

Brooks Westward League - St Austell Rugby Club Sunday 12th October 2008

Dave Varney reports:

One of the long term objectives of setting up the League between The athletic club & Restormel Council, ten years ago, was to improve the standard of cross country in the area & hopefully look for a spin-off of recruits to the club. With the Newquay Tretherras school venue also seeing a huge expansion in participating numbers & higher placings in the County Junior Schools Championships the first objective has succeeded expectations dramatically. Although numbers joining the club have been gradually increasing the evidence of this showed in the opening fixture of the Brooks Westward league, hosted by the Newquay & Par club by kind invitation of the St Austell Rugby Club in the under 13 & under 15 age groups

The first of two wins for the younger age groups came from a previous Newquay school winner, Charlotte Cayton-Smith. Over a tough hilly course, Charlotte built up an unassailable lead & headed up a field dominated by Cornish athletes, including six Newquay & Par girls in the top 10.

Not only did they win the team placings with Katie Yeomans at 4th & Anna Venning 6th, but the next three gave the 'B' team of Bryony Mc Robbie (8th), Lowenna Hawkey (9th) & Ashley Smith(10th), second place in the league with Becky Young's 17th backing up the other six.

The Under 15 Girls also saw an increase in the club numbers & a victory for April Hogg in the first step towards retaining her league title. The team also took first place with Amy Sweet sprinting to retain her 5th place & Ailsa Sharrock running strongly at 8th. Kimberley Young was 19th & Hollie Startup 23rd.

In the first race of the day, over a 5.6km two lap course, Lucy Kelvey showed her summer training was also benefiting the cross country scene as she challenged for a top 10 placing, eventually picking up to eighth place. Caroline Steven made a good start towards retaining her W40 veteran title with a win in the age category & 10th overall & with Nicola George at 14th, the team finished third behind Cornwall Ac & Tavistock.

Danny Old headed up a small talented club team of three in the under 13 Boys race which was enough to place them third in a close team contest. Danny produced a superb runner's up placing behind the leading Cornish athlete, Sam Heslop-George & with Corey Cross, hotfoot from a football match, taking 11th & James Craddock at 14th. The club has struggled to put out an under 15 Boys team recently but with Hobie Martin, Josh Steven & Kyle Chapman all completing the 3.5km course at 10th, 21st & 23rd, the team finished fifth.

An achilles injury over the summer kept Kevin Toher from setting out to retain the Senior title for the fourth year on one of his favourite courses but a good contingent of the club athletes turned out to put the team at eighth

James Ansell was best placed at 41st, closely followed in by Martin Davies (43rd), Graham Hodgson (45th), Daniel Pike 51st & Nigel Doyle 64th. John Horton's 86th place was elevated to a win in his M60 age category & Mike Carpenter completed the team at 100th.