

Report of Guernsey V Jersey Junior Schools Cross-country interinsular match. Saturday 19th March 2011

Guernsey's strength in depth amongst year 6 girls secured a memorable albeit narrow victory in the Junior schools inter-insular at Delancey Park. Jersey was heading for a comfortable victory following the year 5 boys and girls races and the year 6 boys race but Guernsey's year 6 girls turned the match around when they secured five of the first six places. First Guernsey girl home was Rebecca Toll who completed the 2 kilometre course in an impressive 11 minutes. Toll led all the way from second and third placed Guernsey girls Sarah Marley and Renee Hubert. But it was the efforts of Kira Avery who gallantly hung on to fourth place despite the fast finish of the first Jersey year 6 finisher, Alia Byron and the determined run from Amy Sharpe who picked off a couple of Jersey competitors to grab sixth place that gave Guernsey the handful of points that they needed to secure overall victory. Sharpe's and Toll's performances were even more impressive as less than an hour before they had been representing Guernsey in the interinsular netball match.

The most impressive run of the day came from year 6 captain Alex Rowe. Rowe led from the start in the year 6 race. He was followed all the way by a trio of Jersey boys but Rowe is an experienced runner despite his tender years. He kept concentrating and even managed a sprint for home from 50 meters out.

Sam Culverwell and Hugo Bisson gave a master class in team running as they worked together to pick up first and second places in the year 5 boys race. Jake Robin's third place was impressive as he paced his race well and again won valuable points for the team by overtaking a couple of Jersey athletes. The year 5 girls were competing against a very strong Jersey team but Charlotte Le Noury ran determinedly to take a well-deserved third place.

Club President and team manger Alun Williams was proud of the team's efforts:

'The team equipped themselves well and it was great to win three of the four races but it was especially pleasing to see the efforts of the likes of Charlotte Le Noury, Kira Avery and Jake Robin who regularly compete in GIAAC events. Their efforts over the winter paid dividends as they picked off places to secure important points for the team competition. This is the fourth year that we have held a junior schools interinsular competition so a first Guernsey victory was long overdue.