



King Henry VIII Relay



33rd Boys' Relay & 7th Girls' Relay

2006

The War Memorial Park was once again the setting for the annual King Henry VIII Relay on a cold but fine Wednesday afternoon in late January. The event was supported by approximately 60 visiting school teams, drawn from as far a field as Dorset and Glasgow. The Boys' competition was won for the second consecutive year by Marling School from Gloucestershire, in a time of 73:48. Despite losing their star runner Iain Whitfield (fastest lap 2005) to injury, they still finished almost two minutes clear of 2nd placed Bradford Grammar School. Alistair Brownlee led the Bradford team home in 11.13 which was the fastest of the day. Woodlands school finished in an impressive third place. The Most improved school team award went to Radley College who finished 14th this year following their 29th placed finish in 2005.

The King Henry VIII Boys team ran well, finishing in 17th place from 41 competing teams. Their individual times (in race order) were Ciaran Acford in 13:13, Jack Pearson in 13:12, Tom Grimley in 13:05, Matthew Halliday in 14:34, Chris Bannon in 12:54 and James Szejka in 13:37. Tom Roberts also deserves a special mention; he was very keen to train and to make the Relay team, but twisted his ankle in his determination to do so! It was a relatively young team, James Szejka, our Cross Country captain was the only Year 13 runner and therefore will not be available next year. We hope for an even higher finishing position in 2007!

In the Girls event, Sevenoaks romped home to set a new course record of 57:56, knocking 50 seconds off the previous best time. Millfield finished in second place with Rosy Cooper setting a new record lap time of 13:50. Uppingham finished in third place. The King Henry VIII Girls team put in a commendable effort having lost Sally Biles and Zoe Milton through injury. The A and B teams battled bravely finishing in 16th and 17th place respectively. Their individual times were Joanna Halliday in 17:03, Alice Robertson in 18:09, Chloe Bell (captain) in 18:44, Harriet Batten in 16:49, Rebecca Smith in 19:42, Joanna Read in 17:06, Katie Dobson in 20:47 and Sophie Kirk in 18:14. We can look forward to some promising years ahead with this young team of athletes in mostly Years 8 and 9!

Local athlete and former Godiva runner, Lorraine Baker was our Relay Guest Presenter. Lorraine was the 1986 Commonwealth Games Bronze Medallist in the 800m final. Her other career highlights included finishing in 5th place in both the 1984 Olympic and 1990 Commonwealth Games 800m final.

As race organiser, I rely on the help of many pupils and members of staff both past and present. A big thank you to all, I would like to give special thanks to Geoff Bullock. Despite the fact that he left our teaching staff in December and relocated to York, Geoff has subsequently given up a great deal of time refining the computer results program and drove down to the event to personally ensure that all went smoothly. Kate Fisher and Melvin Cooley also gave considerable support. Thanks also goes to Phil Mahiques for his advice and help in organising the attendance of our guest presenter.

The school looks forward to hosting the 36th Boys and 8th Girls races next year. The date is provisionally set as Wednesday 31st January 2007 at 2:30pm in the War Memorial Park.

Mr M van Alderwegen