

## **Restormel Junior Schools Cross Country – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

Dave Varney writes:

As the cross country season was heralded in by warm sunshine, record numbers & times once more tumbled in the Restormel Junior Schools League at Par & the Newquay & Par athletes notched up victories in the Westward League fixture at St Austell.

After last years huge numbers in the five match winter series of races for the Restormel area schools at the Par venue, the interest was whether this could be sustained this year but with four new schools joining this first fixture, from the Poltair School Partnership in the Roseland area, Tregony, Veryan, St Mawes and Gerrans, large numbers were anticipated.

Last year, the growth was in the Year 5 age groups & it was nice to see this movement transfer up into the Year 6 groups at this opening fixture with both the boys & girls numbers improving on previous years.

As the schools arrived, the excitement mounted & spectators lined the sides of the starting straight for the start of the year 5 races.

The boys went off first in a pack of 119, just 3 short of the previous maximum. Over the 1 lap course of 1600m, Frankie Aldred (Roselyon) took an early lead which he held to the finish, with Isaac Parker (Biscovey) putting up a good show to hold off the second Roselyon athlete, Oliver Dinnis.

Roselyon headed the team results with 67 points with St Mewan holding off Mevagissey by a single position (79 & 80 points)

Although the youngest age group is year 5, some of the upper end girls had competed a year young last year & this applied to the top three in a close contest right down to eighth place. Tegan Hooper (St Mewan) chalked up the first winter victory, just one second clear of Maddie White (Roselyon) & a fast closing Carla Ralph (St Stephen)

Carla led home her school with 41 points ahead of Roselyon (46) & St Mewan (83) Both Year 6 races saw record numbers. The boys were up from 77 to 82 finishers & saw the first course record of the winter broken. Having taken the Year 5 record last year, Tom Dinnis (Roselyon) stormed off over the opening smaller lap before crossing the wooden bridge for the longer lap, already well clear. he held this to the line to lower the previous best of 6m:26 by a further 4 seconds. Behind, Josh Nesbitt (St Mewan) came off best in the battle with Luke Cannon (Fowey) but Luke had the satisfaction of leading the victorious Fowey team home(54), ST Mewan were second (66) & Roselyon third (77)

Last year, Tom's twin sister, Bizzie Dinnis (Roselyon) had edged out Bryher Freight (Grampound with Creed) for the overall win in one of the closest contest for the race titles. This year, Bryher was determined to make her mark & blasted off from the gun. It looked as though Bizzie was regaining ground but a late rally was enough to give first blood to Bryher. Claudia Carlyon-Moores (Tywardreath) led the following group for the third spot.

Some excellent packing from Gorran girls at 5th, 6th & 7th plus the fourth scorer at 14th, gave them their best start with Tywardreath 2nd & St Mewan third. A record 76 athletes completed the course.