

SOMERSET SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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2001 Cross-Country Report

The county Championships were held at Millfield School in what became very nice conditions.

Thanks to Alan Lerwill we were provided with a different course to the previous year, a huge 'tent' from which to administer the event in close proximity to the finishing funnel.

Ian Humphries again ran the results service for us. It is extremely beneficial to have a set of results at the end of the races.

Again this year the championships incorporated year 7 competition and again the younger age groups saw the largest fields.

From this meeting a team was selected to represent the county at the South West Schools championships. This year the venue was Ferndown School. Our initial selection looked strong. Unfortunately a number of the team were hit by a flu bug and thus reserves had to be brought in or no substitution was made due to the lateness of the onset of the virus.

The course at Ferndown was flat and fast apart from a copse, which had its dangers!

Results:

Minor Girls (year 7)	3 rd	Minor Boys	2 nd
Junior Girls	2 nd	Junior Boys	7 th
Inter, girls	5 th	Inter. Boys	7 th
Senior Girls	2 nd	Senior Boys	No team

From here a sound team was selected to represent the county at the National Championships in Chelmsford. Unfortunately this venue was in the centre of the initial foot and mouth outbreak and thus the

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championship had to be cancelled. Without question this was the correct decision but also without question it meant much disappointment for thousands of individual athletes and team managers across the country. For myself with much of the organisation in place it was very difficult to unpick the planning. Luckily a large cheque to the Travel Inn was returned contrary to the small print!

Fortunately Essex Schools are able to host next year's championships on the same course to which we look forward.

Brian Baker