



Josh Hemmings and Matt Wight in action at the Fete du Velo

Pictures Judith Parry Photography

# ‘An amazing day’ as Verulam Reallymoving youngsters shine at annual Fete du Velo

## Cycling

**Verulam Reallymoving's youngsters did particularly well in the eighth annual Fete du Velo at the weekend.**

The event, held on a closed-road circuit running around Redbourn village common, saw Samuel Stacey win the under-14 boys' event, with Alarik Knox in sixth place.

And George Rice came home in second place in the under-10 boys' race, as Sofie McRae won the under-eight girls' honours. Andrea Bartoluccio was seventh and Matt Wight ninth in the 2/3/4 junior men's race, with Karine Jones crossing the line in fifth place in the junior women's event.

Doug Driscoll, Verulam Reallymoving team manager, said: "This club has really pulled together to help create one of the



Luke Houghton ahead of Andrea Bartoluccio at the Fete du Velo

best days of cycle racing in Hertfordshire this year.

"We put a special focus on the youth categories and I have been delighted to see the young talent coming through from the local clubs. The rider feedback has been fantastic and we hope to be back

against next year."

Luke Houghton described the event as 'an amazing day' and said: "Honestly, one of the most fun and enjoyable races I've done in a long time. Great to see racing back in Redbourn and to catch up with so many good friends."

## Rugby Union



John Gregory is presented with an award by Tim Bonnett

Picture: MICK O'SHEA/HERTS RFU

**Former St Albans player John Gregory was thanked for his efforts as he left the post of Herts RFU President.**

Incoming President Tim Bonnett paid tribute to Gregory after his three-year term at the AGM at Welwyn RFC, saying: "The first person to serve for an extended period in this way due to Covid impacts.

"Many do not realise the amount of work that went on in the background to sustain clubs and restart the game and in his role as President John was actively involved in all of that. It should be remembered as well that, for sad reasons, for most of his presidency, John was without a deputy making the burden on him even greater.

"Prior to being President, John was treasurer for many years. He has worked magic at times as he showed remarkable patience with the spending demands of representative rugby - trips to Cornwall and of course Twickenham.

"The funds were always found and quietly in the background John was laying foundations and reserves that have sustained the CB through the most challenging period in history.

"His dedication is demonstrated as well by how he sustained his active roles even when he moved out of the county. The miles he has driven up and down the A1

supporting the board and executive and rugby in the county generally was also in a period when the journey was affected for a long time by road works and disruption. Not many would have shown such dedication.

"John is a person of quiet wisdom - a great listener, but one knows if he feels something needs to be said, it will be worth hearing. He is always willing to listen and learn and constructively challenge new thoughts and ideas.

"The game has changed hugely in his time on the executive but he has rolled with punches and not stayed anchored in the past - though still remembering the best and most useful of historic custom and practice. If you achieved John's support for an idea you were probably on the right track.

"The COVID disruption meant for much of the time, his presidency was not what he would've pictured it being. He accepted the situation and provided the solution best for Hertfordshire rugby of staying in post an additional year.

"It is often that the least recognised 'quiet man' is the key oil that keeps the rugby machine turning and that is the case with John. I personally look forward to having access to his quiet support and advice in the background as I take up my Presidency."

## sport

### Swimming

**St Albans District, powered to a fourth successive victory at the Hertfordshire Primary Schools Championships.**

After a three-year gap, the team, *pictured right*, led by captains Chiu Ki Cheng (St John Fisher Catholic) and Anna Zapisetskaya (Prae Wood) won by 50 points from Watford, having trailed by three points before the relays.

St Albans won 11 of the 25 events, including the squadron relay in which the top eight swimmers from each district compete.

And their best performances of the night came from Thomas Fenwick in the year six backstroke, Ted Fisher in the year five breaststroke, James Hallam in the year six breaststroke, Cheng and

Zapisetskaya in the year six butterfly and Thomas Johnson in the year six freestyle.

Delighted team manager Andrew Ellis praised the team's performance after such a long time without competition.

He said: "Winning three out of four age groups and the overall Rose Bowl Trophy proved the extensive depth and strong desire for the team to win."

