

### **Tonbridge Easter Monday Meeting 3km Walk 18<sup>th</sup> Apr 22**

There were no Surrey Walking Club entrants, however two of Shaun Lightman's training group recorded personal bests. The weather was warm and sunny with little breeze.

Hannah Hopper (Cambridge Harriers) in her first race after her initiation as an international in Podebrady (Czech Republic) went into a commanding lead and despite being ill on the last lap finished 1st in a creditable 14m 57.20s. The race for 2nd turned out to be a contest between Jacqueline Benson (Ashford AC) Katie Stringer (Medway and Maidstone) with Jacqueline drawing away in the final two laps. Johnny Ellerton (Blackheath & Bromley Harriers) was aiming to break 17m 00s. He followed Beatrice Fury (~Medway and Maidstone) and Emily Ghose (Tonbridge AC). He hung on for 5 of the seven and a half laps but dropped off with 2 laps remaining. Nevertheless he finished 7th in a personal best of 16m 43.32s easily breaking his target. Newcomer U15 Christopher Stone (also BBHAC) finished 11th in 20m 33.92 a personal best.

Thus the first Tonbridge Open since Covid saw both of these p.bs. among several others on a memorable athletics occasion hopefully marking a long awaited return towards normality.

#### **Results:**

1. 1. H.Hopper (Camb H U20W) 14 min 57.2 sec; 2. J.Benson (Ashf U23W) 16 min 7.86 sec; 3. K.Stringer (M&M U17G) 16 min 17.49 sec; 4. G.Manzotti (Ton W50) 16 min 22.17 sec; 5. E.Ghose (Ton U23W) 16 min 22.47 sec; 6. B.Fury (M&M U20W) 16 min 33.97 sec; 7. **J.Ellerton** (B&B U17B) 16 min 43.32 sec; 8. L.Burr (Ton U15B) 17 min 54.4 sec; 9. J.Arthur (Ilf M50) 18 min 8.53 sec; 10. J.Wilton (Ash U17W) 18 min 42.01 sec; 11. C.Stone (B&B U15B) 20 min 33.92 sec.