

Surrey Walking Club 3km Championships, Tonbridge Track 17th Aug 22

Surrey Walking Club held its track 3km for the first time after Covid and it was at Tonbridge rather than the usual Norman Park with Blackheath and Bromley as the latter venue is currently being upgraded. The weather improved after earlier rain with no wind and some warmth – a very pleasant evening for racing. The more important great feature of the event was the size of the field with 18 starters overall of whom three competed over shorter distances. This last group included U11 Sofia Crane who was accompanied by M75 grandfather Peter – surely a very unusual if not unique situation. This was not the end of the Crane tribe as Peter's two sons, David and Steven, led home the SWC competitors so winning the Championship and the Handicap respectively. Both their times represented improved performances, particularly Steve's. They were close during the race before David managed a final acceleration to win by 7 seconds. The only racer to beat the two by two minutes and win the event was very welcome visitor, Guy Thomas, although hardly a visitor as he is a Tonbridge AC member.

Further down the field were two more visitors from Lewes AC – U13 Charlie Perry and U17 Harvey Perry – plus U15 Lewis Burr (Ton). Both Lewis and Harvey produced excellent results in these ideal conditions with plenty of other athletes around them. Among these were SWC President Roger Michell whose performance was limited by a short, enforced break. M80 SWC member Kevin Burnett put in a rare but pleasing appearance, and he comfortably completed the distance at 10-minute kilo pace. Slightly younger Chris Flint used the race as a fast warm-up for the following weekend's UK 100-mile Championship.

Results:

Mixed 3km:

1. G.Thomas (Ton M) 12 min 27 sec; 2. D.Crane (Sy WC M40) 14 min 25 sec; 3. S.Crane (Sy WC M40) 14 min 32 sec; 4. L.Burr (Ton U15B) 17 min 10 sec; 5. M.Ashby (Camb H M60) 17 min 29 sec; 6. C.Perry (Lewes U13B) 18 min 34 sec; 7. J.Arthur (Ilf M60) 18 min 53 sec; 8. H.Perry (Lewes U17B) 19 min 28 sec; 9. R.Michell (Sy WC M70) 19 min 55 sec; 10. G.Heaton (H'field M60) 20 min 48 sec; 11. I.Statter (Sy WC M65) 20 min 52 sec; 12. G.Legon (Bexley W60) 22 min 5 sec; 13. C.Flint (Sy WC M75) 22 min 42 sec; 14. P.Hannell (Sy WC M75) 23 min 18 sec; 15. K.Burnett (Sy WC M80) 30 min 14 sec.

Mixed 2km:

1. S.Arthur (Ilf W60) 20 min 31 sec.

Mixed 1km:

1. 1. S.Crane (Sy WC U11G) 8 min 1 sec; 2. P.Crane (Sy WC M75) 8 min 1 sec.