



The Essex Cross Country Championships staged at Hadleigh, scene of the Olympic Games mountain bike competition just those few months ago proved a testing course - not just through the hills but due to the very muddy conditions.

Chelmsford were to come away with seven individual medals plus five sets of team awards.

Khai Malanga in the under 13 girls and George Elliott under 15 boys repeated their performances of twelve months back as they retained their titles whilst other 'golds' came from Jodie Judd in the under 15 girls and Kim Johansen under 20 women. Second places came via Grant Twist (senior men), Alex Short (under 20 men) and Sophie Riches (under 17 women) and having her first run of the season.

The under 13 and 15 girls teams retained the respective titles with the under 20 mens quartet also in first place, seconds came through the under 17 and senior women. After taking the senior mens event on the last three occasions this time they failed to make the rostrum as they were missing all six scorers from the 2012 team.

One athlete with a good reason to be missing from the championships was Jessica Judd who was competing in the Edinburgh international meeting where she finished in second spot.

Roy Meadowcroft – January 2013