

# SPORT

The weekend's  
sporting action  
STARTS HERE

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MEDWAY & MAIDSTONE ATHLETE TAKES UNDER-20 RACE AT LEAGUE MEETING DOMINATED BY TONBRIDGE AC

## M&M's Okoro lands win

EJIRO OKORO of Medway & Maidstone AC won the under-20 women's race in the Kent Young Athletes Cross Country League at a wet and windy Swanley Park on Saturday.

Rebecca Smith of Blackheath was second, with Ashford AC's Isobel Dickinson third.

The day was dominated by Tonbridge AC, who won five of the eight team races.

The only other club to taste team success was Invicta East Kent in the under-20 men's and the under 13 girls' races. No club finished intact in the under-20 women's event.

George Duggan took the under-13 boys' race for Tonbridge from team-mate William Round and Jamie Grain of Cambridge Harriers.

Will Seymour sealed the victory for Tonbridge from Medway & Maidstone AC, who filled the next three places through Ashley Nisbet, Louis Jennings and Stephen Jones. Dartford Harriers were the third team to finish.

Charlie Joslin-Allen was victorious in the under-15s from Luke Dawson (Invicta) and Tonbridge team-mate Corey De'ath. Sean Molloy completed the winning team in fifth place behind Jack Wreathall (Ashford AC), Bexley and Ashford AC chased the Tonbridge team home with M&M fourth.

Robbie Farnham-Rose held off the spirited challenge of Adam Gilbert of M&M in the under-17s, where the top-six leader board was filled by members of the victorious Tonbridge team.

This time it was Henry Pearce, Luca Russo, Jamie Bryant and

### ■ Athletics

Jack Keywood who froze out the opposition. Tonbridge AC easily won the team race from Invicta, Blackheath and M&M.

Jason Prickett won the under-20s for the successful Invicta East Kent team, with Robert MacDonald (Cambridge Harriers) and James Pigot (Tonbridge) completing the podium.

Invicta East Kent won the girls' under-13s from Blackheath, Tonbridge and M&M. Bobby Clay of Invicta was the race winner from Sian Driscoll (Tonbridge) and Anna Weston (Invicta), with Lily Coward fifth for the winners. Samantha Leighton was fourth for Blackheath and Jacinta Barham (13th) led the fourth placed M&M squad.

Alice Wood of the winning Tonbridge team took the under-15's race from Amber Reed (Blackheath) and Nicole Taylor of Tonbridge. Blackheath and Cambridge Harriers were the only other teams to finish.

Ellen Holmes of Tonbridge took the under-17 race from Megan Haves of Sevenoaks and Rebecca Farrell of Bexley AC. Tonbridge claimed an unopposed team victory.

The final Young Athletes League races will be held at Danson Park, Bexley on Saturday, December 5.

Beth Carter of Invicta East Kent stepped up from the under-20 age group to win her first Kent Women's Cross Country League race at Swanley Park.

The Kent and South of



Paddock Wood's Caroline Shephard and Medway & Maidstone AC's Rebecca Brenton in the girls' under-15 race at the Kent Young Athletes League, Swanley Pictures: Steve Crispe pd1645285, pd1645283

England junior champion finished seven seconds clear of defending champion Deirdre McDermot of Tonbridge AC, who took the runner-up spot for the third time this season.

The podium was completed by another top junior, Jen Hamer of Blackheath & Bromley ahead of Nicola Groom of Larkfield AC, who enjoyed her best run in this league.

Lauren Fawke and Kylara Hassell of Folkestone Running Club completed the top six and Melanie Burdett of Beckenham Road Runners was the leading W35 master in ninth place.

Defending champions Medway & Maidstone AC fielded an incomplete team led by 12th-placed Jenny Fowler and now slip from contention. Invicta East Kent pipped

Tonbridge AC by a single point in the team race with Dartford Harriers third.

However, Tonbridge take a four-point lead into the final match from Folkestone Road Runners, with Invicta East Kent third. The final women's league match is at Parkwood School, Swanley on February 13 and the full results are available at [www.kcaa.org.uk](http://www.kcaa.org.uk).

## Kent masters scoop medals

SEVERAL Kent athletes won team and individual medals at the British Masters International and Open cross country races held in gale force conditions in Birmingham on Saturday.

Kent league champion Huw Evans (29.35) of Tonbridge AC, recovered from flu to take up his selection for Wales' M35 team and finished fourth in his age group to lead the red vests to team silver behind Republic of Ireland's squad.

Ben Reynolds (29.09) of Tonbridge AC was the individual M45 silver medal winner and led England to team gold.

The programme included an open race for international reserves and team supporters with individual medals awarded in all age categories.

Sharon Hawkins (26.40) of Maidstone Harriers was third W45, Lesley Hall (29.50) of Ashford AC was second W50 and Sue James (32.11) of Paddock Wood was the gold medal winner in the W55 class. Janice Moorekete (33.52) from Maidstone was fifth W50 finisher.

Competing in the M55 category, Alan Newman (37.16) of Paddock Wood was fifth.

## Brighton duel

THERE were some impressive times achieved by Kent athletes in the Brooks Brighton 10k on Sunday morning.

In a field of more than 2,500 finishers, James Ridger (33.18) of Paddock Wood AC and Andy Combs (2nd U20, 33.20) of Tonbridge AC fought a great battle to the line. Ridger was accompanied by team-mates Richard Bidois (M40, 40.52), Des White (M50, 40.57) and Alison White (W50, 52.07). Combs was first home for a Tonbridge squad that included Dan Bradley (34.28), David Castle (34.57), Cain Bradley (M40, 38.23) and Sally Musson (1st W55, 40.30).

## Week ahead

### SATURDAY

South of England Inter-Counties Cross-Country, Parliament Hill, London [www.seaa.org.uk](http://www.seaa.org.uk)

### SUNDAY

Kent Fitness League, Nurstead Court, Meopham [www.canterburyharriers.co.uk](http://www.canterburyharriers.co.uk)

## Action taken on illegal nets

THE illegal netting saga continues, with the confiscation of eight nets placed near the Kingsnorth Power Station on the Medway.

These gill nets have been in excess of 60 yards long, and have most probably been targeting bass. Once again, we all have a part to play to stop these 'pirates' decimating our fish population, so report anything suspicious.

Meanwhile, the Thames remains the place to fish, as multiple returns of cod are becoming the norm.

Big whiting approaching a pound are also being taken regularly, as are bass, eels and flounders. The best cod over the past week was 9.7lb, caught from a mark



with Graham East

between the last two jetties. The proud angler was Gary Waghorn, who used lugworm and squid cocktail to tempt the cod.

The Kent Classic was held on Sunday and, with an entry of 425 anglers, expectations were high. The reality saw only 83 anglers weigh in, with Dave Read taking top prize after catching the day's best specimen, a 1.25kg bass.

## The Angling Line

## Byrne lands place with Althea

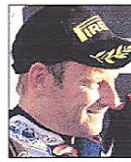
### ■ Motorsport

SHANE BYRNE will be competing in the World Superbike Championship next year after agreeing to ride for Italian team Althea Racing.

Byrne finished eighth in last year's championship with Team Sterilgarda but is now facing a new challenge alongside experienced Spanish rider Carlos Checa.

Althea ran just one Honda bike last season but will switch to the Ducati machines for the 2010 season.

Sittingbourne rider Byrne is a two-time British Superbike champion and has also tasted



Shane Byrne

two seasons in Moto GP.

After concluding the deal, he said: "This is only going to make me push even harder, I'm so pumped."

"Having Carlos as a teammate will be good and the overall hunger and enthusiasm of the team is a massive bonus. I can't wait to get going."

The Althea team are

expected to put their new riders through their paces next month in Valencia ahead of January testing in Portimao, Portugal.

MAIDSTONE racer Steve Mercer is aiming to end his road racing season on a high as he tackles the Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix.

Mercer will be competing for the DMR Racing team on a Yamaha against such recognised talents as Stuart Easton, John McGuinness and Michael Rutter.

Mercer has enjoyed a good season, after quitting the World Superbike series, as he was fastest newcomer at this year's Isle of Man TT.

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