

SOMERSET SCHOOLS ATHLETIC  
ASSOCIATION



**Cross Country**  
**Report and Results**  
**2004**

# SOMERSET SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

## Secretary – Mr. Brian Baker

Mr. B. Baker  
16 Holly Court  
Frome  
BA11 2SQ  
Tel. 01373 464766  
Mobile. 07855749543  
Email. brianssaa@blueyonder.co.uk



Oakfield School  
Frome  
BA11 4JF

Tel. 01373 462539  
Fax. 01373 453370  
Email. BBaker@educ.somerset.gov.uk

## National Cross Country Report 2004

I shall start this report from the back:

A huge thank you to the team managers: **Les Neville, Clive Thomas, Michelle Miles, Angela Thomas, John Rix** and **Adam Hawkins** who accompanied the team to Maidstone. Six team managers plus myself meant that organisation and individual team responsibility throughout the weekend was not onerous.

Perhaps as a direct consequence of our numbers everyone had an excellent, excellent weekend. My congratulations and praise goes to each and every student.

- Prior to the departure forms and money came in relatively promptly and if not contact was made.
- All athletes were at pick up points ahead of time. This included the three athletes who for different reasons could not travel with the team.
- The behaviour at the Travel Inn was impeccable, so much so that hugely positive comments were made when we departed. Perhaps the evening went so well due to the 'entertainment' provided by the Brewers restaurant and enjoyed by all in particular the senior team members.
- All athletes' efforts during their races were exemplary. It would seem all had individual goals and many achieved these through determination. Athletes came into the finishing marquee totally exhausted and happy with achievement, so much so that on one occasion there simply wasn't enough space to relax out the tension and strain.

For me some of the most rewarding moments of the championship took place in this marquee.

- To see unexpectedly an athlete walking towards me with a huge smile having finished within the top twenty to be followed soon after by another smiling team mate.

# SOMERSET SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

- To see an athlete almost hopping and skipping and smiling towards me having run the race of her life.
- To be part of the gritty determination of an athlete to be the first Somerset runner home.
- To share the joy as eight team members congratulated each other on their performances.

Quite an afternoon!

However, although the team spirits were high team performances compared to other teams was not. Without question we lacked strength in depth and thus our fifth and sixth scorers and indeed our two non-scoring athletes were finishing too far down the field to give us low scores and the other teams high scores.

One frustrating situation was that ESAA decided not to have finishing discs. No doubt the transfer of positions and times to the computer could be quicker without discs but how sad all athletes, apart from those in the first few positions, were utterly unaware of their finishing position. Likewise team managers had no idea. We were all completely in the dark.

That aside the layout of the course and the course itself was probably one of the best we have travelled to. Kent Schools must be congratulated for their forethought and efforts.

BB