

RAC – Mini League Cross Country Manager's summary 2021/22

After a covid hiatus the previous season it was fantastic to be back for a full series of 5 cross country fixtures.

Perhaps to be expected that field sizes were smaller across the board than pre-pandemic, and our own athlete numbers were also down on recent years (on average we fielded around 30 per fixture compared to 40 plus in previous seasons). This was particularly noticeable in the U11 races where the fields are usually much larger than was the case this winter and again this also applied to RAC reiterating the need to keep inductions going, and to encourage new younger members to have a go at the competitions when they are old enough to do so.

All that said – I haven't done the maths but from observation I'd say that RAC still had probably the highest turnout of all clubs across the series.

We were competitive in all age groups and had our best overall finish since 2018 (2nd place). As often the case we were particularly strong in U11 and U13 boys winning both team and individual golds.

As always filling the U15 teams was a challenge but the majority of those that ran this winter are eligible next, and with athletes moving up there is potential for some strong teams forming, including in the tricky U15's age groups so much to look forward to next winter. We just need to get those new U11's coming through the doors! Most importantly we had lots of fun!

As she is standing down, I'd like to record a big thanks to Melissa for her efforts over our 3 seasons sharing the role. I am happy to continue as team manager (as long as the kids keep up the home baking) but will be reaching out for 2 or 3 parent helpers to form an 'assistants pool' to assist on the day with athlete sign in / token collecting.

Steve D