

## **Chiltern Harriers AGM 2023**

### **Athlete Performance Report for 2022 season**

**Chiltern Harriers had an excellent 2022, with several successes in cross country, track and field and road running.**

The year began well in January with a great performance at the Buckinghamshire Cross Country Championships at Campbell Park. There were Chiltern team wins for the U11 Girls, U15 Girls, U17/U20 Women, Veteran Women, U13 Boys, U15 Boys, U20 Men, Senior Men, and Veteran Men. Individual wins came from Nia Clarke (U11G), James Holdsworth (U13B), Alden Collier (U15B), Maddie Hughes (U17W), Alicia Bushell (U20W), James Palmer (U20M), Richard Slade (SM), James Repper (V40M), Nick Hughes (V50M), Cath Holloway (V45W), and Miriam Kempson (V55W).

In the Southern Champs at Beckenham at the end of January there were further good efforts. The U15 Boys were the first race off and Alden Collier had a good run in fourth to lead the Chiltern team home to victory. The other scorers were Euan Pinder (14th), Archie Pinder (15th) and Daniel Munn (25th). However the team's strength in depth showed with Max Baxter (28th), Rowan Gawne (45th), Alex Hughes (51st) Isaac Jessop-Tranter (72nd), and Callum Powell (141st) all running well. Kara Gorman was an excellent sixth in the U13 Girls race and Maddie Hughes a superb fourth in the U17 Women's race. The U13 Girls were fifth, the U15 Girls seventh, the U13 Boys sixth, and the U17 Men tenth.

February saw a red-letter day for the club with the final Chiltern Cross Country League match at Shuttleworth sealing a first ever overall win for Chiltern Harriers. The meeting was marred by organisational problems which meant the U17 Men's and Senior Women's races were cancelled, but the majority of the programme went ahead. There were overall league wins for the U11 Girls, U13 Boys, U15 Boys, Junior Women, and Veteran Men. All other teams were in the medals and Chiltern ended up with over 15,000 points, 2000 ahead of second placed Milton Keynes. Individual wins went to Kara Gorman (U11G), Maddie Hughes (U17 Women), Tom Ford (U13B), Alden Collier (U15 Boys), Richard Slade (Senior Men), Nick Hughes (V50 Men), and Sue Elliott (V55 Women).

The National Championships at Parliament Hill were notable for another great win for the U15 Boys team. Alden Collier was second and Daniel Munn, Euan Pinder and Alex Hughes completed the scoring. Individually Kara Gorman (U13 Girls) was fifth and Maddie Hughes (U17 women) sixth.

The club hosted the Pednor 5 road race in May with team wins for Chiltern's men's and women's teams. The male team consisted of Nick Hughes (4<sup>th</sup>), Adam Shute (6<sup>th</sup>), Alex Paul (7<sup>th</sup>) and Tom Dixon (8<sup>th</sup>). The women's team winners were individual winner Maddie Hughes, Sue Elliott, and Frankie Baxter.

The track and field season saw solid results for both YDL Lower Age Group and Upper Age Group teams. The 2022 season also saw the club join forces with Wycombe Phoenix in the Southern Athletics League as the 'South Bucks' composite team.. This saw promotion from Division 3 to Division 2 for 2023, with stronger competition ahead. Notable performances came from Frankie Baxter in 2k chase (7.53) and George Brown in 3000m (8.49).

The Bucks Championships in May saw individual wins from Kara Gorman, Felix Danielli, Alice Brown, Mila Luker, Rory Hilton, Max Roughton, Aidan Suleyman, Zoe Partridge, Lucy Wilkinson, Sarah Cross, Evelyn Wildman, and Mattie Gemmell. U17 multi-eventer Chisom Nwafor won four golds on her way to a great season which saw her compete for GB in the European U20 Championships in Jerusalem in the heptathlon.

At the English Schools Championships at Manchester in July there were eight Chiltern athletes taking part across three county schools teams. Oakley Denson won silver in Inter Boys 800m and there were great efforts from Maddie Hughes (Inter Girls 3000m), Frankie Baxter (Inter Girls 1500m steeplechase), Thomas Redmond (Inter Boys 3000m), Lily Jessop-Tranter (Junior Girls 800m), Isaac Jessop-Tranter (Inter Boys 800m), Tom Emery (Senior Boys 1500m), and Issa Phillips-Pope (Junior Boys Pole Vault).

The autumn saw another good start in the Chiltern League with Chiltern leading at Christmas and with a chance of retaining the title. There were some good efforts in the autumn relays with the Senior Men gaining their first silverware in the Southern Cross Country Relays with an excellent second place. Junior teams all ran well in the Aldershot Relays, National Road Relays and Southern XC Relays with many top ten finishes but no silverware this year.

2023 started brightly with more success in Bucks Cross Country and Chiltern League match 4. With one match to go, Chiltern remain in contention to retain their title.

Steve Perkin

07.02.23