

SOMERSET SCHOOLS' ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

JUNIOR (UNDER-13 AND UNDER-14) CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Bill Whistlecroft Athletics Arena, Yeovil
Wednesday 3 June 2015

Full details were sent to the 49 eligible schools on Thursday 9 April with an URGENT sticker and a note of the closing date on each envelope. An email to every school supported the hard copy so the information was available at the start of the summer term. This year the four main Track and Field clubs were sent the information so that they might identify their most talented Under-13 and Under-14 athletes and encourage their local schools to submit entries. Entries were due by Friday 15 May, giving schools a full five weeks in which to nominate appropriate athletes and process entries. The Championships Committee of 5 then met on Tuesday 26 May to prepare the event, and final details were sent to all competing schools on Thursday 28 May. We continue to make every attempt to enable schools to submit their entries simply and efficiently and year on year we appear to be making some headway in regard to most of the following aspects:

1. **ENTRIES MAY BE SUBMITTED BY SCHOOLS ONLY** – Neither parents nor coaches attempted to enter athletes this year. We appear to have solved this problem.
2. **USE BLOCK CAPITALS FOR ATHLETES' NAMES AND WRITE IN INK** – Five schools submitted entry forms in handwriting, some of which was completely illegible in places. Therefore, some names on the lane draw and on the field cards were inevitably inaccurate.
3. **ENSURE ATHLETES ARE ENTERED IN A MAXIMUM OF 2 EVENTS ONLY** – Only two schools made errors in this area. We have made pleasing progress with this problem.
4. **USE ONLY THE OFFICIAL, COLOUR-CODED ENTRY FORMS** – Only one school ignored this instruction in 2013 but in 2014 the number was back to the four of 2012. This year all schools submitted entries on the official forms.
5. **ENSURE THE OFFICIALS' FORM IS RETURNED WITH THE ENTRY FORMS** – Four schools failed to comply with this basic condition of entry and had to be pressed for the name of an official. Several schools offered two (or more) officials which was much appreciated.
6. **INCLUDE ALL ENTRY FEES WITH ENTRY FORMS** – Eight schools failed to include entry fees with entries but five of those paid the money on the day, with the remaining two paying during the following week.
7. **DO NOT LEAVE THE SUBMISSION OF ENTRY FORMS TO YOUR FINANCE DEPARTMENT** – No late entries had to be refused this year.
8. **NEITHER SUBSTITUTES NOR GUESTS ARE PERMITTED** – Following embarrassing situations encountered in 2011, these points were emphasised in every communication to schools and we had no problems.

Pleasant weather, together with the customary tremendous enthusiasm of the athletes and tireless efforts on the part of our group of loyal Somerset County AA officials combined to make the event a thoroughly enjoyable occasion. Photo-finish and fully automatic timing were in operation for all track events.

Although a target of 30 had been set, entries were received from 28 schools (compared to 25 in 2006, 21 in 2007, 26 in 2008 and 2009, 29 in 2010, 28 in 2011, 29 in 2012, 28 in 2013 and 27 last year) so we continue to get nowhere near the reasonable expectation of 40 of the 49 schools which could take part.

The 21 schools which had not sent entries were invited to give reasons:

3 cited Common Entrance Examinations.

1 cited a school trip to France.

2 cited a shortage of Physical Education staff.

1 cited the fact that staff could not be released from school.

14 offered no response. 13 schools have not entered the competition in the past five years and 11 of those were amongst the group of 14 which failed to give any feedback.

With the sad demise of the Middle Schools' Competition we hope to see greater participation than the 3 of the 9 which took part this year.

On a brighter note, numbers of event entries were greater in all four age groups this year and total entries compared most favourably to recent years – in fact, we saw the best overall figure since 2009. Entries were as follows by age group:

Under-13 Girls – 127 (137 in 2009, 106 in 2010, 104 in 2011, 111 in 2012, 97 in 2013, 99 in 2014).

Under-13 Boys – 120 (113 in 2009, 101 in 2010, 115 in 2011, 98 in 2012, 122 in 2013, 109 in 2014).

Under-14 Girls – 152 (183 in 2009, 145 in 2010, 156 in 2011, 158 in 2012, 153 in 2013, 149 in 2014).

Under-14 Boys – 161 (173 in 2009, 140 in 2010, 171 in 2011, 188 in 2012, 165 in 2013, 150 in 2014).

Total entries – 560 (606 in 2009, 492 in 2010, 546 in 2011, 555 in 2012, 537 in 2013, 507 in 2014).

The general standard was encouraging in most age groups with Championship Best Performances in the two Under-14 Girls' throwing events which had recently adopted a new weight of implement:

Under-14 Girls' Javelin: Maisie Thorpe (The Castle School) – 30m52.

Under-14 Girls' Shot: Tajera Dayani (Millfield Preparatory School) – 9m39.

Certificates (for the first three in each event) and County Champion badges were sent to the schools on Thursday 4 June.

Every athlete who competed will receive a personal invitation to the four 2016 Somerset Schools' AA Coaching Courses.

RICHARD BOWDEN

SOMERSET SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Secretary

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



Treasurer

Mr. L. Neville
Fosse House
Burlescombe
Devon
EX16 7JH
Tel. 01823 674111
Email. LCNEVILLE@aol.com

www.somersetschoolsathletics.org.uk

County Track and Field Championships Report 2015

A planning meeting for the summer championships took place in December at a sumptuous dwelling in Milborne Port! Our hosts being Sally and Nick Higman.

The main thrust of the meeting was to decide upon the timetable of events given that the championships were to be held at Millfield School for the first time in their own right other than when the Yeovil track was unavailable.

Since the last championships at the school many events had been added: some track events and numerous field events. We had to consider also that the circular track has only six lanes.

A secondary discussion was to determine the starting heights for high jump and pole vault for it was deemed that these heights had become too low for a county championship, prolonging the competitions unnecessarily. My thanks to Dick for trawling through previous years' height cards to ascertain the range of heights attempted.

A draft programme and possible starting heights were taken from this meeting. During the following weeks and months many emails and brief chats at other events enabled a programme and the starting heights to be presented at the March executive meeting and ratified. Discussion also took place regarding the position of the presentation area and a plea that Brian should be at this area.

Briefly the presentation area was positioned at the end of the finish straight facing the grass slope. This was thought to be a good innovation for it allowed for informal presentations allowing parents, wishing to take photographs, to get quite close to the podium, unlike at Yeovil. The administration area was close to the technical room, which gave additional shelter, also meaning that no athlete had to cross the track, again unlike Yeovil. [To ensure athletes and spectators did not walk in front of the timekeepers tape and substantial barriers were erected.]

High jump starting heights were set 5 heights below county standard but with an option to allow competitors to start one height lower. Pole vaulters had to submit their preferred starting height from which starting heights were determined.

Stuart Matthews was contacted to announce, instead of Brian, and he was ably assisted by his wife. Moreover, Stuart had contact with the local MP, James Heappey who attended the championships for part of the afternoon, chatted with committee members, made some presentations and in particular presented Pat Gillett with gifts on her retirement after many years as Officials' Secretary to the Association. Association memorabilia was also given to James who promised he would wear the Association tie in the House of Commons!

SOMERSET SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Before the day's events could start much preparation of the arena had to take place; my thanks in particular to the Millfield ground staff and Nick and Sally who were at the track many hours before the start time of 11.00 am!

During the day eleven new championship best performances were set. Many of these improving upon the previous year's inaugural performances.

JG High Jump	1.63 =	A. Brophy	Mendip	
JG Pole Vault	2.05	F. Braddock	Yeovil	New event
JG Shot	10.62	T. Dayami	Mendip	
JG Javelin	32.68	M. Thorpe	Taunton	
IG Steeple Chase	9:16.94	C. Carnegie	Yeovil	New event
IG Javelin	42.75	L. Dawkins	Taunton	
IG Hammer	41.28	M-L. Poore	Yeovil	
SG 3000m	9:48.34	O. Gwynne	Mendip	
SG Hammer	40.05	Z Azariah	Yeovil	
SB Javelin	63.44	R. Curtis	Mendip	
SB Pole Vault	5.05	J Leon-Benitez	Mendip	

The last record listed achieved by Joel Leon-Benitez not only improved the previous record by 1.05m but was at the time the fifth highest age group vault in the world! The field card also shows that he entered the competition above the previous best performance!!

88 individual events were contested; the events not contested were: JG – Hammer; IG – Pole Vault; SG – 100H; SG – 400H; SG – StCh; SB – StCh. 69 winning performances were in a county standard or better. These champions gained automatic selection to the South-West Championships. Within these there were 21 national entry standards and a further 8 national standard performances and, of course 11 record performances.

All championship winning times and distances were placed on the website above all other metric years.

The Bill Whistlecroft Hurdles Trophy was awarded to Anya Turner (Wellington School) for her 45.23 in the Intermediate Girls' 300m Hurdles.

The meetings performances were fully electronic on the track and enhanced by EDM in many field events.

Finally but certainly not least, any track and field championships require the help, expertise, time and effort of a great many people. Special thanks to Gary for being the link between Millfield and SSAA and putting our ideas into practice. My thanks are extended to **ALL** who had a part to play in this, our flagship, championship and in particular to the many who breached the small gaps during the day to enable the event to finish almost as programmed.

Immediately after the meeting a 'review' took place both during the following day's selection meeting and via email.

- It was widely felt that this Millfield championship had a different feel to Yeovil championships; my own view is this is due to the spectators being 'banked' along the home straight rather than around the 200 metre bend.
- Certainly the intimacy of the presentation area gave a different atmosphere and less 'angst' about interfering with track finishes.

SOMERSET SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

- It was felt the timetable of events was good although there were some (field) event conflicts with popular event 'doubles'.
- Dave had updated his computer programmes to print out 1st, 2nd, 3rd results, so essential for selection. These were also uploaded to the website.

However:

- Area entry procedures were 'diverse' causing much repetition and update by David, in particular, and Brian
- Area entry fee payment was also 'diverse' giving a delay to the much needed income
- There was a huge drop-out rate on the day, averaging 30%! This caused havoc to much of the planning!

SSAA T&F Championships - 13th June 2015

	<u>Girl Athletes</u>			<u>Boy Athletes</u>			<u>Athletes</u>	<u>Events</u>	<u>Events</u>	
	Entry form	Entered 12-Jun	No show events	Entry form	Entered 12-Jun	No show events	Total Entry form	Total Entry form	No show on day	
Mendip	64	66	28	78	77	44	142	196	72	37%
Sedgemoor	18	18	10	53	53	22	71	94	32	34%
Taunton	89	83	21	115	109	35	204	282	56	20%
Yeovil	59	59	26	78	78	31	137	201	57	28%
									Overall	30%

- Entry form – number entered by closing date.
- Entered 12 June – number entered the day before event.
- No show events – number of drop-outs on the day.

- 35% of the high jumpers asked to start at the optional height.
- Only two pole vaulters asked to start at the optional height, both clearing subsequent heights.

Future planning decisions will take into account the above points.

BB

SOUTH-WEST SCHOOLS' AA TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Exeter Arena
Saturday 20 June 2015

Following the Somerset Schools' AA Track and Field Championships, the Selection Committee met at Wellington School on Sunday 14 June to select the team for the South-West Championships. We enjoyed the customary superb hospitality and the meeting took around five hours, as usual, given our meticulous process of team selection. In total, 99 athletes (our smallest-ever team) were selected to fill a possible 130 places but this year we managed to fill only 126, the gaps appearing in the Junior Girls' Hammer, the Intermediate Girls' Pole Vault, the Senior Girls' 1500m Steeplechase and the Senior Boys' Pole Vault. We were forced to gamble on entries in the Senior Girls' 800m, 1500m, 3000m and Pole Vault but no athletes accepted their invitation to contest these events so, frustratingly, more gaps appeared on the day.

There were no significant team changes during the week leading up to the Championships and only one or two adjustments on the day – one caused by an athlete withdrawing from the second of his events, though at least he did turn up this year! 31 schools and colleges were represented (Mendip 7 out of 15, Sedgemoor 4 out of 14, Taunton 8 out of 14, Yeovil 12 out of 18) compared with 34 in 2000, 33 in 2001, 33 in 2002, 35 in 2003, 29 in 2004, 32 in 2005, 32 in 2006, 28 in 2007, 31 in 2008, 33 in 2009 and 2010, 30 in 2011, 34 in 2012, 31 in 2013 and 35 last year. The consistency of these figures serves to re-emphasise the fact that there remains a fair number of huge schools and colleges which fail to take part significantly at Area or County level – invariably some athletes of potential South-West standard are not afforded even the earliest opportunity to demonstrate their ability.

Schools and colleges with selected athletes were notified on the Sunday evening by email and on the Monday or Tuesday by letter. With the team posted on the website immediately after selection, communication to pupils and students was extremely efficient again this year and hardly any had to be 'chased' for confirmation of availability by the Thursday afternoon. Of major assistance, once again, was our email confirmation system – a method of communication which I estimate saves me at least thirty telephone calls each year.

We decided to maintain our policy of arranging no official team transport to Exeter and once again parents and teachers delivered all the athletes in good time. Administration and collection of money at the stadium was straightforward thanks to excellent assistance from the Team Managers, and late payments (for the most part) were received fairly soon after the meeting. In 2008 the last payment arrived in mid-September, beating the 2007 performance by three weeks, but in 2009 at the time of writing the report for the Annual General Meeting there was still £97.00 outstanding, despite three reminders. The figure in 2010 was £36.00 despite two reminders to the schools or colleges and a personal letter to the athletes' homes. The amount owing in 2011 was £105.00 from athletes in four establishments – despite clear instructions on the selection notice and reminders sent on 23 June and 6 September. In 2012 the total outstanding was £97.50, though I was assured that the money was being sought. That aspect had been such a frustrating element of my role over the years that I proposed the following at the 2011 Annual General Meeting – **“On the day of the Somerset Schools' AA Annual General Meeting, any monies still owed by any athlete who represented the Somerset Schools' AA during the previous year shall render all athletes from his or her school or college ineligible to participate in any Somerset Schools' AA Championships for the ensuing year”**. I was very pleased to report that the final 2013 payment was sent to the Treasurer by the end of August and although more reminders were necessary last year, in mid-September the total owed was a mere £20.00. This year only £36.00 was owed in September and the last payment arrived on the 15 of the month.

Having won 8 of the 12 trophies in 1997, 4 in 1998 and 9 in 1999, I reported in 2006 that the twenty-first century had yet to be as fruitful. Devon are invariably formidable opponents and dominated for the first few years. 2000 saw us claim 2 titles, with 3 in 2001, 2 in 2002, 2 in 2003 and the same number in 2004. Sadly, 2005 saw us slump to just a single piece of silverware, the Overall Boys' shield. We recovered a little in 2006 with 3 victories but even the most optimistic amongst us could not have predicted the wonderful team performance we were to witness on home soil in 2007 when we took 9 of the 12 titles. We found ourselves returning to Exeter in 2009 bearing the 7 trophies captured in 2008 but after claiming only 3 items of silverware in 2009 it was hoped that we were not heading for another slump. Our fears were dispelled when we doubled that haul in 2010 with 6 victories. A truly magnificent team performance in 2011 saw us equal our best-ever haul of 9 trophies, setting up the daunting sequence of 3, 6, 9. Could we complete the sequence in 2012? That would mean taking every title; a feat that proved out of reach. Nevertheless, 8 victories still represented a tremendous day's work and we were only one short of that number in 2013 with 7. 2014 saw us finally break into double figures with a record haul of 10 of the 12 trophies and this year saw us come close to repeating a double-figure haul, falling one short as

Somerset won: Junior Girls, Intermediate Girls, Junior Boys, Intermediate Boys, Senior Boys, Overall Boys, Track Events, Field Events and Overall Champions.

Our 2015 South-West Champions were:

Junior Girls – 1st – 82 points

100m	Jasmine Watson	(Wells Cathedral School)	12.58
1500m	Sophie Hamilton	(King's School)	4:47.78
High Jump	Anna Brophy	(Millfield School)	1m60
Long Jump	Victoria McCabe	(King's School)	5m53 (CBP)

Junior Boys – 1st - 76 points

Long Jump	Siji Abere	(King's College)	5m79
-----------	------------	------------------	------

Intermediate Girls – 1st – 105 points

3000m	Ella Sykes	(Millfield School)	10:10.97
1500m Steeplechase	Caitlin Carnegie	(Sexey's School)	5:09.10 (CBP)
Javelin	Laurie Dawkins	(Taunton School)	41m89 (CBP)

Intermediate Boys – 1st - 108 points

1500m Steeplechase	Dan Wilde	(Queen's College)	4:27.99
Triple Jump	Andy Yan	(Wellington School)	13m41

Senior Girls – 3rd – 84 points (Dorset 96 points)

Triple Jump	Georgie Hoff	(Millfield School)	10m74
Javelin	Ellen Barber	(King's School)	41m15

Senior Boys – 1st - 129 points

400m	Elliott Scott	(West Somerset College)	50.22
1500m	Felix Rusby	(Downside School)	4:15.70
3000m	Luke Prior	(The King Alfred School)	9:11.82
400m Hurdles	Josh Brown	(Millfield School)	57.07
2000m Steeplechase	Archie Walton	(Richard Huish College)	5:55.25
4x100m Relay	Somerset		43.85
Triple Jump	Joe Cooke	(King's College)	13m80
Shot	Jordan Davies	(Yeovil College)	15m35
Javelin	Will Larkman	(Richard Huish College)	55m52

16 individual victories in 2013 represented our lowest total in over ten years, our 'normal' tally being 17 (in 2001, 2004 and 2006), 19 in 2008, 20 in 2009 and 2011, 21 in 2007, 23 in 2012 and 24 in 2010. Although 19 wins last year was not truly remarkable, the strength in depth carried Somerset to a record number of trophies, and with 21 event victories this year we were almost at our best – and winning 'only' 9 of the 12 trophies this time (compared with 10 in 2014) can hardly be called failure! For the second year running, all six teams finished in the top-3 – with the continued strong showing by the Junior and Intermediate Girls particularly pleasing features.

The second Bill Whistlecroft Hurdles Trophy was presented to Anya Turner (Wellington School) for her 45.23 clocking in the Intermediate Girls' 300m Hurdles at the Somerset Schools' AA Championships.

None of these performances would have been possible without the excellent work of a dedicated, loyal group of Team Managers. In mid-April I had invited 30 male colleagues and 16 ladies to work with our teams at South-West and National level and a total of 12 (including myself) declared their desire to work with the team in Exeter. That meant we were able to appoint two members of staff for five of the six age groups: Julie Harrison and Caroline Lewis (Junior Girls), Richard Llewellyn-Eaton and Adrian Palmer (Junior Boys), Jo Pike – making an outstanding Track and Field debut - and Hayley Mortimer (Intermediate Girls), Norm Ridgway and Dave Bryson – another tremendous Track and Field debutant - (Intermediate Boys), Charlotte Fisher (Senior Girls) and Gary Jennings with Jason Allen (Senior Boys). Martin White added valuable general assistance. All the athletes would wish to thank them most sincerely, I am sure.

A large number of our officials were on duty, with other members of the Association involved with Presentations, so we can be proud of the contribution made by Somerset personnel to ensure the smooth running of what is a huge meeting.

RICHARD BOWDEN

ESAA TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Gateshead International Stadium
Friday and Saturday 9 and 10 July 2015**

The Somerset team of almost 100 athletes had shown commendable strength in depth at the South-West Schools' AA Championships in Exeter, securing a superb haul of silverware with 9 of the 12 trophies.

At the 'sharp end', 19 event wins in 2014 (compared with 24 in 2010, 20 in 2011, 23 in 2012 and 16 in 2013) went up to 21 event wins this time and amongst those were three CBPs. Therefore, we set about the selection of our 25 athletes with great optimism on the morning of Sunday 21 June, enjoying the superb hospitality of Wellington School.

61 athletes at or around the required standard were considered in 65 events in 2004, whereas in 2005 we found ourselves considering 'only' 39 across 48 events. The 2006 'cast' consisted of 39 athletes once again, across 45 events, but our strength in depth was reflected in 2007 when we considered 51 athletes over 59 events. In 2008 41 athletes were under the spotlight across 49 events and in 2009 the figures increased to 54 athletes over 66 events. Although the 2010 numbers were considerably smaller (47 athletes in 49 events) the quality was never in doubt, the results in Birmingham bearing that out. In 2011 we debated 53 athletes across 69 events with the same number in 2012 considered in 59 events. The 2013 figures were 60 athletes and 71 events though frustratingly, five of those athletes were unavailable (one having performed at NES level, the other four at NS). The 2014 statistics showed 64 athletes worthy of consideration in 70 events, with five again unavailable (one through injury, two due to booked flights home and two due to family holidays). Of these though, only one had produced a performance at NS with another at NES. The frustration continued this year, as amongst the 60 athletes considered in 74 events ten were unavailable (one through injury, four due to booked flights home, one selected for the IAAF World Youth Championships, three having arranged family holidays and one who failed to communicate after having been selected for the South-West Schools' AA Championships). Of these, six had performed at NES level with the remaining four of NS ability.

There were no withdrawals this year and all the pre-Championships communication and systems went well. Transport arrangements ran smoothly, with Berry's Coaches, as usual, the pick-up points being Taunton and Dunball (with one athlete meeting the coach at Hopwood Services) and six travelling independently and meeting the team in Gateshead. Two parents made the round-trip on the team coach and three more joined them for the return journey.

Accommodation was at Northumbria University (Claude Gibb Hall), which proved satisfactory and reasonably comfortable (though the rooms were hot and the constant traffic noise could have caused some problems). Our packed lunches were again provided by King's College and Queen's College and were far superior (and better value) than those offered by the organisers.

Thanks to the continued initiative (and funding) on the part of England Athletics, counties were invited to nominate a Young Official for the Championships. Nick and Sally Higman recommended Amy D'Arcy (Stanchester Academy) once again so we were delighted to hear that Amy had been accepted. She travelled with the team and stayed in the team hotel, being made most welcome.

The tremendous team performance from 2012 - the last time we competed in Gateshead (which included a record overall points score) - was always going to be a hard act to follow and the team could not reach triple figures which we had achieved in three of the previous five years. The highlight was a gold medal from Laurie Dawkins (Taunton School) in the Intermediate Girls' Javelin which earned her another England vest.

We took the Senior Boys' team title (The Ernest Campion Trophy) for the second time in three years, by just 2.5 points from Norfolk, meaning Somerset have won trophies in each of the last four years – the first time we have managed that sequence. In general, we would have liked to have seen more Personal

Best performances on the national stage – however, 13 National Entry Standards and 21 of the 25 athletes scoring for the team were pleasing aspects.

Our overall performance is analysed below:

	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
Personal Bests	12	3	12	8	8	6	9	7	3	4	10	7	14	8	8	4
Entry Standard	6	7	6	8	6	6	7	7	7	6	7	9	9	6	5	13
Nat Standard	6	2	8	3	5	4	7	8	9	8	12	4	14	9	14	8
Top-8 Places	13	7	11	9	11	11	12	13	15	16	15	9	18	11	17	15
Scorers	15	11	17	12	14	12	14	16	18	17	19	14	23	15	19	21
Total Score	87	44	68	40	78	57	83	98	98	85.5	106.5	55	125	80.5	118	90
Trophies	SB	-	JB	-	SG	-	JB	IG	IB	-	IB	-	JB	SB	IB	SB
	IG		SB				SG	Ov	SG		SG		IB		Ov	
											Ov		Ov			

The team scores and positions for each age group were:

Junior Boys	8 th	11 points	(Winning Total = 30 – Bedfordshire & Luton)
Intermediate Boys	12 th	3 points	(Winning Total = 40 - Dorset)
Senior Boys	1st	35 points	
Junior Girls	4 th	10 points	(Winning Total = 28 - Cumbria)
Intermediate Girls	2 nd	27 points	(Winning Total = 36 - Northamptonshire)
Senior Girls	11 th	4 points	(Winning Total = 40 - Oxfordshire)
Aggregate Total	4 th	90 points	(Winning Total = 110 - Lincolnshire)

We increased our medal haul from four in 2013 to five this time (but could not match last year's seven). In addition to the gold already mentioned, there was a silver for Jordan Davies (Yeovil College) in the Senior Boys' Shot and bronze medals for Victoria McCabe (King's School) in the Junior Girls' Long Jump, Georgie McTear (Millfield School) in the Intermediate Girls' Javelin and Redford Curtis (Millfield School) in the Senior Boys' Javelin.

I must conclude this report with a tribute to the work carried out throughout the weekend on the part of the Team Managers. I certainly feel that all the athletes would agree that they were prepared as thoroughly as possible, particularly in the final lead-up to competition. Having taken 7 Team Managers to Gateshead in 2006 (rather than our stipulated 5), 8 to Birmingham in 2007, 8 to Gateshead in 2008 and 7 to Sheffield in 2009, we took 6 to Birmingham in 2010 and were up to 7 in Gateshead in 2011. The 6 from 2012 went up to 8 in 2013 and 2014 but we were back to 6 this year with Jo Pike coming into the group and contributing significantly to Somerset's success. The care, loyalty, reliability and attention to detail maintained by these supreme professionals must surely be viewed by the athletes, parents, teachers and coaches as outstanding features of our Association.

RICHARD BOWDEN