

Youngsters defy the mud

Brendon Byrne

Norfolk's young athletes performed well in the muddy and windy conditions at the Anglian Schools cross country championships at Boston.

The junior girls were outstanding, easily winning the team title. They were led home on the 3.2km course by Meredith Winship, who was third. She was ably backed up by Katie Goldsmith (fifth), Nelly Porter (sixth) and Emma Hunter (seventh). The minor girls (under 13) were very unlucky to be pipped to the team title with the same number of points as the winners. Grace Jermy led the team home with Mia Bartram fifth and Grace Forster sixth.

In the junior boys' age group, Will Simm, pictured, built on his success at the Norfolk championships by finishing a good third on the tough 4.6km course. In the under 17 girls' race Beth Roe was sixth. There was success in the senior boys 6km race, with George Bowen finishing second, backed up by Logan Smith in fifth and Ben Spratling in eighth. The course at Boston was unique with part of the course designed to go through a car park.

Norfolk finished third overall in the five-county event and will now look forward to the English Schools championships at Nottingham next month.