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Woking News & Mail

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UP FOR THE CUP – Hermitage School poetry star Sadie Trotter, with book, with some of the children from her class and assistant headteacher Steve Greenwood with the Premier League trophy
Picture by Tony Charters



Youngsters are sports superstars

YOUNG athletes from across the borough proved to be sporting superstars at this year's Specsavers Surrey Youth Games, as Team Woking topped the medal table.

More than 150 children, aged between 7 and 16, represented Woking at the weekend-long event, competing with teams from all the boroughs and districts across Surrey in sports including badminton, boccia, boxing, football, hockey, judo, lacrosse, netball, touch rugby, squash and mini tennis.

Team Woking triumphed with a total of 10 medals – seven gold, two silver and one bronze. However, while competition was still key to each event, the introduction of the inaugural Gerry Ceaser Fair Play Award ensured good sportsmanship was recognised as well.

“Woking lent players to other sides and saved three teams from forfeiting matches rather than just claiming the results,” said Bob Pritchard of event organiser Active Surrey. “We had reports of great fair play, with players shaking teams’ hands after the match and winners being very gracious, recognising good play from other teams.”

Team Woking issued a grateful thanks to Freedom Leisure, Headline Design and Print and Orange Promotions for their support in preparing the young superstars for the games. Thanks to their sponsorship, Woking Borough Council was able to offer local young people the opportunity to try a new sport.

“What an absolute fantastic achievement. On behalf of everyone at the council, I would like to congratulate Team Woking on their superb performances,” said Cllr Colin Kemp, portfolio holder for leisure and cultural services. “I hope they are all proud of their achievements and will continue to enjoy sport, going on to join one of our many local clubs to continue their development.

“Special thanks must go to all the staff and coaches who gave up their time in the build-up to and during the competition, helping to make the Specsavers Surrey Youth Games such a success.”

● SEE report and pictures, page 15.

Sadie's poem secures visit of Premier League football trophy

PUPILS at Hermitage School, St John's, were treated to a visit from the Premier League football trophy, thanks to the award-winning poetry of one of their classmates, writes Stuart Flitton.

Sadie Trotter, 11, won a poetry contest sponsored by the league. It attracted more than 25,000 entrants from England and Wales.

As reported in the *News & Mail*

earlier this year, Sadie's poem, *My Mum's Battle*, was about her mother Lisa's struggles with cancer.

Sadie was presented with a framed copy of her poem in April and this week Premier League officials brought the famous trophy to the school, allowing Sadie and other pupils to get a view usually reserved for the country's top players.

Mum Lisa told the *News & Mail*

that she first had cancer diagnosed five years ago and has had different types of the illness since then.

“For most of her life, Sadie has known me with cancer. I've had surgery and two lots of six months of chemotherapy.

“Everything is stable now. I'm due to have a scan at the end of August and hopefully I will just be having scans every three months,” Lisa said.

Lisa lives in Knaphill with husband James and other children Kitty, 7, and Seth 6.

She said that Sadie had got her creative side from James who wrote songs while playing in bands in his native Scotland.

Lisa said that she was surprised by the maturity of Sadie's poem and was delighted she had won the competition.

Party like it's 1919

by Stuart Flitton

THE Party in the Park this year will be a commemoration of the centenary of the end of the First World War and the victory of the women's suffrage movement.

To highlight these memorable landmarks, the *News & Mail* will be reprinting a collectable commemoration of the time with two pages from an edition reporting the town's celebrations of the end of the conflict.

The original party was held in 1919 and those archive *News & Mail* pages contain fascinating items of events happening 99 years ago, along with adverts for long-forgotten shops.

As well as a parade and many activities recalling the town in the reign of George V, the Party in the Park event on Saturday 7 July will include a vintage-themed sports day in the Freedom Leisure Sports Zone.

Entrants will have the chance to complete a circuit of traditional sports and games, from bean-bag throwing to hurdles.

Cllr Colin Kemp, Woking Borough Council's portfolio holder for cultural and community development, said: “No matter what your memories were of PE classes, this activity will be enough to make anyone nostalgic about sports at school.

“It is wonderful to know that with all of the monumental social change that

has taken place over the last 100 years, not least two world wars and the dramatic advancement of women's rights, people still derive as much pleasure as ever from a simple egg-and-spoon-style game.

“You don't have to be the next Olympic champion to be able to join in these fun sports day activities.

“All ages and abilities can enjoy the games and we encourage family units and groups of friends to enter a team together.”

The *News & Mail* will have a stand near the entrance to the main event in Woking Park and readers are invited to come along and say hello.

There will be pages from historic editions of the paper on display.

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