

North of England Cross Country Championships
Saturday 23 January 2010
Report by Ian Boardley of Beverley Athletic Club

Saturday 23 January saw the Northern Cross Country Championships being held in Blackburn, Lancashire, with a group of fifteen athletes from Beverley AC travelling across the country to take part in the event and to represent their club.

Races were held throughout the day on a challenging loop that included a number of steep climbs, technical descents and muddy conditions underfoot.

Beverley AC were represented in three of the junior races - the U13 girls' (Kelly Dawson 173rd), U15 girls' (Nicole Dawson 84th) and U15 boys' (Peter McGill 27th) events. All three Beverley Juniors competed well in their respective events against tough opposition with Peter McGill particularly showing great potential for the future and possible County selection.

The 8km Senior Women's race saw three Beverley AC members taking part. Helen Storr (145th in 43:00) was the first Beverley lady home, with Jayne Dale (172nd in 45:00) and Sam Allen (188th in 46:27) not far behind.



Sam Allen, Jayne Dale and Helen Storr

Beverley AC's men's team

The Senior Men were the last to race, covering four loops and 12km in total. James Pearson (139th in 48:19) ran a very strong race to be the first Beverley AC runner home, with Aubrey Morrell (190th in 50:20), Ian Boardley (294th in 53:43), and Mark Dalton (311th in 54:18) also producing strong performances.

Beverley AC was very well represented in this final race with Steve Peacock (400th in 57:48), Neil Bant (427th in 59:15), Pete Watkinson (432nd in 58:28), Tim Simpson (513th in 1:03:31) and Brian Richardson (565th in 1:08:42) all running well and representing their club magnificently in this prestigious event.

Overall, the men were placed 30th out of the 49 clubs who fielded complete teams.

All those who travelled to the race agreed that it was a superb event and in future other members will be encouraged to take part in it.