

**SOMERSET SCHOOLS' ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
JUNIOR (UNDER-13 AND UNDER-14) CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**The Bill Whistlecroft Athletics Arena, Yeovil
Wednesday 6 June 2018**

The 2018 Championships were held on the traditional date, the first Wednesday after half-term, in glorious sunshine as the warm weather we had enjoyed for several weeks held until the Thursday.

Full details were posted to the 47 eligible schools on Tuesday 17 April with an URGENT sticker and a note of the closing date on each envelope. An email was then sent to every school on Tuesday 15 May in support of the hard copy reminding everyone that the closing date for entries was Friday 25 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 at Sexey's School on Wednesday 30 May to organise the event, with the final details sent by post to all the schools on Friday 1 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 problems faced in the past. It remains frustrating, however, when schools submit entry forms in handwriting which is sometimes illegible, fail to use the official entry forms, fail to include the officials' form, or neglect to enclose entry fees. These all cause unnecessary additional communication and delays in final preparations.

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 Dorset and Devon) 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 28 schools (compared with 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 in 2016 and 2017). Although the number of schools participating remains fairly constant, a few come and go and we still get nowhere near the reasonable expectation of 35 to 40 of the 47 schools which could take part.

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 in 2016 but only 3 out of 8 in 2017 and just 2 this time (Danesfield Middle School and Minehead Middle School). There were plenty more positive aspects though. Entries numbering 647 almost reached the record 653 from last year, despite a 50% increase in the entry fees from £1.00 to £1.50 per event entry from 2017. **Large numbers in certain competitions did cause events to overrun though, with many athletes clearly nowhere near the relevant standard. An analysis appears over-page.**

Entries were as follows by age group:

Under-13 Girls = 149 (111 in 2012, 97 in 2013, 99 in 2014, 127 in 2015, 106 in 2016, 121 in 2017).

Under-13 Boys = 128 (98 in 2012, 122 in 2013, 109 in 2014, 120 in 2015, 135 in 2016, 160 in 2017).

Under-14 Girls = 182 (158 in 2012, 153 in 2013, 149 in 2014, 152 in 2015, 128 in 2016, 189 in 2017).

Under-14 Boys = 188 (188 in 2012, 165 in 2013, 150 in 2014, 161 in 2015, 152 in 2016, 183 in 2017).

Total entries = 647 (555 in 2012, 537 in 2013, 507 in 2014, 560 in 2015, 521 in 2016, 653 in 2017).

Standards near the top were encouraging and there were 2 Championship Best Performances this year:

Under-13 Girls' 200m: Oliwia Cwieniczek (Stanchester Academy) – 27.53.

Under-14 Girls' 300m (new event): Jasmine Caley (Millfield Preparatory School) – 46.54.

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 2019 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 2018

The 2017 Championships saw much updating of 'systems' because key personnel were not available and therefore a rethink had to take place. These were incorporated, in part, into the 2018 championships' planning and operation.

The championships took place at The Bill Whistlecroft Athletic Arena on the stipulated second weekend of June. Prior to this Area Championships had taken place as early as the beginning of May and as late as the end of May. Ahead of this information was sent to Area Secretaries including updated entry forms which contained much pre-entered (drop down) information, eg. events, schools, fee calculator, so that the cumbersome task of inputting teams was made easier.

With the inclusion of new events, to increase parity between girls and boys, there are now 95 individual events. This year 498 athletes were entered producing a total of 696 competitor places, one of the largest in recent years.

Two events had no entries: Senior Boys 2000m Steeplechase and Intermediate Girls Pole Vault. Fortunately, even with the large entry, only about half of the events scheduled to have heats required them. Consequently the provisional programme only had to be 'tweaked' by 5 minutes here or 10 minutes there along with the joining of three field event pairings giving a new finish time 15 minutes earlier than anticipated.

Although on the 'programme page' everything looked "OK to go" on another sheet there were huge gaps as it proved impossible to enlist officials. The 'Officials Report' highlights this. The officials present coupled with those who jumped over the rail enabled the Championships to finish on time and run seemingly smoothly. But to those within the 'chaos' other views would be loudly and freely expressed.

Huge thanks therefore to all who officiated or helped during the day.

One situation that had to be thought through in the two days before the championships and implemented during the event itself was a directive from UKA regarding the safety of hammer cages and their surrounding area. Thanks to 'understanding' by all involved this was resolved without disruption to the specific events or programme.

The receipt of this one email from UKA requiring immediate action highlights the degree of preparation needed to stage such a large County Championships. All too often it is easy to assume all is fine but behind the scenes much work has to take place to ensure the arena and its equipment is fit for purpose. To this end continual and sincere thanks has to be extended to Nick and Sally.

No amount of preparation can though counter some of the occurrences during an extremely packed day: printers that suddenly stop; computers that produce uncalled for results; queries either questioning or asking advice regarding individual athletes having to compete simultaneously in unusual event pairs – high jump / javelin and 100 metres / shot!

On the other hand pre-preparation did allow for a smooth flow to the day from athletes arriving, collecting numbers, arriving at event locations on time, performances checked and recorded through to the collection of information, presentations, photos and dispersal. So perhaps things were not all bad!

SOMERSET SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Athletes 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	13		9	3	2	28
Inter Girls	16	1	14	3	9	19
Senior Girls	17		13	5	2	12
Junior Boys	14		12	3	2	16
Inter Boys	17		11	1	3	14
Senior Boys	16	1	14	2	5	15
TOTAL	93	2	73	17	23	104
			77%			
2017 totals	88	6	59	10	22	108

Such a display of strength in depth gave enthusiastic optimism for the South-West Championships which was accompanied by much deliberation during the selection to ensure individual, multi-talented athletes were selected for their strongest event.

The in-depth strength within the County this year is best illustrated by the number (13) of new championship best performances:

Junior Girls	300m	46.39e	L. Ingvaldson	Yeovil
Junior Girls	High Jump	1.64	A. Weightman	Mendip
Junior Girls	Pole Vault	2.20	C. Taylor	Mendip
Junior Girls	Long Jump	5.51	L. Smith	Taunton
Intermediate Girls	100m	12.27e	A. Peake	Mendip
Intermediate Girls	Sprint Hurdle	11.14e	M. Sey	Mendip
Intermediate Girls	300m Hurdles	45.08e	H. McKenna	Taunton
Intermediate Girls	Steeple Chase	5:10.06e	A. Wills	Mendip
Intermediate Girls	High Jump	1.72	M. Jones	Taunton
Intermediate Girls	Shot	10.93	M. Jones	Taunton
Senior Girls	Steeple Chase	4:55.51e	E. Thorner	Mendip
Senior Girls	High Jump	1.72 (=)	A. Brophy	Mendip
Senior Boys	200m	21.68e	M. Alvarez	Taunton

The Bill Whistlecroft Hurdles Trophy was awarded, for the second year, to Marcia Sey (Millfield School) for her 11.14 in the Intermediate Girls' 80m Hurdles.

SOUTH-WEST SCHOOLS' AA TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Exeter Arena
Saturday 16 June 2018

Following the Somerset Schools' AA Track and Field Championships, the Selection Committee met at Hazlegrove School on Sunday 10 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, 109 athletes were selected to fill a possible 130 places but this year we managed to fill only 126, the gaps appearing in the Intermediate Girls' Pole Vault, the Senior Girls' Pole Vault, the Senior Boys' 2000m Steeplechase and the Senior Boys' Pole Vault. After 2 years of a 'no-show' on the day, I am pleased to report that every selected athlete reported for duty this time.

Alarming, just 22 of our 60 schools and colleges were represented - Mendip 5 out of 15 (down by 3), Sedgemoor 3 out of 13 (the same number as in 2017), Taunton 9 out of 14 (the same number as in 2016 and 2017), Yeovil 5 out of 18 (down by 4) - 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, 27 in 2016 and 29 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. There were increased burdens, however, as the safeguarding decision to collect an emergency telephone number from each athlete, together with any relevant medical information, entailed considerable extra work.

We decided to maintain our policy of arranging no official team transport to Exeter so parents or 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. 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. In 2016 I was able to send the final amount of £12.00 to the Treasurer on 18 August but last year there remained £75.00 outstanding from 2 schools (£32.00 and £43.00) at the time of writing the report, despite 3 reminders to the schools and a personal email to 2 of the 3 athletes/parents concerned. It has been a much better story this year, just a single fee of £7.00 outstanding after the summer holidays, though the Finance Officer of the school in question contacted me and the payment arrived on 17 September.

The past 20 years have seen our fortunes fluctuate in terms of the 12 team trophies on offer. After winning 9 in 1999, 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 last year but in 2018 Somerset won an unprecedented 12 out of 12 trophies: Junior, Intermediate and Senior Girls, Junior, Intermediate and Senior Boys, Overall Girls, Overall Boys, Track Events, Field Events, Relays and Overall Champions – a tough act to follow in 2019.

Our 2018 South-West Champions were:

Junior Girls – 1st - 84 points

800m	Lucy Chalmers	(Millfield School)	2:20.61
Long Jump	Lydia Smith	(Bishop Fox's School)	5m87 (CBP)
Discus	Sophie Hamilton	(Millfield School)	29m34

Junior Boys – 1st - 108 points

100m	Felix Hamilton-Marino	(Millfield School)	11.41
200m	Felix Hamilton-Marino	(Millfield School)	23.49
300m	Harry Barton	(Millfield School)	38.02
1500m	Tom Heal	(Kingsmead School)	4:25.33
4x100m Relay	Somerset		46.24
Long Jump	Oliver D'Rozario	(Wellington School)	6m27
Triple Jump	Oliver D'Rozario	(Wellington School)	12m83
Shot	Jadiel Wahab	(Millfield School)	13m60
Javelin	Callum Hendy	(The Castle School)	42m27

Intermediate Girls – 1st - 110 points

300m	Lucy Stennett	(Bishop Fox's School)	41.32
1500m Steeplechase	Millie Wills	(Millfield School)	4:59.94 (CBP)
Triple Jump	Ellie Carrow	(King's College)	10m87
Javelin	Millie Quaintance	(Millfield School)	41m46

Intermediate Boys – 1st - 100 points

400m	George Tester	(Taunton School)	52.25
3000m	Matthew Howard	(Wells Cathedral School)	9:05.71
100m Hurdles	Jami Schlueter	(Millfield School)	13.64
4x100m Relay	Somerset		44.93
Long Jump	Jami Schlueter	(Millfield School)	6m86 (CBP)

Senior Girls – 1st - 111 points

200m	Jasmine Watson	(Wells Cathedral School)	25.07
400m	Robyn Watson	(Millfield School)	57.63
800m	Cecily Turner	(Millfield School)	2:15.81
Long Jump	Cerys Lee	(Taunton School)	5m62
Javelin	Emily Dibble	(Millfield School)	43m93

Senior Boys – 1st - 120 points

100m	Matthew Alvarez	(Taunton School)	10.72
200m	Matthew Alvarez	(Taunton School)	21.40 (CBP)
400m	Marcus Sychta	(Millfield School)	50.48
800m	Sam Edwards	(Wellington School)	1:56.27
400m Hurdles	Cliff Schwabauer	(Millfield School)	57.38
4x100m Relay	Somerset		44.23
High Jump	Jack Turner	(Wellington School)	2m04
Shot	Rotuk Rahedi	(Millfield School)	14m01

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 last year, 23 in 2012 and 24 in 2010. Therefore, 34 golds this year indicated enormous individual talent leading our strength in depth.

A dedicated, loyal group of Team Managers supported the athletes superbly. In mid-April I had invited 21 male colleagues and 17 ladies to work with our teams at South-West and National levels and a total of 13 (including myself) declared their desire to work with the team in Exeter. That meant we were able to appoint 2 members of staff for each age group: Lydia Chamberlin made her debut with Jo Pike (Junior Girls), Adrian Palmer and Jason Allen (Junior Boys), Emma Radford-James (on her debut) and Abi Tickner (Intermediate Girls), Richard Llewellyn-Eaton and Frank Tickner (Intermediate Boys), Julie Harrison and Caroline Lewis (Senior Girls) and Gary Jennings and debutant Sam Ellis with the Senior Boys. All the athletes would wish to thank them most sincerely, I am sure. Presentations were made to Julie and Caroline who were making their farewell appearances as Team Managers after years of outstanding contributions in meetings and during competition. They left Queen's College at the end of term but we hope to see them at some of our events in the future.

A large number of our officials were on duty, with other members of the Association involved with Presentations, Announcing, 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 13 and 14 July 2018

The Somerset team of 109 athletes had shown outstanding strength in depth at the South-West Schools' AA Championships in Exeter, securing an unprecedented clean sweep of all 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 in 2015, back to 19 in 2016, rose to 22 last year and shot up to 34 this time (including 4 CBPs). It was no surprise therefore, that we set about the selection of our 32 athletes with great optimism on the morning of Sunday 17 June, enjoying the superb hospitality of Hazlegrove School.

An extremely strong Somerset team was selected despite 2 athletes with top-8 potential declaring unavailability this year. The ESAA reorganisation meant we could select a team of 32 though we were still obliged to leave out 12 athletes (6 of whom were unavailable or injured) with a National Entry Standard. Amongst the 76 names on our long list we considered 20 athletes with National Standards (19 in 2012, 16 in 2013, 20 in 2014, 19 in 2015, 12 in 2016 and 16 last year) and another 24 with National Entry Standards (21 in 2012, 27 in 2013, 17 in 2014, 22 in 2015, 27 in 2016 and 21 last year). The final team of 32 therefore included 20 NS performers and 12 athletes with NES.

There were no withdrawals following selection and all the pre-Championships communication and systems went well – though complete revamps of all our selection paperwork to comply with GDPR and safeguarding procedures meant additional work. Transport arrangements ran very smoothly, with Berry's Coaches, as usual, so our timings will be repeated in 2019. 3 Team Managers met the coach at King's College at 1.30pm with the official pick-up points being Taunton (M5 Junction 25) at 2.00pm, where 10 athletes joined the group and Dunball (M5 Junction 23) at 2.30pm, where another 7 met the coach. 15 athletes and 4 Team Managers travelled independently and met the team in Birmingham. The system of Young Officials was in operation again but we made no nomination this year.

We were delighted 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, 2014 and 2017. Our packed lunches, provided by King's College, were far superior (and better value) than those offered by the organisers.

In terms of trophies we maintained our winning ways, this year claiming 3 trophies for only the third time in over 25 years (2010 and 2012 being the most recent occasions), including the C Group Overall Aggregate Trophy for the sixth time in 12 years. The individual highlights were our 10 medallists (3 gold, 4 silver and 3 bronze) and 4 Intermediate athletes in the ESAA team in Grangemouth, Scotland: Marcia Sey (Millfield School) – 80m Hurdles, Amelia Wills (Millfield School) – 1500m Steeplechase, Jami Schlueter (Millfield School) - Long Jump and Tom Dollery (Brymore Academy) – Javelin.

The fifth Bill Whistlecroft Hurdles Trophy was presented to Marcia Sey (Millfield School) for her 11.14 CBP clocking in the Intermediate Girls' 80m Hurdles at the Somerset Schools' AA Championships.

Our overall performance is analysed below (17* 18* = 32 athletes - up from 25):

	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17*	18*
Personal Bests	8	8	6	9	7	3	4	10	7	14	8	8	4	8	9	9
Entry Standard	8	6	6	7	7	7	6	7	9	9	6	5	13	11	11	7
Nat Standard	3	5	4	7	8	9	8	12	4	14	9	14	8	8	10	13
Top-8 Places	9	11	11	12	13	15	16	15	9	18	11	17	15	17	18	17
Scorers	12	14	12	14	16	18	17	19	14	23	15	19	21	21	21	21
Total Score	40	78	57	83	98	98	85.5	106.5	55	125	80.5	118	90	89	116	121.5
Trophies	-	SG	-	JB	IG	IB	-	IB	-	JB	SB	IB	SB	-	IG	IG
				SG	Ov	SG		SG		IB		Ov			Ov	SG
								Ov		Ov						Ov

The team scores and positions for each age group were:

Junior Boys	9 th	8 points	(Winning Total = 20 - Cambridgeshire)
Intermediate Boys	6 th	19 points	(Winning Total = 34 – Bedfordshire & Luton)
Senior Boys	6 th	11 points	(Winning Total = 33 – Warwickshire)
Junior Girls	3 rd =	14 points	(Winning Total = 21 - Wiltshire)
Intermediate Girls	1 st	32 points	(Buckinghamshire Cup)
Senior Girls	1 st	37.5 points	(CF Gosling Trophy)
Aggregate Total	1 st	121.5 points	(Tonkin Cup)

The table shows that we have 'Girl Power' to thank for most of our success – indeed, our total score of 121.5 points surpassed Derbyshire's winning score of 117.5 in the B Group of counties with 40 athletes. Of the 12 boys in the team, 3 achieved a National Standard but none of the others recorded even a National Entry Standard.

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 once again in the athletes' selection letter. In addition, the signed transport reply slip included a section ensuring each athlete understood his/her commitment to remain with the team for both days of competition so I am pleased to report that there were no such problems in 2017 or 2018.

I must conclude this report with a tribute to the work carried out throughout the weekend on the part of the 7 Team Managers (with Steve Shaw making an excellent debut) 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. Accompanying Steve were Richard Llewellyn-Eaton, Frank Tickner, Jo Pike, Abi Tickner and Rhys Llewellyn-Eaton. 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. 2018

E.S.A.A. Schools' Track and Field Cup 2018

County round

Twenty-nine teams from 12 schools entered this year (four fewer schools and sixteen fewer teams than last year) with all schools taking part at Millfield School once again this year. The event was contested keenly.

Regional final

Five Somerset teams (one fewer than 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 (IG)

Three Somerset teams (the same as last year) qualified for the Regional 'B' Finals.

Haygrove (JB) – attended SW-3
King's Hall School (JG) – attended SW-3
King's College (IG) – attended SW-3

National final

Two Somerset teams qualified for the National Final.

Millfield (IG)
Millfield Prep (JG)

Millfield IG finished 8th and Millfield prep JG finished 10th.

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.