

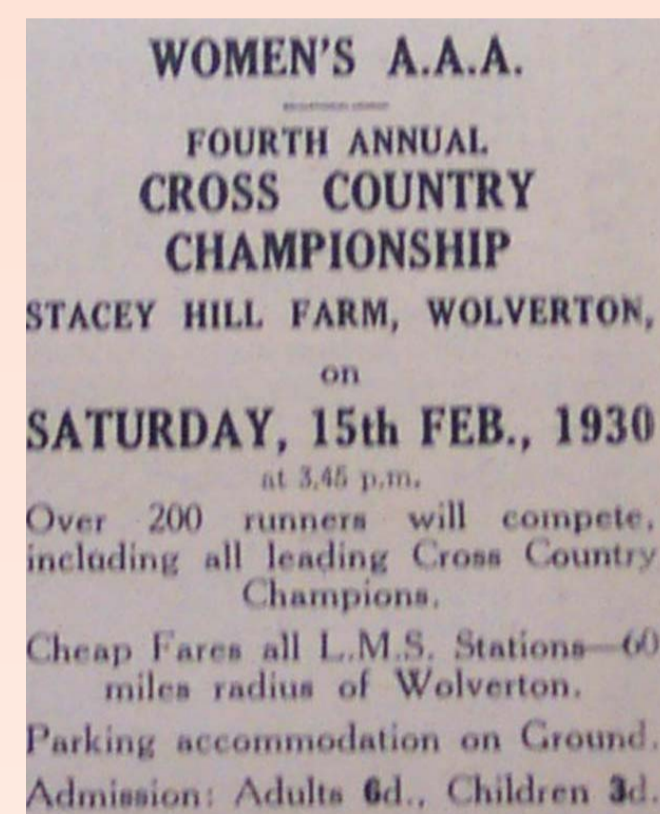


BIG PLAYERS

in Milton Keynes: Sports, Arts & Media

The English National Cross Country Championship

Wolverton 1926



The oldest event of its kind in the world, known as 'The National', was first held in 1876. Stacey Hill Farm in Wolverton – now the site of Milton Keynes Museum - was the venue for three Championships, first held there on 13th March 1926 when 321 runners took part in the 10-mile race.

'A notable feature was the preponderance of ladies (amongst the) 3,000 spectators. Excursionists swarmed from all parts of the country, the L.M.S. Railway granting special travelling facilities. The compact little town was thronged...'

'Both start and finish took place from the front of Stacey Hill Farm. The spectacle of such a large bunch of men clad in gaily coloured costumes was pleasing and impressive... An excellent course of fairly stiff open hunting country was mapped out, water jumps over the Bradwell Brook included... The race was a triumph for J E Webster, of Birchfield Harriers, who forced himself in front and, going absolutely all out, passed the line three yards ahead and collapsed immediately. It was a great effort, the finish of a real champion...'

'By the results achieved, Wolverton can be said to have fully justified its selection as the venue of the National Cross-Country Championship!'

Wolverton Express 19th March 1926

Thanks to Milton Keynes Museum for the information. To read the full story go to www.mkmuseum.org.uk/history/xcount/xchome.htm