



## WHITELEY VILLAGE RACES REPORT SUNDAY 7TH JUNE

The residents of Whiteley Village woke up to a beautiful and warm sunny day ahead of the annual Whiteley Village Races, which were raising funds for Whiteley Homes Trust to provide for the 500 retired elderly people of limited means living within the village.

Now in its third year, Whiteley Village is the stage for a number of races within the stunning 300 acre grounds. With the perfect conditions, we were expecting a good turnout. Nothing however had prepared us for the welcome flood of runners who made the last minute decision to register and join us on the day!

What a turnout from the youngsters! Nearly 50 of them lined up at 9.30 am for the 1k Junior run through the heart of the village. There were some speedy efforts, each rewarded with a cheer and a medal when they crossed the line.

Melissa from [www.thrivejoyoffitness.co.uk](http://www.thrivejoyoffitness.co.uk), was on hand to take the runners through a pre-race warm-up before the start of both the 5k and 10k runs at 10am. There were several positive comments about the beautiful scenery whilst running through the woods and the rhododendrons certainly added a nice touch of colour. For those who felt they could do with some pampering at the end, Melissa was back again, offering free massages for those tired limbs.

The course twisted and turned its way through the grounds to showcase the best bits Whiteley had to offer. It became apparent that a turn was missed by some of the faster runners in a group which saw them arrive prematurely at the finish. Hopefully this didn't impact on anyone's enjoyment of the event, as one runner told me afterwards, at least she got lost in a beautiful part of the country! The results from the day will stand and a note has been added that some may have accidentally "short coursed" themselves.

Chandra McGowan, CEO of Whiteley Village was at the finish to give out prizes and medals as competitors crossed the line. The catering and refreshments at the end of the race proved very popular as families chilled out in the sun, and kids played in the adventure playground. Thanks need to be passed on to all the volunteers from the village who turned out to help marshal the course.

Once the "serious stuff" was over, there was lots of fun for people on the 5k Obstacle Course. We had a Sheik from Surbiton take part in fancy dress, which was perfect attire for the hot weather. The obstacles were tackled with guts and determination, despite the slight disappointment that the pond wade could not be used this year after a decision was made to not disturb the new ducklings' home.

It was great to see whole families turning out, getting fully involved in the fun, and running with a smile on their face on a lovely sunny June morning. Everyone's efforts helped to contribute funds to the Village Trust, so thanks to all for coming along, and especially to Sonja Freebody for coordinating the event.

See you again next year!

Adam