

Report of the Junior Schools individual athletics championships

By Alun Williams

A record breaking performance by St Martins pupil, Cameron Hantonne, in the year 6 boys sprints was the highlight of the junior schools athletics championships held at Footes Lane. Hantonne had previously won the hurdles race and then went on to break the five year record in the sprints in a time of eleven seconds. The record breaking performance built on last year's achievements when he broke Dale Garland's 25 year record in the year 5 hurdles. Amongst the girls Vale Junior school pupils Jade Packham and Chloe McDonald were particularly impressive. Packham won the year 5 girls double of sprints and hurdles followed by year 6 pupil Chloe McDonald who was also dominant in both sprints and hurdles. Their performances were of particular merit as both girls are inexperienced athletes. Hannah English should also be pleased with her performances on both track and field. Despite a nasty tumble in the hurdles she went on to win the year 5 long jump final, ran excellently to win the year 5 600 meters race and even managed a second place in the sprints.

The closest race of the championships was in the year 5 boys sprints where the first three finishers shared the same time. After much deliberation the officials decide that Alfie Penney had just come home first. The year 5 boys hurdles race was won convincingly by William Thompson.

The distance races were of top quality and reflected the great potential that the GIAAC has at this age group. Katie Rowe won the year 6 800meter race in an impressive 2 minutes 45 seconds but she was chased all the way by Rebecca Stewart who is a fast improving athlete. Amongst the boys the year 5 600 meters race saw an exciting race where Teddy Gordon Le Clerc just hung on to beat Edward Mason whilst Max Robin led from the front to secure the year 6 800 meter race in 2 minutes 41 seconds.

The most impressive long jump performance was from James Browning who was the only athlete to clear 4 meters with a jump of 4 meters 1 centimeter. It was an exciting tussle with Cameron Hantonne who had led until the final jump when Browning beat Hantonne by seven centimetres. There was an equally close competition in the year 6 girls long jump final where Bernadette Benstead just stayed ahead from Honor De Garis with a jump of 3 meters 67 centimeters. Jordan Kelly won the boys year 5 long jump by one centimetre from Robbie Legg.

The throwing events saw Tristan Queripel throw an impressive fifty meters to easily win the boys competition whilst Zoe Filtch threw consistently to win the girls event.

There was a record number of entries for the championships and it was pleasing to see that there were so many winners. The eighteen different events were won by fourteen different athletes. Attention now turns to the high jump competition next week, the annual RG Falla/ Smokebusters championships in mid-june and preparation for the inter-insular match against Jersey in July