

Brooks Westward League – Bicton Arena, Sunday 2nd November 2008

Dave Varney writes:

Cornwall's young club & school athletes dominated the second cross country fixture of the Brooks Westward League, held at the Bicton Arena on Sunday over a hilly, interesting course, more used to seeing equestrian events than a stream of two legged competitors battling it out on the long climb after dropping to the lowest point from the start.

Cornwall AC, Newquay & Par, East Cornwall Harriers & Penair School all featured in individual & team top placings in the Under 13 & Under 15 age groups, where the Cornish youngsters excelled against their Devon rivals.

Newquay & Par will hold on to their under 13 Girls lead but were this time held to a draw for first place by Penair School. Once again, Charlotte Cayton-Smith was unstoppable as she claimed a clear second victory, chased by Cornwall Ac's Melissa Keveren. Katie Yeoman (6th) & Lowenna Hawkey (9th) completed the N&P team with Penair's trio of Finlay Bray (4th), Tamsyn Gummow (5th) & Zoe Fisher (7th).

Penair took the Under 13 Boys team win packing well behind another clear run away win for Cornwall Ac's Sam Heslop-George over a fast improving Danny Old (N&P). S.Hutchinson (3rd), S Adams (8th) & E Holmes (9th) for the Penair School held off the East Cornwall athletes of Alex Caers(4th) Cadan Crowle (7th) & J.Smith (14th) with Newquay & Par taking third spot where James Croddack (12th) & Corey Cross (16th) completed the team.

There were seven Cornish under 15 Boys in the top 10 led comfortably by schoolboy International Connor Robinson (CAC) in what promises to be a strong County squad to be selected from the County Championships at St Austell, next month. Dan Nash (ECH), another big improver this winter was runner up. Callum Jones (5th) & Tom Rawet (7th) completed the winning Cornwall Ac team, Harry Allen (Penair), split these at 5th & Hobie Martin (N&P) was 8th. Steven Sim (ECH) was 9th.

Exeter's leading pair whittled down the Newquay & Par overall team placing in the under 15 Girls, taking 1st & 2nd, with their third scorer at 11th beating the Cornish teams placings of 5th for Amy Sweet, 6th Ailsa Sharrock & 11th Melissa Blake-Lomax, by just 2 points. Freya Glover (CAC) was 4th.

The Seniors & veteran athletes also stood up well to the longer than usual distances, especially for the combined Under 17 & Senior Women's race where Cornish athlete, Chris Sykes was in top form to finish one place ahead of club & County team mate, Jacob Landers to lead home Plymouth. The Exeter Women's team held off Cornwall AC's trio led by Emma Stallard, who won the veteran 35 age group, Beth Alston (8th) & Heidi Cottam (20th). A strong second half lifted Caroline Steven (N&P) to 9th & the Veteran 40 win with Lucy Kelvev (10th) & Nicola George (19th), giving Newquay & Par third place. Revis Crowle (ECH) at 7th was the third Cornish veteran winner in the W45 age group.

Dave Buzza is well on the way to retaining his veteran 40 title after a second age group win & looking stronger as the race progressed for 4th overall. Chris McQuillen-Wright (N&P) had a successful first outing of the winter at 9th, one place ahead of Chris Dobson (CAC).