

Wilkinson Walks to National Title

At the England Athletics under 17's 5km championships staged at the Bedford Stadium on 1st September, Callum Wilkinson won his first national title in a time of 23.28, ending the two year unbeaten record of Cameron Corbishley (*Maidstone/Medway*) who finished second in 23.56. Third was Guy Thomas (*Tonbridge*) in 24.03.

The Suffolk walker has played second fiddle to Cameron throughout the year, but made no mistake on this occasion. Deeming his rival's pace too fast in the opening laps, he had the confidence to let him go and was 30 metres adrift at the half way point, shortly after which he started to reel him back and crossed the line well ahead.



Callum's final target race of the season is the English Schools 5km at Birmingham on 22nd September, which is likely to be the toughest of the year, as his rival endeavours to retain that title and reassert his mantle as the country's leading under 17year-old walker.

Twenty-three walkers contested two age categories; u15's 3km and the u17's 5km, among them eight walkers from Ireland and the winners were: at 3km Sophie Lewis-Ward 15.17 and Chris Snook 15.53 and the Girls 5km Ireland's Veronica Birke 26.27 ten seconds ahead of Heather Butcher.

Cameron & Callum with 600m to go



Photos by Mark Easton

***Anyone wanting to give race walking a try contact
Ron Wallwork at rwallwork4@sky.com***