



Cross Country Newsletter 2026/27 Season

Septemer 2026

Hi Everyone. Welcome to the 2026/27 Cross Country season. We've got a fairly busy calendar of races and events this year, so let's hope we get some good weather without too many storms and floods.

Age Groups

This season will be the first year that Cross Country takes place using the new age group categories. The age groups are now determined based on the academic school year that the athletes have **just started** this week. So, for this coming Cross Country season, the age groupings are as follows:

- School years 3 and 4: Under-10
- School years 5 and 6: Under-12
- School years 7 and 8: Under-14
- School years 9 and 10: Under-16
- School years 11 and 12: Under-18

These age groupings will then continue right through the year and into the athletics season.

Basingstoke Junior League

Our main league for Junior Cross Country is the Basingstoke Junior League. This league has four matches spread out over the season. It is open to all age groups from Under-10 through to Under-18 (with Under-18 being non-scoring). This league is **free to enter** and there's **no up-front registration or entry needed** - just turn up on the day and run. Matches take place on a Sunday afternoon, with the first race starting at 1.00pm.

For this season, the match calendar is:

- Sunday 4th October - Greenfields Junior School, Hartley Wintney (Fleet & Crookham)
- Sunday 1st November - Down Grange, Basingstoke (Basingstoke)
- Sunday 29th November - Wellesley Woods, Aldershot (Aldershot)
- Sunday 21st February - Down Grange, Basingstoke (All clubs helping)

The matches in this league are the main method for scoring points for the Club Cross Country Championship table (more details later in the newsletter).

Note: athletes who competed for their County last season in Cross County or in track events of 800m or longer **are allowed to take part** in the Basingstoke League. However, if they are in the upper year of their age group (e.g. school years 4, 6, 8, 10 or 12) then they will be non-scoring. If they are in the lower year of their age group then they can run as scoring athletes due to having just moved up an age group.

Oxfordshire League

The other Cross Country league that the club competes in is the Oxfordshire Cross Country League. This is primarily attended by our senior members, but also has races for Under-10 and above age groups. Juniors who want to get more race experience and compete in larger and more competitive fields are welcome to enter the Oxfordshire League.

There are five matches in this league and they take place on the first Sunday of each month (Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, March). Registration for this league is in advance and there is a paid entry for the entire season (£15 juniors/£20 seniors).

The senior Club Cross Country Championships is scored from participation in this league. Juniors do not score any Club Championship points from attending this league.

If you wish to participate in the Oxfordshire League, please contact Simon Gale.

Other Events and Championships

There are a number of other cross country events and championships throughout the season and we hope to see our athletes attending some of these events.

Berks, Bucks & Oxon (BBO) Cross County Championships

This year's BBO XC Championships will take place on Sunday 22nd November at Broughton Castle, Banbury OX15 5EB. This is a great venue and we hope to be able to take a strong team to this event.

This competition is open for all club athletes Under-12 through to Seniors. Entries are not currently open, so I'll send round a note as soon as they become available.

Berkshire County Championships

The Berkshire XC Championships will take place on Saturday 12th December at Braywick Park, Maidenhead, starting at 11:00.

This championship is open to all Berkshire resident athletes and covers age groups Under-14 through to Seniors. Entries will open in November, so I'll send round more details then.

Hampshire County Championships

The Hampshire XC Championships usually takes place on the first weekend of January. This is open to all Hampshire resident athletes. No details of this event have been released yet, so I'll send round more details as soon as I have them.

Camberley Open XC

Camberley & District Athletic Club are planning an Open Cross Country event on Sunday 7th February 2027. They have extended an invite to all clubs who take part in the Basingstoke League. I don't have any more details available yet, so I'll send those around as soon as I get them.

Team Kennet Cross Country Championships

The club will again be running our own internal Cross Country Championships this year. This will be a league based on points scored from attending league matches and other competitions.

For Juniors, the main points scoring will be from the Basingstoke Junior Cross Country League. Athletes are awarded points based on finishing order in their race (1st TK athlete - 15 points, 2nd - 14 points, etc.) plus 3 points for taking part in the match. Best 3 out of 4 matches to count (or reduced if any matches are cancelled). Athletes who are non-scoring in the league still score for the club championships.

For Seniors, the main points scoring will be from the Oxfordshire Cross County League. Athletes are awarded points based on finishing order in their race (1st TK athlete - 15 points, 2nd - 14 points, etc.) plus 3 points for taking part in the match. Best 4 out of 5 matches to count (or reduced if any matches are cancelled). Juniors taking part in this league **do not** score club championship points.

Participation in any of the other competitions or events listed above will receive an additional 5 points for each event attended.

Championship league positions and points will be posted to the Team Kennet website after each match or event.

Have a great Cross Country season, and I look forward to seeing you at all the league matches and events.

Chris Turner - chris@skipoles.co.uk

Simon Gale - simonrgale@hotmail.com