



Blyth Bedlington School Sport Partnership

Issue 14

Autumn/Winter 2010/11

School Sport Partnership's - Where do we go from here?

Despite Michael Gove's promise in the autumn term to keep the Sports Partnership program going the reality is that he has all but dismantled the scheme and provided only a fraction of the funding that had originally been promised.

The funding has been reduced from £165 million over a 3 year period to a mere £65 million. All secondary schools will be expected to provide a PE teacher for 1 day per week to work with all their local primary age feeder schools and run a program similar to the one we have at present. In reality will this work?

Unless we can come up with a sustainable package locally, all the following hard work put in by schools and sports partnership staff will be lost:

Implications for schools should SSP's close down:

With County making Alan Wallis & Andy Brown redundant, there would be **NO** support within the local authority for Physical Education in any form, **from 1st April 2011**

No central CPD programme for teachers

2005-10: 425 teachers/Learning assistants have accessed High Quality CPD through School Sport Partnership training events

In 2005 only 45% of pupils accessed 2 hours of High

Quality PE in the curriculum

By 2009 this had risen to 94%

Loss of a comprehensive Festival/competition programme:

In 2005-06: there were 12 competitions

By 2009-10: this had risen to 70 competitions

In 2005-06 1500: pupil places were accessed at festivals/competitions

By 2009-10 6500: pupil places accessed at festival/competitions

In 2005-06: 36% of pupils took part in Inter School Competition

By 2009-10: 45% of pupils took part in Inter School Competition

In 2005-06: 65% of pupils took part in Intra School Competition

By 2009-10: 80% of pupils took part in Intra School competition

Access to Extra-curricular coaching clubs: 2500 hours of coaching were delivered in schools last year

We offer 27 different sports/activities

Access to a wide and varied leadership programme

In 2006 13% of children accessed leadership opportunities

In 2010 36% of children accessed leadership opportunities

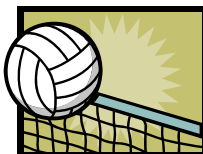
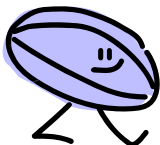
As a group of schools do we really want all this to be lost to the children in our care?

I have been working hard with the sports partnership steering group since November 2010 to come up with a realistic sustainability package for our schools locally, combining DfE funding and additional funding contributions from schools in order to keep a working program in place.

In these times of austerity I realise Head Teachers need to make some difficult decisions, but for a small additional contribution from schools, the sports partnership program and all of the above could be kept for the children in Blyth & Bedlington to enjoy and benefit from.

Paul Woodall

Partnership Manager



Year 3 and 4 plusballs festival

For the third year in a row the Plus balls event proved to be fun and developmental using the basic skills of racquet sports. The children of Morpeth Road, St Peter's and St Paul's, Horton Grange and St Bede's all appeared to be enjoying themselves using the relatively new and innovative plusball.

The children used various skills from hitting the ball to themselves and to a partner using their hands, paddle and material racquets and eventually moving onto fluff balls which require more racquet control.

The event was a great success with all of the children progressing at each stage.



Gymnasts of the future!

Two hundred and sixty four Year 2 pupils attended one of two gymnastics taster events led by the partnership with support from Janice Brolly of Blyth Gym Club. The pupils from ten schools, Malvin's Close, Station, Bede South, St Bede's RC, Croftway, St Paul's RC, Stead Lane, Choppington, Cambois and Newsham, were all put through their paces at the six gymnastics stations in rolling, jumping and balancing. The pupils worked very hard in their ninety minute non stop event and picked up many new techniques.

The staff and pupils attending commented on what a great event it was. Thank you to all the schools who attended this event and especially to the pupils for working so hard and making it such a great event.



Year 2's have a FUNdamental time.

One hundred and six Year 2 pupils descended on Blyth Sports Centre on Thursday 30th September to attend the first partnership FUN's Festival and indeed for some of them this was their first experience of sporting festivals. Schools attending the festival were: Cleaswell Hill, Choppington First, St Paul's RC First, St Andrew's RC First and Cambois First School. The event, an updated festival from the previously run Multi Skills festival, took pupils through many balance, agility and coordination activities led by the SSCo team with help from Adam Dixon, BVAL Sports Development and Ben Hood, Competition Manager.

Balance, agility and coordination are the fundamental skills needed for all sports so its good for the pupils to get lots of experience and practice of skills. We would encourage all teachers to incorporate FUNs activities into PE lessons



Teachers fly high with the Eagles.

In September secondary teachers and coaches caught up on the latest coaching techniques with one of the country's best known basketball players in a bid to make the game even more appealing to students.

The advanced coaching clinic, hosted after school by Bede Academy in Blyth, saw the teachers practising new drills, learning game tactics and understanding the importance of communication between players.

The two-hour session brought together teachers from Bede Academy, The Blyth School St Benet Biscop High, and other Northumberland Schools, as well as coaches from Blyth Valley Arts and Leisure department and Ashington Basketball Club. The clinic was funded by the Blyth and

Bedlington School Sports Partnership.

Following the secondary teachers course, 17 primary school teachers attended a basketball coaching clinic at Bede Academy, Blyth. The session was run by Deirdre Hayes, general manager of the Eagles Community Foundation and former national u-18 school girls team manager.

Deirdre put the teachers through a thoroughly enjoyable 1 hour coaching clinic aimed at showing how basketball can be introduced into the KS2 curriculum or as an after school club. She covered basic passing, dribbling, pivoting and small sided games, with the emphasis on being active and having FUN.



Year 5 skipping festival goes with a bounce.

December 9th saw the third annual Year 5 Skipping Festival held within our sports partnership. Four schools, Newsham, Guide Post, Bede Academy and Bedlington Juniors brought over one hundred pupils between them to the competition.

Each school entered pupils into individual, paired and small group competitive skipping activities led by Skipping Schools who had previously visited all schools in the partnership to deliver skipping workshops to all year 5 pupils funded by the SSP.

Blyth Sports Hall was heaving with skippers having a great time within a competitive environment. It is hoped that the skippers will now have the skipping bug and continue to keep fit through skipping at playtimes and at home so

to benefit their health and give them a better level of fitness for the other sports they play.

Throughout the morning the SSP and Skipping Schools were supported by twenty-four excellent young leaders from St Wilfrid's RC School. Connor, one of the students even led an aerobic warm up to the one hundred plus pupils.

Pupils were awarded Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates for their individual skipping performances and these were totalled to find the winning school.

Newsham Primary School were the delighted winners in 2010. Well done to them and to all who took part.

St Wilfrid's RC School triumph at the Under 13 Netball Competition

St. Wilfrids proved worthy winners in the annual U13 netball tournament, playing teams from across the Blyth and Bedlington School Sport Partnership at St. Benet Biscop RC High School. 6 teams played a round robin competition to compete for the trophy that was won last year by Bede Academy. Teams competing in this year's tournament, as well as the winners, were Bede Academy North, St. Benet Biscops, Bedlington Junior High, Meadowdale Middle and The Blyth School Community College.

Games were well contested and the final result came down to the last game of the afternoon between Bede and St. Wilfrids. Bede took a well deserved 2 goal lead in the first couple of minutes, but St. Wilfrids composed themselves to come out on top by 6 goals to 2.

It was evident from the good standard of play that the girls are playing netball regularly as part of an U13 league for schools in South East Northumberland. The girls are also encouraged to develop their talents even further by joining local netball clubs.

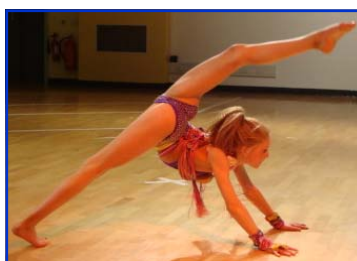
**National School Sport
Week**
June 27th to July 1st
Please register your school
at:
www.schoolsportweek.org

Blyth Bedlington's got to dance!

The Blyth and Bedlington School Sport Partnership organised their second annual dance competition for pupils in Key Stages 4 and 5 for the 4 high schools in the Partnership: Bedlington High, Bede Academy, St. Benet Biscop RC High and The Blyth School.

Just as there are competitions in gymnastics and games, so should there be in dance to give pupils who have an interest in this area an opportunity to compete against each other. As part of their ongoing development, the Partnership staff are increasing opportunities for older pupils to take part in competition, and many of the pupils competing in the dance competition do not compete in any other sport. 2 judges had the difficult job of scoring pupils out of 10 for performance, interpretation of music and choreography. One of the judges was from a local dance school- Anna Hunter from the Factory Dance Academy in Blyth. School and club links an important way of encouraging children to participate in sport and exercise outside school, so having a judge from the local community was a welcome addition to the competition.

The schools entered pupils in solo, duet and group dances covering 3 styles of dance: Theatre, Contemporary and Urban, and they competed against each other in each category. The school with the highest totals overall won the title of winning school, and this was Bede Academy from Blyth. Pictures from the competition can be seen on the website gallery.



Following the successful skills and drills session in January, 4 schools competed in the Year 6 hockey competition. 2 teams from each of Bede South, Newsham Primary, Morpeth Road Primary and Malvins Close Primary Schools, played in our first ever Quick Sticks Hockey event. This version of the game has been modified by England Hockey, and tries to bring children to the game at a young age.

2 competitions ran alongside each other, with all schools playing each other in either the A or the B league. The players relished the opportunity to compete in a new sport and played increasingly well throughout the course of the competition, with skills being developed and improved during every game. Newsham won the A league and Morpeth Road won the B league.

Well done to all of the players who took part.

Talented female footballers take to the pitch

Hirst Welfare in Ashington again played host to the eagerly awaited girls' football competitions for the coveted titles of Blyth/Bedlington SSP Champions. These competitions, which were switched from Blyth Town Football Club because of unplayable pitches, went ahead on the superb Astro turf surface of the Hirst Welfare.

Almost 150 girls from eleven of the Partnership schools battled it out in the Years 5 and 6 competition and the Years 7 and 8 competition. The standard of football was extremely good and shows how the football in this area has developed over the past few years.. This resulted in some highly competitive games, some great goals and a very high level of

sportsmanship. First aid teams were on standby to treat staff and parents as the excitement reached fever pitch as the results in both competitions unfolded. It was extremely close in both competitions and certainly no place for the faint-hearted!!

Meadowdale were victorious in both competitions. Well done to them and all the other teams who took part.

A big vote of thanks must go to Doug Thornborn from Blyth Town FC for his efforts and to the 4 young referees from Bedlington Community High School.



High Five Netball

The annual Year 5 Netball Tournament for schools across the Blyth and Bedlington School Sport Partnership was held at Blyth Sport Centre. Eight teams played each other in an afternoon of 5-a-side High 5 netball. It was a steep learning curve for some players who had not played in a High 5 competition before, as they were playing on a full sized netball court. When they played First Steps netball in Year 4, the court was much smaller, using only a third of a netball court.

Once the players got to grips with the large playing area, the standard improved dramatically and the girls learnt a great deal from the experience. After two hours play, the clear winners were New Delaval Primary School from Blyth, who didn't lose a game all afternoon. The runners up were Malvins Close Primary from Blyth.

Eight teams from the Blyth and Bedlington School Sport Partnership played in the annual U11 netball tournament, held at Bede Academy North. All teams played each other in a round robin competition, playing the England Netball modified game of High 5 netball. The philosophy of the game is that the players rotate positions so that they experience playing all five positions so that everyone 'has a go'.

The matches were played in an excellent spirit, on a lovely sunny day at a great venue, and it was evident that the girls not only enjoyed the experience, but also improved their play throughout the course of the afternoon. The eventual winners were St. Wilfrids, with Croftway and New Delaval a close second and third.

Year 7 Guide Post Boys Triumph in the football Competition

The disappointment of the World Cup in South Africa seemed a million years ago as 10 teams, representing six different schools in the Blyth/Bedlington Sports Partnership, competed at the Hirst Welfare in Ashington for the title of Year 7 Champions. During the course of the afternoon, a near capacity crowd witnessed a thrilling competition, with great football and some fantastic goals, many that would grace any Premiership match.

The competition was a "round robin" format with each team playing nine matches giving a total of forty-five games, with one hundred and twenty goals being scored. A veritable feast of football!!!

The afternoon produced a great deal of drama with Meadowdale A, the early leaders and favourites, losing to their B team, thus ending their challenge for the title. St Wilfrid's A and B teams, together with St Benet Biscops, produced some excellent victories but lacked the consistency that was required to lift the title.

It was left to The Blyth School A team and Guidepost to provide the real challenge and they were neck and neck throughout, with Guidepost eventually running out winners by the slightest of margins. Thanks to the six referees from The Blyth School 6th Form who did such an excellent job.

And finally, it was fantastic to see almost one hundred boys playing football at such a great venue and having a great time

Fantastic Gymnastics!

One hundred and thirty pupils from across the sports partnership descended on Blyth Sports Centre today to perform in the third annual gymnastics festival. Pupils aged six years to fifteen years performed a mixture of floor work and trampoline routines.

Some were whole class performances, some were small group or individual. Three local gymnastics clubs were represented, Blyth Gym Club, Wansbeck Gym Club and Vertex Gym Club from Ashington.

For many pupils this was their first time performing to an audience and it was quite an audience with a record number of parents, relatives and friends coming to watch the event. This was quite an experience for the youngsters and one that they will hopefully remember for a long time.

We're on the web

For more news items and
photos please visit

www.blythandbedlingtonssp.co.uk



Meadowdale take the Year 8 football title!

The competition was played in extremely cold conditions at the excellent Hirst Welfare in Ashington. There were ten teams in the competition representing all six of the secondary schools in the Sports Partnership. The competition was played as a "round robin" format with every school having nine matches and a total of forty-five matches were played on the four mini pitches.

Competition at this age group is always very keen and there proved to be some outstanding matches with some wonderful goals as the boys from every school paraded their skills in front of an almost capacity crowd. The Blyth School B team proved to be the early favourites with a string of great results. Meadowdale, however, quietly picked up several close wins in the early stages of the competition.

The turning point of the competition came during the middle games when Meadowdale produced two huge wins of 8-0 and 7-0 to give them a very healthy goal difference. Towards the closing stages, it became a four horse race with St Wilfrid's A, Guidepost, Blyth B and Meadowdale stretching ahead of the chasing pack. The match between Meadowdale and Blyth B became crucial and Meadowdale won the vital match 2-1 in an extremely close game.

The degree of sportsmanship was outstanding throughout the competition and our referees from Blyth School and St Benet Biscop added to the occasion with some great control and excellent refereeing. Thank you for that!!

Year 7's experience their first hockey competition

Four teams played in a Year 7 hockey tournament at Longhirst Hall, home of Morpeth Hockey Club. Throughout the course of the afternoon, all teams played each other in 7-a-side mixed boys and girls matches, where they played on half sized pitches with modified rules. It was very pleasing to see the players improve their skills as the afternoon progressed, and to see how much they enjoyed playing, what was for some of them, a new sport to compete in.

The winners were Bede Academy, pictured with their PE teacher, Mrs Street on the right, with Julie Fenwick on the left. Well done also to Guide Post and Meadowdale Middle Schools, and a second team from Bede. Who took part in the competition

The tournament finished with the presentation of certificates and trophy in the club house, where the children could see the wonderful facilities that the hockey club have to offer. The presentations were made by Julie Fenwick, Hockey Development Officer for Northumberland, as well as Morpeth Hockey Club member. As well as umpiring and presenting certificates, Julie also spoke to the players about opportunities available for joining a hockey club.

