

The Jersey Spartan Athletic Club are pleased to announce that the Advisa Group are going to sponsor the Advisa Group Cross Country Series for a fifth consecutive year. The series will consist of seven races with runners accumulating points in each race with the top four scores counting for the overall series winners. Also all runners completing six out of the seven races will receive a special prize at the end of the series which will be presented at the final event which is a four team relay.

The first race took part last Saturday at La Braye sand dunes by Mont a la Brune. After the squally showers of late the runners were presented with a fine afternoon although quite blustery which made the first part of the course quite tough. The course was a one kilometre anticlockwise loop of the dunes with the runners finishing back at the start. The continued sponsorship from Advisa has seen the series increase in popularity and with the change in the weather saw a near record 90 runners turn out for the races.

The first race underway was the 7-8 age category. In this race the runners completed one loop of the course with the girls starting one minute after the boys and the races being treated as separate. The start saw a mass stampede of 28 boys but they managed to avoid falling. Oliver Rothwell gradually established a lead over a group of five boys to win comfortably by twenty two seconds. In the group of five George Daniels started to pull away from the other four to take second whilst Sam Pinel just held off Jake Viera, Jack Burns and Liam Cadoret for third place. The girl's race was the most exciting of the day with Lucy Hunt and Lily Scott running side by side for the whole race. Both girls finished in the same time with Lily being given the verdict by a dip as she crossed the line. Katie Le Roget took third place comfortably. A record 38 children entered this age group.

In the 9-10 age group the runners completed two laps of the course. Eighteen boys and ten girls started the race. Jack Kennedy ran a convincing race to win comfortably from Dougie Brown and Myles Byron. Just as easily Adele Maher won the girl's race by thirty two seconds but the attention of the spectators was drawn to the race for second position with Rosie McManus just out sprinting Aimee Hugh to take second place by one second.

The last race of the day was the 11-14 age group with the runners completing three laps of the dunes. Again there was a record finish with twenty four runners starting the race. William Brown had a close tussle with Jack Lutz in the 11-12 boys' age group as they ran neck and neck for two laps. Finally William pulled away on the third lap to win by ten seconds. Isaac du Val ran a comfortable race for third place. In the girls' 11-12 age group Florence Gothard won convincingly from Alia Byron and Jennifer Cullen. In the older age group three boys were locked together for two laps with Samuel Maher leading Joonas Jaakola and Joe Hugh. On the third lap Joe started to lose touch and fell away for third place. The other two boys were still fighting for the lead as they entered the straight with Sam just beating Joonas by two seconds. In the girls' race Yasmine Lookess won comfortably but there was another exciting race for second place with Brooke Lidster just holding off Jessica Troy.

After the race Advisa Group medals were given to the first three home in each age group and lucky race numbers were drawn for six pairs of cinema ticket spot prizes.

The next race in the series takes place at Les Mielles des Morvilles (near Kempt Tower) with runners check in time of 12:45. This will take place on Saturday 27th October 2012. For further details contact Peter Hinds on 862436 or email paul.raimbault@jerseymail.co.uk to go on the Advisa Group mailing list.

