

Golden Double for City Athletes.

International athletes Dan Garbutt and Rosie Smith scored a unique double for Durham City Harriers in the 108th N.E. Counties X.C. Championships at Temple Park, South Shields. Dan became the 1st Harrier to win the Senior Men's Title for over 100 years well before the Club was reformed in 1972, a brilliant achievement, whilst Rosie Smith notched up her 3rd Senior Women's Title, previously winning in 2009 and 2011. Dan outpaced the game Jack Martin (Stockport Harriers) in the later stages to win the coveted title by 50 metres, with Ethiopian Yared Hagos (Wallsend Harriers) 100 metres behind in 3rd. Dan's time over the windswept 12.4k course was 39.05 with Jack recording 39.11, with Hagos 3rd in recording 39.29.

Encouraged by Dan's great run, Rosie Smith produced yet another tremendous run in similar circumstances to the Men's race, Rosie had to shake off World Championship Marathon International athlete Alyson Dixon (Sunderland Strollers), showing her strength and determination to regain her title making a decisive move on the last lap to score another fine victory, recording 29.09 for the 8.4k course, with fast finishing Dixon 2nd in 29.20. Both Dan and Rosie will be automatic selections for the N E Team for the Inter-Counties Championships in March.

In the combined u/17 and u/20 race over 4.6k, team mates Amy Etherington and Mariama Dryak were vying for the Bronze medal in the u/20 race with Amy passing Mariama in the closing stages recording 19.12, which gains her selection too, with Mariama 4th recording 19.31.

Meanwhile the in-form Oliver Watson relied on his sprint finish to clinch his first medal in these Championships finishing 3rd in the u/17 Men's race recording 21.42 for the 6.1k course, which guarantees him a place in the Team also.

Full results of City Athletes were as follows:- Senior Women (8.4k) : 1st Rosie Smith 29.09, 10th Aiveen Fox 33.04, 26th Emma Bain 35.00 the 3 scorers , the Team finished 2nd with 37 points, with Fern Freeman 79th in 39.42. Senior Men (12.4k) : 1st Dan Garbutt 39.05, 11th Dan Jenkin 41.19, 19th James Askew 42.39, 20th Ben Douglas 42.42, 32nd Rob Eaton 44.24, and 88th Chris Walker 47.52 the 6 scorers , the Team finished 3rd with 171 points, with Gareth Maguire 92nd in 48.00, Dave King 131st in 49.58, Andy Biggs 230th in 54.44, David Coxon 253rd in 56.08, Brian Brown 347th in 67.30. U /15 Girls (3.9k); 6th Rebecca Mott 16.46, 13th Aysha Hall 17.20, 23rd Courtney Price 18.18, the scorers, the Team finished 2nd with 42 points, with Charlotte Boyle 41st in 20.35 .U/15 Boys (3.9k); 8th Joe Grehan-Bradley 14.22, 13th James Hughes 14.53, 21st Michael Wade 15.17, the scorers, the Team finished 4th with 42 points , Cameron Allan was 26th in 15.42, William Morgan - Rippon 35th in 16.48, Luke Pickering 46th in 17.58. U/17 Men (6.1k) ; 3rd Oliver Watson 21.42, 24th Cameron Bain 25.07, 29th Isaac Allen 27.25 scoring the Team finished 5th with 56 points. U/20 Women (4.6k); 3rd Amy Etherington 19.12, 4th Mariama Dryak 19.31. (Incomplete Team). U/13 Girls (3.1k) ; 37th Bridget Bradshaw 15.01, 48th Imogen Coxon 15.36, 60th Lucy Grehan-Bradley 16.46, the scorers , the Team were 12th with 145 points, with Polly Watson close behind in 61st place 16.47 .U/20 Men (8.4k); 10th Jonny Wilkinson 29.38, 14th James Watson 30.22. (Incomplete Team) .U/13 Boys (3.1k) ; 10th Conor Dougall 12.30, 40th Adam Ord 13.42 (Incomplete Team).