

Advisa Cross Country League - Queens Valley Reservoir

There was exciting cross country racing at Queen's Valley Reservoir on Saturday, with the runners competing across four age groups for medals and series points. The hilly terrain of Queens Valley certainly made the running challenging for all, on the longest course of the series. First up the 7/8 girls and boys all set off on an out and back route along the far side of the reservoir of about three quarters of mile. Despite the uphill start the pace was frantic, at least to start with, for all although the hills soon slowed most of the runners. In the Girls race Emma Dempsey just edged ahead of Naomi de la Haye by a second in a very exciting race, Florence Gottard also ran extremely well to take bronze just a few seconds adrift. In the 7/8 boys Jack Leerson ran an excellent race finishing ahead of Steffan Williams, claiming silver in only his second race, and then Isaac Du Val who sneaked third spot by a second. The 9/10 boys and girls race then took place, this time the runners completed the bottom loop of the reservoir of about a mile and a quarter, crossing at the bridge to return down the East side of the reservoir and to a sprint finish back across the top of the dam. There was a real battle to the line between the talented young runners Gemma Gotthard and Catherine Billington, with Gemma just proving the stronger on the day to win by 2 seconds. Yasmin Lookess came in third place. In the 9/10 boys race James Dempsey also had a battle on his hands, but in the end pulled away strongly from runner up Nathan De La Haye to win by a good margin of 5 seconds. Sam Maher ran a good race to finish third. In the final race of the day the oldest age groups consisting of 11/12 & 13/14 all undertook the very challenging 2 mile full loop of the reservoir. At this level a number of the runners were using the race as a test of current form and as part of their build up to the Hampshire Cross Country Championships where they will represent Jersey Spartans in January. In the 11/12 girls category Emily Boulter and Daisy Letch will be team mates at Hampshire and both ran well, though Emily particularly so finishing well clear to take gold from Daisy, with Justine Choquette claiming third place. In the 13/14 age group a much closer race took place between Danielle Leerson and Chloe Turmel, who will also be team mates next month. Danielle only just held off Chloe by three seconds, this was a good race for Chloe who has been training extremely well and steadily improving her running. In the boys 11/12 race Tom Ward gained the honours finishing in front of Joshua de la Haye who was then followed home by Charles Renouf. Both Tom and Charles will also be part of the strong squad competing for Jersey Spartans in Hampshire next month, as will Aaron Turmel who was winner in the 13/14 boys category.