Ivanhoe Challenge – Saturday 9th February 2013 – Market Bosworth

Ivanhoe Robins Athletic club were once again celebrating record entries at their annual Cross Country Event. This was the second year it was held at the Market Bosworth venue and competitors were up nearly 100 on last year's event. With dozens leaving it to register for the event on the day due to the kind weather that greeted the event. The youngsters faced a cold, dry but cloudy day, perfect for Cross country running. Leicestershire School teams were up against the regions top Running clubs, local sports clubs & athletics teams and schools from Northants, Warwickshire, Derbyshire and Staffordshire. The event saw Nine Races with distances ranging from 800 meters for the youngest competitors, to 3600 metres for the older runners. Conditions were extremely heavy underfoot and as the races progressed, several runners lost their footwear in the deepest muddy parts of the track, but still completing the race while wearing only one shoe.

This year's Primary schools Challenge Trophy went to Orchard Primary school who entered a huge 50+ runners across the first 6 events. Their pupils cheered on by their adopted mascot Wenlock.

The Year 1-2 Boys race was won by Joel Sharman from Old Mill, followed in by the battling pair of Theo Coates (Elizabeth Woodville) and Tobi Culver (Hugglescote) The team prize was a gold for Hugglescote, Tobi Culver, Harvey King & Ellis Edwards, Silver went to St Bartholomew's team Daniel Bennett, Randall Yule & William Harris.

Ivanhoe Robin's youngster Talia Neilson-Gatenby comfortably won the Year 1-2 Girls race, with Henrietta Stoke-Clarke (Osmaston) narrowly claiming 2nd place with St Barts runner Sophie Dunbobbin taking 3rd. Team prizes went to St Margrets who took gold with their runners Elinor Ibbitson, Anna Croxall & Amelia Hughes, Silver was claimed by Evie Axton, Hannah Talbott & Sophie Wells of Hugglescote Primary.

The Year 3- 4 boys race as usual had the largest field with 85 runners completing the race. Alex Coleston-Shields (Foremark Hall) taking the honours by just 1 second with Ben jones (Mercenfield) in second. Third place runner was Charnwood AC's Tom Rattray, whose team took the gold thanks to his Club mates Joe Edwards & Colin Foord. Silver went to Host team Ivanhoe Robins with their runners Max Potter, Luke Talbott & Luca Michalowski.

Race 4 saw Mackenzie Smith (Elizabeth Woodville) win the year 3-4 Girls, followed in by Carys O'reilly (St Peter's) with Katie Parker (Wreake Runners) Just holding off a completion with a sprint finish to take third. Mackenzie did the double with claiming the team Gold along with Lily McGinchey & Evie Martin for Elizabeth Woodville, Silver was awarded to Ivanhoe Robin's Neve Evans, Rebecca Preece & Lucy Morrison

Morgan Potter (Wilbarston CofE) took 1st place in the Year 5-6 Boys race. 2nd was Morgan Enoux (Hall School) and 3rd Ben Hardwick (Grace Dieu) with only 5 seconds separating them. Team honours went to Grace Dieu, whose runners Ben Hardwick, Georgio Styliano & Thomas Williams taking Gold; Silver was claimed by Thomas Pollard, Oliver Bell & Elliot Cavner of Charnwood AC

A Large competitive field of 73 starters for the Year 5-6 Girls saw Anastasia Stoke-Clarke (Osmaston) take 1st place, Alexandra Hare (St Bartholomews) claim second with Rachel Nealon a well-deserved 3rd. Ivanhoe Robin's Jasmine Greenaway, Ann Johnson & Lorna Brierly claimed the host club's first Team Gold of the day, with Elizabeth Woodville's Rachel Nealon, Karendeep Thandi & Tilly Clarke taking Silver.

Race 7 was the 3.6km combined year 9-10 & year 11and over, with both Boys & Girls running together. Ivanhoe Robin's Hannah Cox took her 10th Challenge Title with a convincing 1st place over team mates Harriet Roberts & Ellie Armstrong. The girls also took Team Gold, with Leysland High School's Daisy Shield and Sisters Olivia & Georgia Fraser-Smith taking Silver. Ivanhoe Robin's runners dominated the boy's race with Zach Meakin, Tom Riley & Nathan Lewis taking 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively. as well as claiming team Gold.

Ivanhoe Robin's Abby Williamson took 1st place in the year 11 and over with the boys race being won by Nuneaton Harriers Greg Jones, second was Leicester Coritanians Philip Maddocks with Charnwood AC's Mathew Cox taking Third. The team award went to local Rugby Club, Market Bosworth's runners Tom Randon, Joe Randon & George Roberts

Year 7-8 Boys saw a win for Joseph Pollard, followed in by Thomas Gostelow & Jack Douglas, all from Charnwood AC, this of course meant that the won the team prize , silver going to Brookvale High's Chris Nealon, Myles Rastall & George Robinson

The final race of the day, Year 7-8 girls saw Leicester Coritanian's club mates Jordan Waine & Neve Grimes take 1st & 2nd, Ivanhoe Robins Isobel Armstrong claiming 3rd place plus team gold with her Robin's colleagues Bella Kemp & Kate Riley.

Paul Cox, Chairman of Ivanhoe Robins and head of the Events Team Committee declared the day a great success and offered thanks to the sponsors Aldi and Mr & Mrs Dawkins and Mr Richard Holmes for the provision of the venue, To Terry Sims for being the announcer.

Paul would also like to thank the committee and all the volunteers who helped make the day a success and finally to Catherine for her work as race secretary for getting the results out under testing circumstances.

Report written by Tony Greenaway – Ivanhoe Robins