

Advisa Financial Cross Country League 08/09

The first Advisa Financial Cross Country league took place last Saturday at La Mielle De Morville. Due to land management changes a new course was created which took the runners over the bridge before circulating clockwise around the bird sanctuary and the following a tortuous route back before finishing at the start. The fabulous Indian summer also saw a large turnout of 68 runners in various categories complete the course.

The first race of the day was the combined 7-8 age group in which the girls' and boys' races were treated separately. With 23 children running in this race there was a mass stampede at the start as the runners disappeared over the dunes. Two boys Pieter Stein and Jack Leerson slowly pulled away from the pack with a second group of four boys and four girls not far behind. On the run to the finish Jack just got the better of Peter to win by two seconds with Michael Borman leading the second pack home to take third place. Just on Michael's shoulder was Kitty Brewer who won the girls' race by sixteen seconds. In a closely contested race for second place Emma Dempsey just had enough power to hold off Stephanie De La Haye and Jennifer Cullen.

Due to the large entry, the second race underway was just the girls' 9-10 age group. A dash for the bridge and the runners were gone as a group which was maintained to the far side of the course. Two girls then pulled away and gradually increased their lead with Jodie Blampied just proving too strong from Catherine Billington by winning in six seconds. Flora Davenport finished in a respectable third place.

The third race had the biggest entry of the day with twenty two runners completing the one lap course in the boys' 9-10 age group. There was great excitement as this large group sped over the bridge jostling for position. At one point at the far side of the course there was still a dozen boys with a chance to win the race but by the end the race come down to three boys with Marlon Fossey having enough speed to hold off Ben Chadwick and James Dempsey.

The final race was the 11-12 and 13-14 age groups in which all runners completed two laps of the track. This was a record turnout in these age groups in which 15 runners completed the course. There was a good steady pace from the whistle and after one lap Danielle Leerson led by one second from Oliver Terry who was close on her shoulder. Danielle is an over 13 girl whilst Oliver is in the younger age group. These two set a fast pace and throughout the second lap were tied together as Danielle won the race, Not far adrift Daniel Robinson just held off Tom Ward for second and third places whilst Aaron Turner was first over 13 boy home. Chloe Turner was one second adrift from Aaron and finished second over 13 girl. Just behind these two Lauren Lowe was first girl home in the 11-12 age group whilst Daisy Letch finished second. Completing the race was Justine Choquette and Liberty Kellett who both took third place in their respective age groups.

After the race Advisa medals were presented to first three home in each age group whilst spot prizes of six pairs of cinema tickets were given out to those lucky runners whose numbers were drawn from the box.

The next race in the series is at Le Braye dunes on Saturday 18th October. For further details please contact Peter Hinds on 862436 or email Paul Raimbault at paul.raimbault@jerseymail.co.uk .