that we have cups of tea to keep us going!

We thank Ray for his work in making Reading's fixtures at Prospect Park a success year after year. Congratulations.

## **Women's Report by Debbie Taylor**

The weather was un-seasonally warm for this time of year but made for good conditions under foot although rather warm to race.

It was also the largest ladies' field for a Hampshire League race with a total of 196 athletes racing. Reading AC were 2nd team and the Vets 2nd so a very successful outing as Reading were only beaten by Aldershot AC and it was their home event.

Reading also had their maximum turn out with 21 athletes competing. First home for Reading, running extremely confidently, was Lauren Church who started her cross-country season in style with a 7th place finish. Lauren was followed by a new athlete to Reading, Nicola Lee, in 13th and Anna Boniface finished the team off in 14th place. All 3 ran very strongly pushing Reading to a very well deserved 2nd place.

U20 athlete Mia Waldmann ran strongly to finish 24th closely followed by Laurie Marlow with 35th place and Hayleigh Wood who paced the race brilliantly finished in 40th place. All her hard work in training is paying off.

Next in were Ella Saunders 46th, Catherine Hill 50th and Katherine West 52nd.

Our first vet lady Leanne James stuck to the task in hand and ran well in 73rd closely followed by fellow vet Susan Francis 80th and Helen Antram 91st which gave the vet team a strong 2nd place behind Aldershot.

Splitting Susan and Helen up was Shirley Ann Dix (81st). All these ladies finished well within the top half of the race which just goes to show the depth we have.

Julia Henderson, U20 Lucy Richards, Elsa Curran and U20 Simran Dhillan were packed close together and then finishing with Lee Fellows, Alisa Loyal and Claire Mills.

The U20 athletes ran a good 4th Team place.

Everyone should be proud of their first league race of the season.

### **Boys' Report by Keith White**

Reading's lads made an encouraging start to this season's Hampshire League campaign at Aldershot on Saturday, with the U15s finishing fourth and the U17s fifth, although the U13s unfortunately were unable to field a complete team. Individually Sam Weeks was fourth in the U13 race, and Maddox Gillas fifth in the U15s, while Wilf May was fourth in the U11 race.

On a warm and sunny autumn day, Reading's best team performance came in the 4km U15 race. Maddox Gillas and James Titmas were both soon among the leading group, and Maddox's committed running earned him an excellent fifth place in a time of 14.59, with James's fast finish just taking him into the top ten in 15.41. They were well backed up by Noah Tyers, who ran with great determination to finish 28th in 17.01, giving Reading a total of 43 points and fourth place in the team contest. Reading's non-scorers also ran well, with James Charlton-Perez finishing 37th in 17.49 and Jack Gilbert 49th in 19.53. Meanwhile another of our U15s, Elliott Hily, had a good run for Bluecoat in the regional final of the Schools Cup at Taunton, finishing 19th.

Reading's U17 team was led home by Adam Methven, who ran strongly for 14th place in their 6km race, recording 22.08. Next in for Reading was Adam Tivey, with a well-judged run for 23rd place in 22.54, and the team was completed by Ed Lewis, who after a strong first half faded somewhat to 30th with a time of 23.48, Reading finishing as fifth team.

In the 3km U13 race Sam Weeks worked his way through the field to a fine fourth place at the finish, and just missed out on third, as he recorded 11.25. Damian Wisinski had a good run too, finishing 32nd in 12.45, but disappointingly we had no third runner to complete the team.

In the U11 boys 1.5km race held in conjunction, Wilf May showed his potential with a fine fourth place finish, while Isaac Ryder also ran well to finish high up, although detailed results are not available at time of writing.

Now comes the Berks Bucks & Oxon Championships, at Henley Showground next Sunday, where we will need to field strong teams to counter the opposition from other local clubs.

### **Girl's Report by Julie Rayfield**

The first cross country of the winter season saw four U17 athletes take on the testing Aldershot course, with Zoe Rennie coming in a fine 9th place in 18:13, Libby Ryan was just behind in 12th (18:46) and the team was completed by Emma Beazley in 22:20 for a 4th place in the team results. Sophie Wallace was not too far behind as a backup in 27th place(23:17).

In the U15s we had five girls running, with Georgie Langdon leading the team home in 15th place (18:06), Alex Marden was on her heels in 16th (18:10) and Eve James completed the team in 21st (18:37), for 4th team on the day. Lucy Rennie had a great first run in the U15 category with 30th (19:25) and Matilda Brewer-Curren carried on bravely after losing her shoe at the start to finish in 53rd.

We didn't have any U13 girls running, but Frankie Staker finished an excellent 2nd in the U11 race despite a wrong turn.

Well done everyone and I hope to see you all at the next race.