

SPORT FOR ALL FESTIVAL 2009: EVENT REPORT.

This year's Dunfermline and West Fife Sport For All Festival offered fun and fitness for all the family from Friday 4th to Sunday 13th September.

Nearly 50 events in 16 sports at local leisure centres, club facilities and parks plus nearly 100 other activities at community use schools were available during the 10-day festival.

The annual Festival, organised by Dunfermline and West Fife Sports Council and supported by the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust, Fife Council and the Fife Sports & Leisure Trust, included displays and come & try sessions as well as national competitions such as the Inter District Ladies Bowls Tournament at Headwell Bowling Club, the Forth Swim and the Young Athletes Trophy Meeting at Pitreavie Stadium. Many sessions were free to visitors whether as a participant or as a spectator and all were aimed at stimulating interest and participation in sport. A host of sports and activities, from badminton to bowls, floorball to football, pool to pilates and rugby to riding were represented.

Six a Side Hockey Festival, Saturday 5th Sept

Dunfermline Carnegie Hockey Club had 49 members take part in their annual start of season six a sides with an equal split youths and adults. Sixteen 20 minute games took place with the eventual winners being team G.B.U. (the good, the bad and the ugly). The weather threatened a drenching but stayed dry throughout and the supporting crowd of parents and ex players enjoyed a good day of hockey.

The player of the tournament was 10 year old (yes 10) Aidan Mcquade whose skills made many an adult blush. The youth of the tournament was Shauna Taggart. All the youths developed their skills by attending the clubs weekly sessions at Queen Anne & Woodmill Centres.

Forth Swim - Sunday 6th September

Twenty six intrepid swimmers plus their supporters from all over Scotland gathered in the shadow of the imposing Forth Railway Bridge at South Queensferry before plunging into the cold waters of the River Forth on Sunday 6th Sept.

They were there to take part in the annual Forth Swim organised as part of the 2009 Sport For All Festival promoted by Dunfermline and West Fife Sports Council.

The event nearly didn't happen due to poor water conditions and it was only after getting the advice of the Port Edgar Rescue Service was the decision taken to go ahead.

Alan Kenney, Sports Council Hon Vice President flagged the competitors away on their one & a half mile journey to North Queensferry escorted by members of the Kirkcaldy Sea Kayak Club and two rescue boats provided by Port Edgar and the Sea Cadets.

Strong currents and the 14 degree temperature soon began to take its toll with five swimmers being pushed towards the rail bridge spans necessitating their having to abandon the attempt. Nonetheless one of the youngest entrants and incidentally, the 2008 Junior Winner, Aaron Sievewright (15yrs) from Fauldhouse Penguins was first ashore achieving a very creditable time of 28mins 11secs closely followed by the first Senior Lady, Kirsten MacCallum from the local Carnegie Swimming Club in 28mins 18secs.

First Junior lady was Fiona Donald (Aquanauts) in 31mins 15secs and making his debut in this race, First Man Gary Hurr (Glasgow Western) in 31mins 30secs.

The 14 degree water temperature and strong currents weren't the only hazards the swimmers had to contend with, about 15mins into the race a freighter appeared unexpectedly from the west making it's way to the North Sea and they had to tread water for a few minutes to let it pass.

Dunfermline's own aquatic champion Andrea Gellan (InCAS) still found time to organise and take part in this popular event in between training for her successful English Channel swim which she completed in June in a marvellous time of 11hrs 35mins to become the second fastest Scottish female.

All the swimmers enjoyed the refreshments and prize giving at the Ferrybridge Hotel conducted by Sports Council Chairman, Cllr. Douglas Chapman.

24th Anniversary Sport For All Festival Bowls Tournament, Sunday 6th Sept

A great turnout of 17 local clubs sent their teams along to Inverkeithing Bowling Club to contest this years Festival Tournament on Sunday. The ever present threat of bad weather didn't deter these keen players who were playing in the prestigious Ladies Champion of Champion event plus the Mixed Rink and Junior Pairs competitions.

Emma Waterson & Deryn Gallacher (Broad St B.C.) emerged the winners of the Pairs in which 10 teams took part, ahead of David Duncan & Cameron Nisbet (Headwell B.C.)

Fourteen teams entered the Mixed Rink section with Alison Beveridge, Heather & Charlie Tate & Ian Junor (Inverkeithing B.C.) taking the title, with Stewart & Lorna Smith, Jean Waddell & Hugh Kerr (Kingseat B.C.) runners-up.

The Champion of Champions category saw all 17 clubs involved with Lyn Lees (Aberdour B.C.) being crowned the winner over Ester Beattie (C'Beath B.C.) The Tournament was organised by Dunfermline District Ladies League and Sports Council Chairman, Cllr. Douglas Chapman made the presentations.

SALSC Scottish Inter District Ladies 50+ Bowls Tournament, Tuesday 8th September

Headwell Bowling Club was the venue for this major event which attracted 24 teams from Ross & Cromarty in the North to Wigtownshire in the South and all points in between. Dunfermline last hosted this competition in 2005, when, like this year, it was part of the annual Sport For All Festival promoted by Dunfermline & West Fife Sports Council.

The inclement weather again forced a change to the carefully prepared arrangements and play had to be transferred to the Clubs indoor green to allow games to begin on time.

After some very close play both Dunfermline 'A' Lena Cook & Anne Bernard (Headwell BC), Jean Mitchell (Lumphinnans BC) & Sadie Philp (Valleyfield BC)

& ' B ' Isobel Mitchell, Ann Bruce, Isa Watson & Margo Mitchell (all Lochgelly BC)

teams found themselves facing each other in one semi final while the other was contested by Wigtownshire and West Lothian.

Lena Cook & Anne Bernard (Headwell BC) plus Jean Mitchell (Lumphinnans BC) & Sadie Philp (Valleyfield BC) were elated when their D'Line A team won through to meet old rivals West Lothian in the final which proved something of an anti climax with the home side taking the title 9 shots to nil.

Ron Sim from the Scottish Assoc of Local Sports Councils and Bill Livingstone, Vice Chairman of the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust, who are supporting the annual Sports Festival this year, made the presentations.



Ann Bernard, Lena Cook, Jean Mitchell and Sadie Philp

Come & Try Indoor Bowls, Saline Community Centre ,Friday 11th Sept.

The event went ‘ brilliantly, we had eight new people interested in taking up carpet bowls who will hopefully attend when the season starts on 2nd of October, said the Club organiser.

Young Athletes Trophy Meeting, Pitreavie Stadium, Sunday 13th Sept 2009.

Nearly 350 of Scotland's top athletic track and field talent took part in the annual Young Athletes Trophy event on Sunday. Most of the countries major clubs were present plus a group of 15 athletes from Ireland.

Organised and hosted by Pitreavie AAC as part of this years Sport For All Festival promoted by Dunfermline and West Fife Sports Council, the meeting featured 69 events throughout the day.

A special 3000 metre event this year was the David Candlish Memorial Race staged in memory of David , a former club member, who was killed while climbing in the Cairngorms early in 2009. Three local clubs Fife AC, Carnegie Harriers and Pitreavie AAC were invited to enter a team of one female and 2 male runners and it was fitting to see the home club eventually take the award.

The Ernie Letley U 12's Seven a Side Football Festival at Rosyth Civil Service Club on Sunday 13th Sept 2009

Named after the former Sports Council Treasurer, this popular event had been postponed from the previous Sunday due to bad weather, saw 160 enthusiastic young players from 16 local teams play their heart out.

Organised by Alan Durham of Rosyth Colts on behalf of the Sports Council the event aims to give the kids an opportunity to play for enjoyment rather than silverware. Nevertheless every child went away with an attractive medal for their efforts.

These events brought to a close the 10 day Sport For All Festival promoted by Dunfermline and West Fife Sports Council which provided a host of competitions, displays and come and try activities for the local community with the support of the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust, Fife Council and Fife Sports and Leisure Trust.