

Surrey Youth Games 2011

Well done to everyone who took part in the Surrey youth games on the 18th and 19th of June 2011. You all did brilliantly! Not even the horrible weather could dampen the spirit of the 250 children who represented Runnymede.



On Saturday the 18th of June there were many sports for all ages 7-16 and all abilities. There was badminton, boccia, boxing, football, hockey, squash and tennis. After weeks of hard work and fun training with amazing, dedicated coaches, it was finally time to put their skills into practice and everyone gave it their all in their chosen sport.

The under 9 girl's football team showed fantastic abilities and skill and came 4th in their age group. Whilst the under 11 girls had to brave the rain but it did not affect their performance or their excitement. Most of the girls wanted to join a football team after having taken part in the S.Y.G.

The squash team played their hearts out and came away with 3rd place medals. Adele Nokes said "It felt amazing to take part and do so well and she would definitely like to take up squash as a sport".



The boxing was very exciting and the boys showed skill with each match.



The tennis team showed us that there is hope for the future at Wimbledon and William enjoyed it so much he has already signed up for a tennis camp in the summer.



The mixed hockey team all played amazingly well and should be very proud of themselves. You could feel the teams' excitement and adrenalin from a mile away. The coach thought they played very well for a team that had not been together for very long.



It was a shame we did not have a Boccia team to represent Runnymede, Boccia is for anyone who is registered disabled. It looked great fun to play, it's like bowls and I really wanted to have a go. So come on lets make sure we have a team for next year.

There were sports celebrities supporting the games and I managed to speak to Matthew James a Boccia England player, who thought it was great that there was a chance for disabled children to join in the games and show they can become great athletes too.



The Runnymede mayor showed his support and thought that the SYG was the best thing around for encouraging children to play sport and keep fit.

The mascot race was great fun; our mascot was the Runnymede Racoon. He got off to a great start but was foiled by a parachute! He fought back hard and managed to come third. I think he should have won first place for style and always had a pose for each shot. Well done Mr Racoon.



Sunday the 19th brought the sun and lots more exciting sports to watch, basketball, cricket, hockey, judo, netball, rugby, squash and swimming.

The netball team gave it their all and enjoyed the experience of playing such high standard teams.



The girl's cricket team played absolutely brilliantly, showing wonderful team work, fair play and enthusiasm. They won their pool of games in style and went through to the semi finals. Sadly they were beaten by Elmbridge in a closely fought match only loosing by 4 runs. The girls went on to come 4th and enjoyed getting medals at the presentation. The girls said "they had had a great time learning to play cricket and were proud to represent Runnymede and would love to do it again next year".



The tag rugby team showed great enthusiasm through each match. The standard of all the teams was very high this year. The games I was lucky enough to see were all nail biting matches. In the 5th and 6th place play offs against Waverly, Runnymede held their nerve and narrowly bet them 5 to 4. The coaches thought the young volunteer refs and linesmen were of a very high standard and praised how well the competition was run. The Runnymede coach was full of praise for his team and hoped that some of them will go on to take up rugby as a sport. The parents said how much their children had enjoyed playing rugby and how it was great they were trying new sports and getting fit.



The judo team only had a few representatives and for some this was their first competition and their coach was very pleased with their performance.



The swimming team looked great in their blue hats as they sped through the water. They worked well as a team and had great team spirit. Emma Staight the coach said how hard it was to get a team together when Runnymede did not even have a pool but was very proud of her team and their hard work.



The basketball team played hard each game and gave of their best, well done to them.

After talking to many players, parents and coaches everyone seemed to have enjoyed the day and was looking forward to next years games.

Kate Carey and her team did an amazing job organizing the Runnymede teams and giving us all the opportunity to try new sports and learn new skills. I was lucky enough to be chosen to be the first ever Runnymede journalist and I am only 10! It has been great fun to see all the sports and chat to all the participants, coaches ,parents and celebrities and would recommend it to anyone who wants to have a go next year.



WELL DONE to everyone who was involved in the games and everyone helped make it a very special weekend.

Jade Ollington

Junior journalist