

# SOMERSET SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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## 2003 Cross-Country Report

The cross-country season was successful on many fronts but unfortunately we did not win the silver ware we are so used to doing in previous years!

The **county championships** took place on The Taunton Racecourse. Thanks must be whole-heartedly expressed to Richard Llewellyn-Eaton for organising the course and also to Ian Humphreys who produced a set of results quickly at the end of the meeting having input the hundreds of names prior to the event.

The day itself started with fine, good cross country weather but it soon turned bitterly cold which again meant that the racecourse became a true test of cross country endurance.

There can be a maximum of 60 athletes per events and the area team managers must be congratulated for endeavouring to field full teams.

The number of finishers and team winners were:

Year 7 boys	39	Yeovil
Junior Boys	47	Mendip
Inter Boys	48	Taunton
Senior Boys	18	Taunton
Year 7 Girls	40	Mendip
Junior Girls	41	Sedgemore
Inter Girls	30	Taunton
Senior Girls	20	Taunton

From this championship a full team was selected to represent the county at the southwest championships held in Truro. On paper the team was 'sound' rather than 'strong' and this was borne out on the day.

The course was laps of a terraced school field. The weather was dry and bright and many fast performances were seen. Unfortunately not from the

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Somerset team. Our highest placed finishers were seventh in the minor (year7) girls and junior boys. Needless to say we did not win any trophies; our best team performance being the junior boys in second position.

From an organisational point of view the day was very good with the exception of the pick-up at the Wellington junction. Unfortunately athletes were waiting in the wrong lay-by a2nd thus a chase after the coach down the motorway took place!

The national championships were held at Stanmer Park, Brighton. As is now usual the team travelled the day before and stayed at the Travel Inn, Crawley. It should be noted that it seems to be increasingly more difficult to book this accommodation but this particular Inn were most co-operative particularly as we filled the restaurant both for the evening meal, including an 18<sup>th</sup> birthday party with family for one of our athletes, and the team talk on the Saturday before departing.

As was expected our teams were not noticed for their success. But Joe Tavener (Junior Boy) finished a highly creditable twelfth whilst the senior girls finished 1<sup>st</sup> 'C group' county for which there is no trophy.

My grateful thanks go to the very happy band of team managers who accompany the teams. Without their efforts the weekends would not be so rewarding for me as an organiser.

BB