

Tonbridge athletes in final championship of the year

Some Tonbridge Athletic Club distance runners had their final races of the year at the weekend, competing at various venues.

The only team competition was the South of Thames Championship race, held over 7.5 miles at Roehampton, on Saturday. It is one of the oldest races in the calendar, dating back to the 1880s and has some of the best clubs from in and around London competing to win the title.

Tonbridge fielded a solid team of six, that included three from the under 20 age group. With more than two hundred competitors towing the line, including some of the best seniors around, Henry Pearce was soon near the front. Racing the longest distance of his young career he managed to secure a fine fourth place, in a race won by international Phil Wicks, from Belgrave Harriers. For Pearce this was a confidence boosting race, having suffered a bout of illness at the time of the European trials last month.

Tom Cox was another racing further than ever before and came through the test well to secure 23rd, not far ahead of team mate Greg Cole (29th). With Karim Habibi (35th), Ryan Driscoll (38th) and Jon Undy (67th) the team placed fourth overall, as the championship went to Herne Hill Harriers.

On Sunday Robbie Farnham-Rose competed for the England under 20 men's team that was selected for the international Lotto Cross Cup cross country event, in Brussels. Farnham-Rose placed 9th, being third of the four selected England athletes home.

Also on Sunday Dan Bradley had an outstanding race in the Waveney Turkey Trot 10 mile road race, near Lowestoft. He lowered his personal best time by more than a minute to 54.30, as he took 2nd place, just seventeen seconds behind the winner, Luke Allen, from Norwich.

Tonbridge AC would like to thank all of those who have supported the club in 2011, including Tonbridge School, K College, The Schools at Somerhill and The Courier and wish everyone a happy and successful New Year.