

## WINDSOR SLOUGH ETON & HOUNSLOW AC

### PRESS REPORT - SOUTH OF ENGLAND ROAD RELAYS

SAT/SUN 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> SEPT 2006

Windsor Slough Eton & Hounslow AC opened their winter season with some encouraging performances at the South of England Road Relays at Aldershot over the weekend.

The Senior Men opened the account on the Saturday with a team that included seasoned 800m international James McIlroy and Junior Cross Country international Mark Draper. It was Draper that led off the WSEH team, handing over in an excellent 6<sup>th</sup> place in 18m29. James McIlroy, looking to improve his stamina base this winter with some over distance runs, dropped to 19<sup>th</sup> in 20m01. Charlie Coleman moved back up the order to 15<sup>th</sup> on the 3<sup>rd</sup> leg, with 19m23. There was further advancement from Tim Haughian, pulling back another place to 14<sup>th</sup> in 20m31. This was consolidated by Richard Lee with his 20m01. Ian May on the final leg clawed back another place to finish in 13<sup>th</sup> place with his 20m06 clocking. The team now qualify to compete in the National Road Relays in Birmingham in October.

For the B team, Vince Bangs improved some 10 places on Leg 2 to 57<sup>th</sup> with a time of 20m46. Other placings/times were: Graham Osbourne 67<sup>th</sup>, Paul Couldridge 58<sup>th</sup>/21m13, Jason Ferrett 52<sup>nd</sup>/21m20, Sean Franks 58<sup>th</sup>/24m24, Jon Bowers 64<sup>th</sup>/24m32. Best of the C team was James Cotton, 82<sup>nd</sup>/22m38, with vets Paul Ashby 87<sup>th</sup>/26m36 and Mike Cobb 85<sup>th</sup>/29m52.

The best result on Sunday came from the last event where the WSEH Veteran Ladies Team took the silver medals. Dee Smale led off with 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 14m59, Mary Edwards moved up to 2<sup>nd</sup> with 15m33. Alison Bathie maintained the status quo with her 15m41. Super vet Paula Fudge moved into the lead at one point but was hauled back by Reading Road Runners. Paula's time was 15m11.

Winners in the recent past, unavailability of their top athletes meant that WSEH were unable to mount any real challenge. There was a brief reminder of what might have been when Sophie Morris came home in 4<sup>th</sup> place on the opening leg with 13m09. From that point WSEH lost ground. Yolanda Edwards was 21<sup>st</sup> with 16m32, Davina Breaden 36<sup>th</sup> with 17m13 and Lucy Roe 39<sup>th</sup> with 17m57. For the incomplete B Team Leanne Fuller led off with 17m16.

The early races saw a promising debut from the WSEH Under 13 youngsters having their first taste of road running. Surprise packet was Rickie Harvie who opened with 9<sup>th</sup> place with 11m24, Fred Watts pulled back a place to 8<sup>th</sup> in 11m30. Tom Statters slipped to 15<sup>th</sup> with 13m50 but a good run by James Bennington moved WSEH back into 11<sup>th</sup> place in 10m57, the overall 6<sup>th</sup> fastest of the day.

The Under 15 Boys team were never in the hunt. George Gunn opened with 37<sup>th</sup>/11m09, Luke Porter lost one place to 37<sup>th</sup> in 11m35, Nick Bunby was 39<sup>th</sup>/12m26, whilst Lewis Sloan proved to be the fastest of the quartet with his 10m48 to bring the team home in 31<sup>st</sup> place.

The Under 17 team were amongst the pre – race favourites, having been medallists over the last three years. Unfortunately George Martin, the English Schools 800m silver winner was nursing a back injury, and he was a well below par 27<sup>th</sup> in 13m40 on the opening leg. Alex Tovey set about the deficit on the 2<sup>nd</sup> leg, pulling back some 12 places to 15<sup>th</sup> with 13m03. Tom Barbour made further inroads with his 13m27 to 11<sup>th</sup>. The gaps had developed and despite Nathan White’s brave 12m13 on the final leg, the club had to settle for 8<sup>th</sup>.

It was encouraging to see WSEH fielding 3 teams in the Under 17 Ladies race. Rachel Stedman led off with 15<sup>th</sup> place in 11m51. Faith Louise-smith impressed with her 9<sup>th</sup> place with 12m00 and Keeley Sears finished in 12<sup>th</sup> place in 12m29. For the B team Karly Gorman opened with 36<sup>th</sup> in 12m58. Charlotte Brunton improved to 32<sup>nd</sup> with 13m25 and Jackie Essex continued the improvement with 27<sup>th</sup> in 13m38. The C team finished in 42<sup>nd</sup> with Jessica Ferret clocking 13m52 and Louise Sams 15m28.

**Dennis Daly**