

SOMERSET SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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2002 Cross-Country Report

The County championships were held at Millfield Preparatory School on a warm afternoon. Thanks to the excellent prior preparation by Clive Thomas the undulating course could be viewed from many vantage points. Outbuildings were used as administration centres and this worked well. Thanks also to Ian Humphries who again produced the results for the end of the meeting.

The year 7 and junior age groups saw large numbers of competitors but disappointingly only 12 senior girl finishers! (enclosed)

The Southwest championships were run at the Taunton Racecourse with Somerset being the host county. The weather turned atrocious yielding very poor conditions for not only the competitors but also the spectators. The course without poor conditions would have been testing, with the driving rain and wind it was a championships for the strong and determined.

Much work had been done prior to the meeting and thanks must go to Richard Llewellyn-Eaton for working tirelessly both in physically setting up the course and also acquiring many 'contacts' which enabled the meeting to take place.

Results:

Minor Girls	1 st .	Minor Boys	1 st .
Junior Girls	3 rd .	Junior Boys	7 th .
Inter Girls	6 th .	Inter Boys	5 th .
Senior Girls	5 th .	Senior Boys	2 nd .

The senior boys team were desperately unlucky not to be champions. The team score was tied with Dorset. The determining factor then becomes the position of the last placed points scorer. Dorset's was 23rd. Somerset 24th. with a time difference of 3secs. It could not have been much closer!

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From the results of the county championships and the southwest championships a team was selected to represent the county at the National Championships. These were held in Chelmsford on the same course as the previous year's championships would have been held had it not been for the foot and mouth epidemic.

As in previous years a Travel Inn was used so that the journey to the course in the morning could be short and not rushed. We again received superb hospitality that was enjoyed by the whole team.

The course, although fairly flat and bathed in sunshine, was difficult due to a cold and at times severe wind. Teams performed on a par with their southwest standing, although the senior boys did get revenge over Dorset. Frank Tickner ran particularly well gaining second place.

The meeting was marred, though, by the collapse of the finishing marquee. Luckily the many teachers present ensured that damage and injuries were kept to a minimum until the rescue services arrived. Few spectators were injured but unfortunately the most serious injury was sustained by one of our parents who was hit on the spine by the collapsing canvas and poles. Thankfully after a lengthy convalescence she has returned to work.

My thanks go to all who were involved with the teams during the season.