

PAR JUNIOR SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE – 15 January 2025

It was a poignant start to the penultimate fixture of the Newquay & Par hosted Junior Cross Country League. Organiser, Dave Varney and Cornwall Schools AA Secretary, Lesley Taphouse, gave tributes before the first race, to Mr Paul Manning OBE who had suddenly died on the Sunday. Paul, who was President of the CSAA, in keeping with his love for athletics, had fully supported the setup of the Par League when Dave suggested it three years ago. After considering whether the event should go ahead, his wife and children assured Dave that it would have been what he wanted and gave it their full blessing. Pupils, staff, parents and friends celebrated his life with a silence after the tributes, followed by applause. Fittingly, it felt like Spring with warm sunshine to herald the fourth fixture of the five.

Oscar Riches (St Petroc's) completed his fourth victory in the combined Year 4/5 Boys and Girls race. It was in his usual dominant style despite being in the youngest age group. Leo Hocknell (Probus) took his second runners up place but will need to complete the final race to have a chance of overall second. Chaice Eaton (Biscovey) repeated his third position to head up his school team win, where Biscovey had six in the top nine. Ladock's third place will put pressure on their 'B' team for second overall.

Team mates, Isabel Rowe and Lucy Powlesland (St Petroc's), had a close contest and along with Bella Daniel at twelfth secured the team win. But Tywardreath, with Ellen 6th, Olivia 7th and Lorna 8th are still the school to beat going into the final fixture. Sienna Hannaford (Biscovey) currently splits the Bodmin girls at the top with her third position on the day

Tommy Grose (Biscovey) also kept up a 100% record to guarantee the Year 6 Boys title, second place will be interesting with Jojo Fraser (Gorran) needing to back up his second at the final race after missing race 2, with third placed Max Turner (Biscovey) able to drop his lowest score with good four scores already in the bag.

Biscovey are in prime position to secure the team shield through previous wins having tied with second placed Gorran at this fixture with Sam Turner backing up Tommy and Max. Gorran's other joint team winning pair were Ruan Flack (5th) and Harry Crowe (7th)

Lyvie Cooper (Biscovey) finally got the better of close friend, Athena Jeffries (Treverbyn) to reverse the top two placings after Athena had won the previous three and already done enough for the title. Tywardreath's Isla will be put under pressure from Maya Wishart (Biscovey) but should have done enough for the third place trophy. Maya, however, is likely to be part of a third winning team for Biscovey who head the table ahead of Tywardreath and their 'B' team.

The final fixture is scheduled for 5 February with a back up date / presentations on the 26th if cancelled.