

PAR JUNIOR SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE 7 February 2024

The cross country Gods were shining down at Par on Wednesday, enabling the final fixture of the Newquay & Par Junior Schools series to slot in between heavy rain, which left the course slippery for the young athletes from the eight schools taking part. Numbers remained high despite both pupil & staff sicknesses,

The first of three youngsters to complete a 100% five wins came from Year 5 Tommy Grose (Biscovey) who had team mate James Sleeman cross the line close behind for his first podium finish with Douglas Kennard (St Wenn) consolidating his third overall. Harry Crowle was one of the Gorran children that were affected by an unfortunate delay caused by the recycling lorry that meant they missed the start of the race with a separate race added to allow them to compete. He still picked up the overall runner's up position from previous race scores. It was nail biting stuff for both Biscovey and Gorran with the former team winning the day, who had their third scorer, Max Turner at eighth. This tied the two schools on the best four scores from five but Gorran's better fifth score by just two points, gave them the overall team shield. St Wenn were third

Treverbyn's Athena Jeffries had the mother of club team mate, Lyvie Cooper (Biscovey) to thank for collecting her from school, as they were unable to get to the event. Predictably the pair came in first and second and close together, as they had been all winter. The unresolved third overall was wide open & thrown even more open by the performances of two Year 4's from St Petroc's, Isobel Rowe and Lucy Powesland. These two only joined the league last month but will be a force in the age group next winter. But it was another Year 4, Sienna Hannaford (Biscovey) who beat her team mate Maya Wishart for the overall Bronze despite being three places behind her on the day with previous scores. Having lost out so closely in the Boys category, Biscovey had the satisfaction of winning the Girls both on the day and overall through Lyvie Cooper, Maya Wishart (5th) and Indi Mackenzie (6th). Such was their strength that their 'B' team was second on the day. However, Tywardreath had done enough for the second overall place and Gorran third.

The overall leader in the Year 6 Boys from Ladock School, Harry, didn't need this fifth win but went out like a rocket, even recording the fastest time of the winter in the slippery conditions! Reubyn Howes (Tywardreath) held on for the second overall despite being beaten this time by Jem Sullivan (Probus) who equalled the overall score of Henry Denning (Ladock, who was 5th) to tie for third. Winning Ladock team trio, Harry, Henry and Jude's sixth meant that the school had won all five races. Although one race less, Probus moved above Tywardreath after their second on the day added to their previous three scores.

Violet Durber (Probus) gained the important fourth score she needed to secure the title but only just, as she held off team mate Megan Perry on the line, both given the same time. This was enough for Megan to move into second overall ahead of Anouk Topps (Tywardreath) who finished fifth behind Rachel Emms & Esmee Perks from Biscovey but with better earlier scores. With Eden Carlton at sixth, the Probus team made sure of the overall title followed by Tywardreath and Biscovey.

The winter season has not finished for many of the young athletes as they progress to the Mid Cornwall Inter Area races at Poltair School on 18th March, hoping to make the top 20 for the County event the following Monday at Newquay.