

Cross Country Match G.I.A.A.C vs JSAC, Delancey Park, Guernsey 15.03.09

Congratulations to all the Spartans who travelled over to Guernsey to do battle with the Sarnians. I'm sure you'll all agree it was a great day out in fantastic warm and sunny weather. A big thank you to my assistants Nick Gorrod (Assistant manager) Paul Raimbault (Juniors team manager) Michelle Leerson (Assistant junior team manager) Club Captains Peter Le Couilliard and Jo Gorrod and Janine Fossey (Secretary).

The U13 boys got off to a great start with a win for Oliver Terry. 11pts each and Guernsey wins as 3rd scorer finished ahead of Jersey!!! Well I've never heard that one before, so there was a bit of head scratching in the Jersey camp on that one, Daniel Robinson did well, coming 3rd.

Guernsey won the U13 girls. Lauren Lowe (4th) Catherine Billington (6th) and Gemma Gothard (7th) our 1st 3 home.

Elliott Dorey was a runaway winner in the U15 boys, unfortunately Guernsey were 2,3 and 4 so got the team prize.

In the U15 girls, Danielle Leerson and Chloe Turmel 1st and 2nd, and with Anna Fenton 4th Jersey took the honours.

Wade Le Marquand was our sole runner in boys U17, finishing 2nd.

In Girls U17, Flick Johnston-Deeley ran away with it, Carey Fenton 3rd Ruth Stilwell 4th, well done girls!

We won everything in the Womens races, our girls did us proud! We had 7 of the first 9 finishers. The longer the race went on, the stronger our women seemed to get. I was jumping up and down, punching the air and Gary Booster had to whisper to me to calm down and stop making such a spectacle of myself! Jo Gorrod 1st, Catherine Hutton 3rd, Sarah Corcoran 5th Carol Knight (in borrowed kit and shoes!) 6th Sylvia Thompson 7th, Sue Le Ruez (in her 25th year of inter-insular cross country) 8th Terri O'Donoghue 9th. Lets not forget Debbie Donaldson, Ana Goncalves, Jane Wilson and Janine Fossey who were also part of that all conquering team, winning all 3 team categories.

Guernsey's run carried all before them in the last race of the day. They were even able to rest World Cross Country championships qualifier Lee Merrien. Steve Dawes, Alan Rowe and Mark Mercier were their 1st 3 home. They had 10 runners in the first 11, our best was 8th placed Simon Roderick who had a super run. Well done Simon! Guernsey won the men's title and the vet men's title and just scraped home by one point to beat us in the Super Veteran event. This race was won by Gary Broster from Peter Le Couilliard. The Sarnians were 3rd and 4th 5th and 6th, Dave Woodsford was our third scorer in 7th and Guernsey got their 5th man in 8th just ahead of Kevin Lovatt, so it was very close. A big thankyou to Bernie Arthur who was a late replacement and came in for us at short notice. Well done Bernie and thanks very much.

Overall I counted 13 wins (individual and team) for Jersey. 11 wins for Guernsey. Last year it was 16-8 to us, so it was a close run thing but we just shaded it. We knew it was always going to be tough over there, but we performed really well on their home soil. Looking forward to 2010, back in Jersey, Les Creux is looking a possible venue at the moment.

Dave Woodsford
JSAC Cross Country Team Manager