

SCOTTISH SCHOOLS ORIENTEERING FESTIVAL



On Friday 6th June 2008, 32 pupils from Banchory Primary School, Durris Primary School, Strachan Primary School and Banchory Academy attended the Scottish Schools Orienteering Festival at Drumpellier Country Park in Coatbridge.

The festival was aimed at pupils who have been introduced to orienteering through their school. Over the past few weeks Active Schools have been teaching pupils at all the schools the skills of orienteering within a playground setting. The children were then given the opportunity to try out their new skills at the Scottish Schools event.

Orienteering is an exciting, active outdoors sport and the children learn and gain confidence by taking part with minimum supervision. The pupils competed individually or in pairs and were set off on short courses at regular intervals. The competitors needed to read the map to find their way between a series of controls, recording electronically that they had visited the correct ones in the correct order, before finishing the course in the fastest possible time.

The event was a huge success with winners from Banchory Primary School and Banchory Academy. In the P5/6 girls category, Jennifer Ricketts and Rosie Getliff, both from Banchory Primary School, came 1st and 3rd respectively. In the P5/6 boys category, Stian Howard from Banchory came 3rd and Ewen Kerridge from Strachan came 4th. In the P7 girls category, Evelyn Mason from Banchory came 1st, and from Banchory Academy, Rhona McMillan won the S1 girls race and Jessica Mason came 2nd in the S2 girls race.

There were also prizes for teams, which were the total of the best three times in each school in each age group. Banchory Primary School won the P5/6 girls category with Jennifer Ricketts, Rosie Getliff, and Georgina Shon and Claudia Miles. Banchory Primary School also came 2nd in the P5/6 boys category with Stian Howard, Ewan McMillan, Alex Small. Banchory Academy won the S1 girls category with Rhona McMillan, Frances Wright, Hannah Hughes.

Finally, there were also awards for the overall winning primary and overall winning secondary. In the Primary Schools competition, Banchory Primary School came 2nd to Aboyne Primary School, and in the Secondary Schools competition, Banchory Academy came 5th, with Biggar High School winning.