

Youngsters brave the wind and rain in excellent junior schools athletics championships

Appalling weather conditions did not put off the 300+ junior schools athletes who competed in the Smokebusters junior schools athletics championships sponsored by RG Falla. The wind and the rain made conditions difficult but could not dampen the enthusiasm and competitive spirit for the youngsters from years 3,4,5, and 6. Of particular merit were the hurdles events which, as Dale Garland pointed out to the crowd, is always a difficult event in the rain. The year 6 boys hurdles event was a classic as James Browning just beat Cameron Hantonne in a very fast race. Garland was especially impressed with the technical ability of both runners and presented the athlete of the night award to Browning for his efforts.

The year 5 girls hurdles race was another close finish with Kyra Gooaverts just coming home in first place. The year 6 girls race was won by Jade Gauvain and Will Thompson carried on in his winning ways from the individual championships the week before by easily winning the year 5 boys race.

The year 5 and 6 sprint finals saw no surprises in the A races as athletes already selected for the inter-insular meeting in July won in fine style. Hannah English and Alfie Penney both won their year 5 races with ease whilst it was a much closer race for the year 6 pupils. Chloe Macdonald just held off her rival to win the year 6 girls sprint final and Matthew Linehan came from behind to beat Ollie Philpott.

The B races saw Vauvert boys Morgan Breton and Bijoy Ali winning in the year 5 and year 6 races respectively whilst the girls races saw an ever-improving Honor De Garis take the year 6 race and Sofia Gouveia won well in the year 5 race.

The year 3 and 4 races showed the potential for the future as the younger pupils responded well to running in front of the capacity crowd. Beechwood boys took a clean sweep of the year 4 boys A and B races won by Alistair Chalmers and Tom Rihoy. The year 4 girls races were won by Kerys Chamberlain and Vicky Mann. The year 3 races were close races but the eventual winners were Amelia Klucnyk and Aaliyah Mair in the girls races and Thierry Payne and Sam Culverwell in the boys races.

The relay races always provide exciting tussles and with the slippery conditions this year was no exception. The schools compete against other schools of a similar size and it was fitting on a day when sporting behaviour was so evident from all the competitors that the six relay trophies were won by six different schools