

SOMERSET SCHOOLS' ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

JUNIOR (UNDER-13 AND UNDER-14) CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Bill Whistlecroft Athletics Arena, Yeovil
Wednesday 7 June 2017

The 2017 Championships reverted to the traditional date, the first Wednesday after half-term, as our attempts in 2016 to avoid important cricket fixtures and the Common Entrance Examinations had been met with mixed results, the later date at the end of June clashing with several school trips and staff apparently not finding it any easier to secure time away from the classroom.

Full details were posted to the 47 eligible schools on Tuesday 18 April with an URGENT sticker and a note of the closing date on each envelope. An email was then sent to every school on Friday 12 May in support of the hard copy reminding everyone that the closing date for entries was Friday 26 May (half-term). The four main Track and Field clubs were sent the information again this year so that they might identify their most talented Under-13 and Under-14 athletes and encourage their local schools to submit entries. The Championships Committee then met on Wednesday 31 May to organise the event, with the final details sent by post to all the schools on Saturday 3 June. 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** – We appear to have solved this problem.
2. **USE BLOCK CAPITALS FOR ATHLETES' NAMES AND WRITE IN INK** – More than half the schools submitted entry forms in handwriting (a few in pencil or pink or green ink – causing difficulties in photo-copying), 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 1 school made an error in this area. We have made pleasing progress with this problem.
4. **USE ONLY THE OFFICIAL, COLOUR-CODED ENTRY FORMS** – This year all schools except 2 submitted entries on the official forms. 1 school sent scanned copies which were completely useless, though the third attempt proved acceptable. 1 school sent entries by email near the closing date but left out first names so I had to contact the school secretary during half-term and add the names to the official forms.
5. **ENSURE THE OFFICIALS' FORM IS RETURNED WITH THE ENTRY FORMS** – 1 school failed to comply with this basic condition of entry and had to be pressed for the name of an official. Several schools offered 2 (or more) officials which was much appreciated.
6. **INCLUDE ALL ENTRY FEES WITH ENTRY FORMS** – 10 schools failed to include entry fees (or enclosed the incorrect amount) with entries but 4 of those paid the money on the day, with 2 others paying during the following week. The final £1.00 arrived in mid-August.
7. **DO NOT LEAVE THE SUBMISSION OF ENTRY FORMS TO YOUR FINANCE DEPARTMENT** – 1 school did this (again) but reacted in time when put under pressure by a parent.
8. **NEITHER SUBSTITUTES NOR GUESTS ARE PERMITTED** – These points were emphasised in every communication to schools. A request to change events on the day was refused. An athlete was brought by a school even though he was not officially entered. Attempting to be 'athlete-friendly' I allowed him to compete, though fairly sure he would win. He duly won but I regret my decision to add him to the field card and I will not make a similar decision in the future.

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 (and those from Avon, Dorset and Gloucestershire) combined to make the event a thoroughly enjoyable occasion. Photo-finish and fully automatic timing were in operation for all track events, thanks to David Cooke.

Although a target of 30 had been set once again, entries were received from 27 schools (compared with 25 in 2006, 21 in 2007, 26 in 2008 and 2009, 29 in 2010, 28 in 2011, 29 in 2012, 28 in 2013, 27 in 2014, 28 in 2015 and 27 last year). Although the number of schools participating remains fairly constant, a few come and go and we get nowhere near the reasonable expectation of 35 to 40 of the 47 schools which could take part.

King's Hall School entered after 2 years away but neither All Hallows School nor Fairlands Middle School returned this year. Sexey's School and Westfield Academy, 2 'regulars' over a great many years did not submit entries. 10 schools have not entered the competition in the past 5 years, 5 have entered only once in that time and 6 have entered only twice since 2013.

Following the demise of the Middle Schools' Competition we hoped to see greater participation than the 3 of the 9 which took part in 2015. We attracted 5 last year but only 3 out of 8 this time.

There were plenty more positive aspects though. Entries were way up in all 4 age groups – in fact the total of 653 represented a record entry (despite a 50% increase in the entry fees from £1.00 to £1.50 per event entry).

Entries were as follows by age group:

Under-13 Girls = 121 (104 in 2011, 111 in 2012, 97 in 2013, 99 in 2014, 127 in 2015, 106 in 2016).

Under-13 Boys = 160 (115 in 2011, 98 in 2012, 122 in 2013, 109 in 2014, 120 in 2015, 135 in 2016).

Under-14 Girls = 189 (156 in 2011, 158 in 2012, 153 in 2013, 149 in 2014, 152 in 2015, 128 in 2016).

Under-14 Boys = 183 (171 in 2011, 188 in 2012, 165 in 2013, 150 in 2014, 161 in 2015, 152 in 2016).

Total entries = 653 (546 in 2011, 555 in 2012, 537 in 2013, 507 in 2014, 560 in 2015, 521 in 2016).

The general standard was encouraging and there were 3 Championship Best Performances this year:

Under-14 Boys' 300m: Barney Dietz (Taunton Preparatory School) – 41.99.

Under-14 Girls' 75m Hurdles: Lydia Smith (Bishop Fox's School) – 11.60.

Under-14 Boys' Long Jump: Oliver D'Rozario (Wellington School) – 5m63.

Certificates (for the first three in each event) and County Champion badges were collected on the day or were sent to the schools as soon as possible after the meeting.

Every athlete who competed will receive a personal invitation to the four 2018 Somerset Schools' AA Coaching Courses.

RICHARD BOWDEN

SOMERSET SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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County Track and Field Championships' Report 2017

At last year's AGM it was decided that the 2017 Championships would return to Yeovil and the Bill Whistlecroft Athletics Arena. However, at this early stage a number of concerns were expressed regarding the ancillary facilities at Yeovil: notably the location of the toilets for athletes which raised Safeguarding issues and concerns for area team managers.

Soon after the AGM David Cooke made it known that he would not be available and thus planning and liaison started at an early stage on many fronts:

Officials' Recruitment:

The search started at the beginning of the year and this continued right up to the day before the championships! There are never enough officials! Such a large event in terms of athletes and age group competitions means that a meaningful role can be found for any volunteer. But this year in the knowledge that, particularly, David was not available the 'Rubik's Cube' of officials' expertise was manipulated to the very limit.

Without David it was immediately understood there would be no photo-finish facility but the entries and results software (normally running parallel to the photo-finish computers) would also not be available. Initially it was thought that the secretary could step in but this would move him away from the presentation area. After much head scratching Ian Humpreys was approached to take in the entries and produce results, which he was willing to do, but in so doing deplete the now much needed group of highly qualified timekeepers.

First Aid provision has become a difficult service to hire either due to lack of availability or prohibitive costs. Tim O'Neill was employed fresh from his support at the County Cross-Country Championships. With extra officials needed Tim is invaluable for if there are no incidents requiring first aid he will lend a hand at anything. He is keen to be seen not just as someone who cares for the injured and believes that a good 'rapport' with an athlete aids their recovery.

Entry forms:

The secretary updated the area entry forms incorporating drop-down options and automatic entry fee calculation. This meant area secretaries had far less typing in what is a very time consuming task. Also the drop-down options meant there was no ambiguity for Ian when he collated the entries into specific events. He also allocated athletes' numbers (these were given to area team managers on the day) and set up his computers to print off sets of results in our standard format.

Facilities:

SSDC was contacted concerning the location of toilets and the issues pertaining to team managers' responsibilities and the guidelines under which teachers work. The reply, fully understandable, was that supervision was our (area team managers / SSAA) responsibility and that sufficient staff should be available for this rather than it provide extra toilets. Of course it goes without saying that ALL available staff are working either for the area team or for the event itself. It was therefore decided that portaloos would be hired to be positioned in the Pickett Lane car park.

Equipment:

In the days leading up to the championships Nick and Sally ensured all the equipment was in order and during the day, Nick in particular, ensured that each individual event had the required equipment. I trust the following comment will not be lost in the midst of this report but the Association is greatly indebted to the time, effort, expertise and enthusiasm both Nick and Sally direct towards not only this championship but all SSAA events. Without their presence during many long days the 'Rubik's Cube' would be in many, and perhaps missing, pieces!

SOMERSET SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Officials on the day:

'For neither love nor money' up to a week before the championships could a starter be found! With Ian away from timekeeping and with his computer programmes all set surely the reliable results personnel could solely input all the data from timekeepers and field cards? Thus Ian was asked to be the starter for the meeting. The 'Rubik's Cube' had been twisted again!

Stuart Matthews had again been enlisted to announce; he was accompanied by his wife, Shelley, who along with Anne and Barbara kept the results service moving throughout the day with only a couple of panic calls to Ian as 'blips' in the system occurred. Huge thanks to this behind the scenes team for their sterling work throughout the day.

The bottom line is there was a shortage of officials. Grateful thanks, therefore, to all who lent a helping hand during the day and to Yeovil Olympiads AC members who provided refreshments.

Results:

Ian's results programmes produced at the end of the meeting the desired top four positions sheets. This facilitated the posting of the first three in each event on the website by 8.10pm the same evening. This is very much appreciated by athletes and parents; a day or so later the full and checked results were posted.

481 athletes were entered in 638 competitor places. Those athletes on show performed to a very high standard with numerous personal bests being achieved and many county standards or above:

	Contested Events	Non-contested Events	Won in Country Standard	National Standards	Entry Standards	County Standards
Junior Girls	11	1	10	2	3	22
Inter Girls	16	1	10	2	8	21
Senior Girls	15	2	9	3	6	15
Junior Boys	14		10	3	2	18
Inter Boys	17		10		1	16
Senior Boys	15	2	10		2	16
TOTAL	88	6	59	10	22	108
			67%			

Such a display of strength bode well for the South-West Championships but would also produce some head scratching during selection due to the multiple county standards in many events coupled with the six events without a competitor.

The strength of the athletes is best illustrated by there being seven new championship best performances recorded, year on year an ever more difficult feat to achieve:

Junior Girls	High Jump	1.63 (=)	M. Jones	Taunton
Junior Girls	Javelin	39.41	M. Quaintance	Mendip
Inter Girls	80m Hurdles	11.6	M. Sey	Mendip
Inter Girls	Steeplechase	05:16.9	A. Wills	Mendip
Inter Girls	Shot	9.70	K. Davy-Ericson	Mendip
Senior Girls	Steeplechase	5:15.4	L. Davies	Mendip
Senior Girls	Long Jump	6.08	G. Silcox	Yeovil

The Bill Whistlecroft Hurdles Trophy was awarded to Marcia Sey (Millfield School) for her 11.6 in the Intermediate Girls' 80m Hurdles.

Finally sincere thanks to all involved in whatever capacity and with my Officials' Secretary hat on, "if you enjoyed the day please bring a friend next year".

SOUTH-WEST SCHOOLS' AA TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Exeter Arena
Saturday 17 June 2017

Following the Somerset Schools' AA Track and Field Championships, the Selection Committee met at Hazlegrove School on Sunday 11 June to select the team for the South-West Championships. We enjoyed superb hospitality and the meeting took around 5 hours, as usual, given our meticulous process of team selection. In total, 106 athletes were selected to fill a possible 130 places but this year we managed to fill only 128 once again, the gaps appearing in the Junior Girls' Pole Vault and the Senior Girls' 3000m. Senior Girls' Hammer was a third gap on the day as an optimistic entry for an athlete already selected in another event could not be realised during the week. Frustratingly (for the second successive year, and from the same college) a Senior athlete failed to turn up (with no explanation) so a fourth gap appeared on the day – a totally unacceptable situation with regard to this absentee.

29 of our 60 schools and colleges were represented - Mendip 8 out of 15 (up by 3), Sedgemoor 3 out of 13 (down by 2), Taunton 9 out of 14 (the same number as in 2016), Yeovil 9 out of 18 (up by 1) - 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, 35 in 2014, 31 in 2015 and 27 last year. These figures serve 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 30 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 (except the Senior Boy mentioned above) 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 in 2014, in mid-September the total owed was a mere £20.00. In 2015 only £36.00 was owed in September and the last payment arrived on the 15 of the month. Last year I was able to send the final amount of £12.00 to the Treasurer on 18 August but this year there remains £75.00 outstanding from 2 schools (£32.00 and £43.00) at the time of writing, despite 3 reminders to the schools and a personal email to 2 of the 3 athletes/parents concerned.

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 on home soil in 2007 we improved to take 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 on that occasion we doubled the total in 2010 with 6 victories. A truly magnificent team performance in 2011 saw us equal our best-ever haul of 9 trophies, and 8 victories in 2012 represented a tremendous day's work. We were only one short of that number in 2013 with 7 but 2014 saw us finally break into double figures with a record haul of 10 of the 12 trophies. 2015 saw us come close to repeating a double-figure haul, falling one short, but in 2016 we dropped back to 7. We

equalled that total this year as Somerset won: Intermediate Boys, Senior Boys, Overall Boys, Track Events, Field Events, Relays and Overall Champions – bringing home exactly the same trophies as in 2016.

Our 2017 South-West Champions were:

Junior Girls – 2nd – 66 points (Wiltshire 82 points)

200m	Lucia Gifford-Groves	(Millfield School)	25.64
Long Jump	Lydia Smith	(Bishop Fox's School)	5m24

Junior Boys – 2nd - 88 points (Devon 91 points)

80m Hurdles	Jami Schlueter	(Millfield School)	11.31 (CBP)
4x100m Relay	Somerset		47.69
Long Jump	Jami Schlueter	(Millfield School)	6m34
Triple Jump	Brooklyn Cooper	(Chilton Trinity School)	12m04

Intermediate Girls – 2nd - 107 points (Devon 129 points)

1500m Steeplechase	Millie Wills	(Millfield School)	5:16.43
High Jump	Anna Brophy	(Millfield School)	1m68
Triple Jump	Ellie Carrow	(King's College)	10m93

Intermediate Boys – 1st - 98 points

1500m Steeplechase	Henry-James Cowie	(Millfield School)	4:29.55
4x100m Relay	Somerset		45.31
High Jump	Jack Turner	(Wellington School)	1m95
Javelin	Ollie McTear	(Millfield School)	53m24

Senior Girls – 3rd - 92 points (Devon 99 points)

100m Hurdles	Georgia Silcox	(Sexey's School)	14.40
1500m Steeplechase	Lucy Davies	(Millfield School)	4:59.34 (CBP)
Long Jump	Georgia Silcox	(Sexey's School)	5m81
Javelin	Georgie McTear	(Millfield School)	40m73

Senior Boys – 1st - 117 points

200m	Matt Alvarez	(Taunton School)	21.86
800m	Dan Wilde	(Queen's College)	1:55.18
400m Hurdles	Dan Wilde	(Queen's College)	55.25
Pole Vault	Laurenz Kirchmayr	(Millfield School)	4m35
Discus	Elliot Berryman	(Millfield School)	46m34

16 event victories in 2013 represented our lowest total in over ten years, our 'normal' tally being 17 (in 2001, 2004 and 2006), 19 in 2008, 2014 and 2016, 20 in 2009 and 2011, 21 in 2007 and 2015, 22 this year, 23 in 2012 and 24 in 2010. If 22 golds this year indicated excellent individual talent, the strength in depth throughout the age groups carried Somerset to 7 of the 12 trophies (compared with 10 in 2014, 9 in 2015 and 7 last year) so the downward trend has been halted. Another pleasing fact was that we made it 3 years out of 4 with all 6 teams finishing in the top-3 – in fact 5 of the 6 were in the top-2 this time.

The fourth Bill Whistlecroft Hurdles Trophy was presented to Marcia Sey (Millfield School) for her 11.6 CBP clocking in the Intermediate Girls' 80m Hurdles at the Somerset Schools' AA Championships.

A dedicated, loyal group of Team Managers supported the athletes superbly. In mid-April I had invited 21 male colleagues and 18 ladies to work with our teams at South-West and National levels and a total of 12 (including myself) declared their desire to work with the team in Exeter. That meant we were able to appoint 2 members of staff for 5 of the 6 age groups: Katie Cobb and Jo Pike (Junior Girls), Adrian Palmer and Jason Allen (Junior Boys), Abi Tickner and Pip Atkinson-Kennedy – each making her Track and Field management debut - (Intermediate Girls), Richard Llewellyn-Eaton and Frank Tickner (Intermediate Boys), Julie Harrison and Caroline Lewis (Senior Girls) and Gary Jennings (Senior Boys). 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, Recording and Scoring, 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

NEW BALANCE ESAA TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Alexander Stadium, Birmingham
Friday and Saturday 7 and 8 July 2017**

There were 2 significant differences in the 2017 New Balance ESAA Track and Field Championships, thanks to decisions taken at recent ESAA Annual Council and Special Council Meetings, with both developments supported wholeheartedly by Somerset Schools' AA. First, the reorganisation of county groupings meant we would remain in Group C (competing against 12 other counties) but have a team of 32 (up from 25) and secondly, the massive endorsement by counties (over 6 to 1) of our proposal for a permanent central venue brought enormous benefits in terms of costs, travel time and accommodation.

The Somerset team of just over 100 athletes had shown commendable strength in depth at the South-West Schools' AA Championships in Exeter, repeating the 2016 performance in securing an encouraging haul of silverware with 7 of the 12 trophies. At the 'sharp end', 21 event wins in 2015 (compared with 24 in 2010, 20 in 2011, 23 in 2012, 16 in 2013 and 19 in 2014) slipped to 19 last year but rose to 22 this time (including two CBPs). Therefore, we set about the selection of our 32 athletes with great optimism on the morning of Sunday 18 June, enjoying the superb hospitality of Hazlegrove School.

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, 5 athletes were unavailable. The 2014 statistics showed 64 athletes worthy of consideration in 70 events, with 5 again unavailable. The frustration continued in 2015, as amongst the 60 athletes considered in 74 events 10 were unavailable (1 through injury, 4 due to booked flights home, 1 selected for the IAAF World Youth Championships, 3 having arranged family holidays and 1 who failed to communicate after having been selected for the South-West Schools' AA Championships). Of these, 6 had performed at NES level with the remaining 4 of NS ability.

Last year we considered a long list of 65 athletes across 80 events, 12 of whom had achieved a National Standard, with 27 having performed at National Entry Standard. 2 of the NS athletes were unavailable (one through injury, one on holiday) with 4 of the NES performers unable to attend – one on a school trip, one having a holiday employment commitment, one on holiday and one because the trip to Gateshead would disrupt Combined Events training. The numbers this year were 63 athletes in 51 different events, with 16 National Standards and 21 National Entry Standards. There were no significant athletes declaring unavailability this year.

There were no withdrawals following selection 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 1 athlete meeting the coach at Gloucester Services) and 10 travelling independently and meeting the team in Birmingham. 1 athlete flew back from Austria in order to compete and another travelled back to England from Ukraine to take part.

We were delighted to hear that our allocated accommodation would mean a return to the Crowne Plaza Hotel (NEC) which had proved to be such a superb team base in 2010, 2013 and 2014. 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 again invited to nominate a Young Official for the Championships but Amy D'Arcy (Strode College) was unavailable this year and there was no one else sufficiently qualified.

In terms of trophies we returned to winning ways, claiming a Girls' age group for the first time since 2010 and the C Group Overall Aggregate Trophy for the fifth time in 11 years. The individual highlights were 3 ESAA internationals thanks to a gold medal from Marcia Sey (Millfield School) in the IG 80m Hurdles and a 1-2 for Elise Thorner and Millie Wills (both Millfield School) in the IG 1500m Steeplechase.

Our overall performance is analysed below:

	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17*
Personal Bests	12	8	8	6	9	7	3	4	10	7	14	8	8	4	8	9
Entry Standard	6	8	6	6	7	7	7	6	7	9	9	6	5	13	11	11
Nat Standard	8	3	5	4	7	8	9	8	12	4	14	9	14	8	8	10
Top-8 Places	11	9	11	11	12	13	15	16	15	9	18	11	17	15	17	18
Scorers	17	12	14	12	14	16	18	17	19	14	23	15	19	21	21	21
Total Score	68	40	78	57	83	98	98	85.5	106.5	55	125	80.5	118	90	89	116
Trophies	JB	-	SG	-	JB	IG	IB	-	IB	-	JB	SB	IB	SB	-	IG
	SB				SG	Ov	SG		SG		IB		Ov			Ov
									Ov		Ov					

17* = 32 athletes (up from 25)

The team scores and positions for each age group were:

Junior Boys	5 th	10 points	(Winning Total = 32 - Humberside)
Intermediate Boys	4 th	17 points	(Winning Total = 33 - Lincolnshire)
Senior Boys	2 nd	19 points	(Winning Total = 27 – Norfolk)
Junior Girls	2 nd	20 points	(Winning Total = 21 - Wiltshire)
Intermediate Girls	1 st =	30 points	(Buckinghamshire Cup shared with Lincolnshire)
Senior Girls	5 th	20 points	(Winning Total = 40.5 - Oxfordshire)
Aggregate Total	1 st	116 points	

Our lowest team position was fifth, with all 3 Boys' teams improving on their 2016 positions. The Junior Girls remained in second but a solitary additional point would have seen Somerset claim 3 trophies for the third time since 2010 – though perhaps we should not be too greedy. Our medal haul was pleasing – equalling the 7 from 2014 and bettering the 4 from 2013, the 5 from 2015 and the 1 from last year. In addition to the 3 already mentioned, there was a silver for Jami Schlueter (Millfield School) in the JB 80m Hurdles and bronze medals for Millie Quaintance (Millfield School) in the JG Javelin, Georgia Silcox (Sexey's School) in the SG Long Jump and Laurenz Kirchmayr (Millfield School) in the SB Pole Vault.

Following problems encountered in 2015 and 2016 when parents removed athletes from the team earlier than the permitted time, the point about remaining with the group (already stated clearly on the availability form filled out at the SSAA Championships) was emphasised in the athletes' selection letter. In addition, the signed transport reply slip was amended to indicate that the athlete understood his/her commitment to remain with the team for both days of competition and a notice appeared on the website immediately after selection stating that athletes were required to withdraw right away if they were unable to comply with our rule concerning their earliest time of departure. There were no problems this year.

I must conclude this report with a tribute to the work carried out throughout the weekend on the part of the Team Managers – particularly as we found ourselves in the unprecedented situation of having 8 of our recent staff unavailable. An appeal produced a tremendous response so we managed to support the larger team with our target number of 8 Team Managers (with Jon Leonard and Frank and Abi Tickner making excellent ESAA Track and Field debuts) and 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. The care, loyalty, reliability and attention to detail maintained by these enthusiastic colleagues must surely be viewed by the athletes, parents, teachers and coaches as outstanding features of our Association.

RICHARD BOWDEN

Report for the Somerset Schools' A.G.M. 2017

E.S.A.A. Schools' Track and Field Cup 2017

County round

Forty-five teams from sixteen schools entered this year (four more schools and nine more teams than last year) with all schools taking part at Millfield School this year. The event was contested keenly.

Regional final

Six Somerset teams (the same as last year) qualified for the Regional 'A' Final at Millfield, organised by Alan Richardson and Gary Jennings.

Millfield (IB, IG)
Millfield Prep (JB, JG)
Kings Bruton (IB)
Kings Hall (IG)

Three Somerset teams (one fewer than last year) qualified for the Regional 'B' Finals.

Taunton School (IB) – attended SW-3
Kingsmead (JB) – attended SW-3
King's College (IG) – attended SW-3

National final

Three Somerset teams qualified for the National Final.

Millfield (IB, IG)
Millfield Prep (JG)

Millfield IB finished 7th, whilst Millfield IG came 3rd and Millfield prep JG finished 6th.

My sincere thanks go to all organisers, school staff, coaches and pupils for their hard work and effort to ensure everything ran smoothly.

Gary Jennings - E.S.A.A. Schools' Track and Field Cup County Secretary.