

Beachborough Girls Victorious in 2011 Beachborough Run!

Tuesday 6 December dawned chilly but dry and conditions were fairly dry underfoot for this year's Beachborough Run – a far cry from the snow that caused the cancellation of last year's race. Our runners had been training hard throughout this term, building up the length of training runs carefully, and despite one or two injury setbacks and numerous illnesses over the last few weeks, we rocked up at the start feeling quietly confident in all our teams (the coaches did anyway!) An awkward headwind in the field heading away from school was actually good for our runners, as we encounter it in training and can push hard through it, knowing there is a good period of following wind to come, whereas competitors from other schools often find this field particularly demoralising. The U11 Girls' race started proceedings, and Beachborough had a number of girls pushing hard at the front, Scarlett Jewson in particular early on, and the team work was evident as the pace was kept high. A strong finish meant that Siena Robbins took on the mantle over the closing stages but she could not quite catch the overall winner in the final straight and finished 2nd. Scarlett powered to 4th place, closely followed by Zoe Pollock in 6th and a really gutsy run across the windy field by Immy Plummer-Clarke meant that she finished in 13th. Kitty Jewson (Form II) ran a very promising race to finish in 22nd whilst still 2 years young, just leading home an excellent performance by Francesca Musson in 25th place, out of 42 runners in total. This superb team performance by all 6 girls meant that Beachborough had their first Winners' Shield in the Beachborough Run in living memory (well, Mr Smith's living memory anyway!) – A fantastic achievement!!

Closely following the girls' race, the U11 Boys took off, and Trajan Halvorsen ran a tactically perfect race, matching the frontrunners during the manic initial stages, and then staying on the leader's shoulder throughout. Try as he might though, all the copious hard training he has put in this term couldn't quite set him up for the fast finish required to overhaul a very strong winning runner. Trajan's 2nd place was a tremendous achievement, and shows that he will be challenging for further honours in various running events throughout the year. The rest of the U11 boys all ran very strongly at the best of their ability, but in particular Angus Pollock showed what a prospect he will be, finishing in 19th place whilst still only in Form II. The team finished overall in a fine 4th place out of 7, in a very strong field indeed.

In the senior races the runners all performed to the best of their abilities, digging deep into the reserves of energy as is now expected of Beachborough runners. In the U13 Girls' race, a tight group of our girls kept each other going strongly and came home almost together, led by Ellie Whybrow, with the rest pushing strongly to the end. The team spirit was once again evident in this performance by all 6 runners, and they were rewarded with an excellent 3rd place overall. In the U13 Boys' race Toby Mitchell showed what great form he is in at the moment, outstripping even his own expectations to finish in a superb 5th place in a very strong field, having maintained pace towards the front for the majority of the race and produced a strong final mile. The rest of the U13 gave all they had for the team and came storming down the final straight, nicking a place here and a place there which made all the difference in the final shake up. They were rewarded for their efforts with a very commendable 4th place overall, beating some quality opposition as a result.

As you can see from the results below, the performances across the board were quite superb – judging by the state of the runners at the finish, none of them had anything left to give at the end

and the achievements by all team reflect this. Running is in a very good place at the moment at Beachborough, and not only for those on display today – the number of all types of children coming out for a run on a Tuesday lunchtime is 40+ and growing, and each one is gaining something from it, whether elite or fun runner. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Campbell, Mr Banks, Mrs Read, Mr Jack, and Mr Butler for giving their time (and considerable effort!) to enable this progress to be made.

Individual Results (out of 42 runners in each race):

<u>U13 Girls</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>U13 Boys</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>U11 Girls</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>U11 Boys</u>	<u>Place</u>
E Whybrow	12	T Mitchell	5	S Robbins	2	T Halvorsen	2
A Wilson	13	B Lee	16	S Jewson	4	F Lee	13
C Best	14	O Plum'-Clarke	19	Z Pollock	6	A Pollock	19
H Ashley	16	F Smart	20	I Plum'-Clarke	13	J McCallum	24
O Groom	29	T Stimpson	24	K Jewson	22	J Lloyd	32
F Dove	33	J Jackson	27	F Musson	25	Z McComb	35

Team Results:

<u>Position</u>	<u>U13 Girls</u>	<u>U13 Boys</u>	<u>U11 Girls</u>	<u>U11 Boys</u>
1 st	St Hugh's	Winchester House	BEACHBOROUGH	St Hugh's
2 nd	Spratton Hall	Swanbourne	Spratton Hall	Swanbourne
3 rd	BEACHBOROUGH	St Hugh's	St Hugh's	Ashfold
4 th	Thornton	BEACHBOROUGH	Swanbourne	BEACHBOROUGH
5 th	Swanbourne	Spratton Hall	Thornton	Winchester House
6 th	Winchester House	Ashfold	The Grove	Spratton Hall
7 th	Akeley Wood	Akeley Wood	Winchester House	The Grove

Danny Bevan