

SOMERSET SCHOOLS' ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

JUNIOR (UNDER-13 AND UNDER-14) CHAMPIONSHIPS

Yeovil Athletics Arena
Wednesday 4 June 2014

Full details were sent to the 49 eligible schools on Tuesday 15 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 schools to submit entries. Entries were due by half-term, the Championships Committee of 5 then met on Tuesday 27 May to prepare the event, and final details were sent to all competing schools on Friday 30 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** – Two schools submitted entry forms in handwriting 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 one school made errors in this area. We are making pleasing progress with this problem.
4. **USE ONLY THE OFFICIAL, COLOUR-CODED ENTRY FORMS** – Only one school ignored this instruction in 2013 but this year the number was back to the four of 2012.
5. **ENSURE THE OFFICIALS' FORM IS RETURNED WITH THE ENTRY FORMS** – Every school complied with this basic condition of entry. Several schools offered two (or more) officials which was much appreciated.
6. **INCLUDE ALL ENTRY FEES WITH ENTRY FORMS** – Three schools failed to include entry fees with entries but the money was paid on the day, or 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.

The heavy storms during the morning in some parts of the county did not find their way to Yeovil so we enjoyed a fine 'window' for the competition. Most teams returned home in torrential rain though. 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 27 schools (compared to 25 in 2006, 21 in 2007, 26 in 2008 and 2009, 29 in 2010, 28 in 2011, 29 in 2012 and 28 last year) so we continue to get nowhere near the reasonable expectation of 40 of the 49 schools which could take part.

Numbers of event entries were down slightly compared to recent years. Entries were as follows by age group:

Under-13 Girls – 99 (127 in 2008, 137 in 2009, 106 in 2010, 104 in 2011, 111 in 2012, 97 in 2013).

Under-13 Boys – 109 (135 in 2008, 113 in 2009, 101 in 2010, 115 in 2011, 98 in 2012, 122 in 2013).

Under-14 Girls – 149 (127 in 2008, 183 in 2009, 145 in 2010, 156 in 2011, 158 in 2012, 153 in 2013).

Under-14 Boys – 150 (159 in 2008, 173 in 2009, 140 in 2010, 171 in 2011, 188 in 2012, 165 in 2013).

Total entries – 507 (548 in 2008, 606 in 2009, 492 in 2010, 546 in 2011, 555 in 2012, 537 in 2013).

The general standard was encouraging in most events with four excellent Championship Best Performances:

Under-13 Girls' 800m: Daisy Davies (Hazlegrove School) – 2:29.34.

Under-13 Girls' 1500m: Elena Sidman (Wells Cathedral School) – 5:02.04.

Under-13 Girls' High Jump: Helen Lewis (Kingsmead School) – 1m 47.

Under-14 Girls' 1500m: Sophie Hamilton (Hazlegrove School) – 4:48.7.

Certificates (for the first three in each event) and County Champion badges were available at the end of the meeting – those not collected were sent to the schools by the end of the week.

This meeting surely remains a valuable early experience for our youngest talent.

Five or six of the top performers (who competed well in two events) in each of the four age groups will be notified of the Academy of Combined Events by way of an opportunity for structured winter coaching.

Every athlete who competed will receive a personal invitation to the four 2015 Somerset Schools' AA Coaching Courses.

RICHARD BOWDEN

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County Track and Field Championships Report 2014

The usual planning meeting for the summer championships took place in March at the impressive venue of Hazlegrove School.

It was decided that the secretary would announce at the championships and therefore the chairman would make presentations, the same as in the previous year when plans had to be formulated at the last minute. With this decision made remaining plans could dovetail into place.

The major rule changes for this year were new implement weights for junior and intermediate girls' throwing events including the introduction of the junior girls' hammer event.

First aid cover was supplied by Event Medics, the first year they had supplied the service and, in fact, covered all the championships during the year.

Area secretaries were sent details and entry forms early in the summer term; the latter constructed by David Cooke with enhancements from previous years. On the day David produced the usual full set of results but also, for the first time, top-four results sheets which are invaluable for future selections. Many thanks to David for all the work he does before and during the championships: receiving entries, constructing heats, operating the photo-finish, etc.

The summer schedule of events, including the hosting of the South-West Championships, meant there was (really) no time to produce an 'in house' printed programme. It was therefore decided to use the Frome Printing Company (who had already been enlisted to print the SW programme) to 'quickly' print 200 copies of a monochrome programme.

Last year I reported that entries were up on previous years; this year the trend continued with 562 (544 in 2013) individual athletes entered in 793 (779) events. The meeting is thus getting larger with part of the increase due to the new events.

Consequently pressure is being seen within the timetable. Following the championships it was felt that the following events need programming consideration in future years: steeple chases, 3000 metres, low hurdles, relays, high jump and pole vault.

One overshadowing theme throughout the season at the Yeovil track was a dispute with a neighbour over the loudness of the starters' ammunition. This was not specific to schools' events but as ours are so large with more starts the situation is more noticeable. It was not until the end of the season, after much monitoring, was the dispute resolved.

SOMERSET SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

However, the championships, given its size both in terms of the sheer number of events and, as mentioned, number of competitors went well with the usual/expected problems (drop outs) and pinch points (hurdles/relays/long sprints).

During the day four new championship best performances were set; one inaugural best performance and five best performances with new implement weights, one (*) of which exceeded the previous record.

JG 1500	Sophie Hamilton	Yeovil	4:38.87	
IG Triple Jump	Maisie Brown	Taunton	11.27	
JB 100	Callum Wells	Taunton	11.18	
JB 300	Tom Fuller	Taunton	37.52	
JG Hammer	Sarah Cavill	Sedgemoor	30.65	new event
IG Hammer	Mary-Lou Poore	Yeovil	36.34	*
JG Javelin	Olivia Hamilton	Yeovil	28.35	
IG Javelin	Georgie McTear	Mendip	40.97	
JG Shot	Polly Allen	Mendip	9.96	
IG Shot	Mary-Lou Poore	Yeovil	9.48	

In addition to these superb performances of the 92 individual events there were 65 winning performances in a county standard or better. These champions gained automatic selection to the South-West Championships. Within these 65 there were 15 national entry standards and a further 8 national standard performances.

The thought was we had a strong team to go forward to the regional and national championships.

A new memorial trophy: The Bill Whistlecroft Hurdles Trophy, was presented (at the South-West Championships) to the hurdler deemed to have produced the best performance at the County Championships. This was Harry Close – 13.93 secs. in the Intermediate Boys 100m hurdles.

Finally but certainly not least, any track and field championships require the help, expertise, time and effort of a great many people. My thanks are extended to **ALL** who had a part to play in this, our flagship, championship.

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Report on the South-West Schools Track and Field Championships 2014

The thoughts and planning for this year's South-West Track and Field Championships were on the radar many months before June as it was known the Exeter track was scheduled for improvement in 2014.

The modern complexity of hosting a major, and large, track and field championships means there are many strands to the planning and preparation.

The first formal planning meeting took place on 12th February at which the timetables for the track and field events were considered. The Yeovil Arena, although housing many field event locations, is not ideally suited to host a full, six age group meeting 'squashed' into six hours. Similarly, but to a lesser extent, a full track programme had to be considered with care. It was, thus, decided at this early stage that the hammer competitions would have to start at 10.00, a whole hour & half before all other events.

The championships also demand a substantial financial outlay for EDM and photo-finish are a perceived requirement. The latter, in particular, if track performances are to be given their full credibility when compared to performances across the country. Additional large expenditure is for first aid, officials' refreshments and, of course, track hire.

Unfortunately the Yeovil Arena, unlike Exeter, is not set up to collect spectator entry fee. Therefore from the outset the championships were always viewed to be on a financial knife-edge which necessitated 'haggling'. (SSAA members will fully understand the meaning of this!)

As the planning progressed unexpected expenditures and incomes arose:

- Although on the entire recreation site there are sufficient toilets for such a large meeting they are positioned away from the trackside. It was therefore decided to hire in portaloos. The same supplier was used as for the SSAA Cross-Country Championships at the same 'winter' rate.
- An approach from Cardiff University was accepted allowing them to inform athletes of what the university has to offer.
- The usual kit seller agreed to be at the championships.
- Another major ancillary consideration was the printed programme for the event. A programme of events is essential but due to illness and time constraints it became impossible to produce this 'on the cheap'. It was thus decided to spend money in the hope of making money. A number of printers were contacted with the chosen company being local to me which in the end made liaison very easy.

SOMERSET SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

With everything in place it was simply a case of sending out relevant information to county secretaries and wait for entries to stream in.

This happened within the specified timescale for which I thank all county selectors. The slightly revised programme of events was sent back to counties and this updated information, along with all competitors' names, was included in the printed programme.

At this very late stage negotiations were still taking place with South Somerset District Council regarding:

- The name of the arena! Finally it was agreed that for this meeting (and the following week's Combined Events Championships) the arena could be entitled, 'The Bill Whistlecroft Athletics Arena, Yeovil'. It was not until The Yeovil Games in September did the official renaming take place. Certainly the use of the new title for two south-west championships was a fitting memorial to Bill who was so deeply involved within this Association.
- The volume of starting pistols!



The championships themselves took place in sunny conditions with 758 entries across the six age groups being judged by 80+ officials. Thanks must be expressed wholeheartedly to each and every member of this large band of stalwarts whose time and effort quite simply allows our championships to take place so very successfully.

Competition, as always, was fierce but friendly.

There were 11 new championship best performances with six of these in events with new implement specifications.

Junior Girls:	Hammer	Sarah Cavill	Somerset	31.17	new event
	Javelin	Eva Bowring	Dorset	34.75	new event
	Shot	Hannah Molyneaux	Dorset	13.27	new event
Inter Girls:	Hammer	Ashleigh Power	Dorset	51.07	new event
	Javelin	Laurie Dawkins	Somerset	39.25	new event
	Shot	Rownita Marston	Avon	13.90	new event
	Discus	Sophie Merritt	Wiltshire	42.16	
Junior Boys:	100m	Callum Wells	Somerset	11.26	
Inter Boys:	1500StCh	Will Battershill	Devon	4.20.97	
	High Jump	Ryan Webb	Dorset	2.02	
	Pole Vault	Nikko Hunt	Wiltshire	4.31	

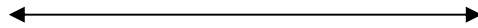
The team trophies were won by:

- Dorset – Junior Girls
- Wiltshire – Inter Girls; Junior Boys (shared)
- Somerset – Senior Girls; Overall Girls; Junior Boys (shared); Inter Boys; Senior Boys; Overall Boys; Track Events; Field Events; Relays; Overall.

SOMERSET SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Historically by the time team scores are calculated the arena is empty and thus at the 2013 AGM It was agreed trophies should be presented at the Combined Events Championships the following weekend. This did happen and there were certainly more spectators but!

During the day results were fed into Excel spreadsheets and these were emailed to counties and forwarded to Power10 later the same day and much later a set of printed results posted to county secretaries. (Unfortunately one fine performance could not be fully recognized for a collapse of a steeple chase barrier during the senior girls' race meant that one barrier had to be missed. The winning time, even with the barrier, would easily have been a best performance.)



To my great surprise a substantial number of donations were collected, essentially for programmes. This meant that the programme although not making money, as hoped for, nearly broke even.

Overall the championships (somehow) did make a profit as outlined in the attached balance sheet.

Finally 'thank you' to those within the broad family of SSAA who were so helpful in the planning and implementation of the championships. You know who you are, I know who you are

BB
25/09/2014

SOUTH-WEST SCHOOLS' AA TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Bill Whistlecroft Athletics Arena, Yeovil
Saturday 21 June 2014

Following the Somerset Schools' AA Track and Field Championships, the Selection Committee met at Wellington School on Sunday 15 June to select the team for the South-West Championships. We enjoyed the customary superb hospitality and the meeting took almost five hours – shorter than usual as we were due to host the South-West Championships. In total, 108 athletes were selected to fill a possible 130 places and this year we managed to fill 129, the gap appearing, once again, in the Senior Girls' Pole Vault. There were minimal team changes during the week leading up to the Championships (though a withdrawal meant we were unable to contest the Senior Girls' 400m Hurdles) and only one or two adjustments on the day – one caused by an athlete failing to appear. 35 schools and colleges were represented (Mendip 5 out of 15, Sedgemoor 6 out of 14, Taunton 10 out of 14, Yeovil 14 out of 18) compared with 32 in 1996, 32 in 1997, 33 in 1998, 33 in 1999, 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 and 31 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 considerably improved again this year and hardly any had to be 'chased' for confirmation of availability on 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.

Clearly, we had no need to arrange transport and apart from the athlete who failed to arrive, parents and teachers delivered all the athletes in good time. Administration and collection of money at the track was relatively straightforward compared with recent experiences. 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 have been necessary this year, in mid-September the total owed was a mere £20.00. At the time of writing, all fees have been received.

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. That was always going to be a hard act to follow (especially in Devon), nevertheless, we found ourselves returning to Exeter in 2009 bearing the 7 trophies captured in 2008. After claiming only 3 items of silverware in 2009 it was hoped that we were not heading for another slump but 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 as Somerset won: Senior Girls, Overall Girls, Junior Boys (shared with Wiltshire), Intermediate Boys, Senior Boys, Overall Boys, Track Events, Field Events, Relays and Overall Champions.

Our 2014 South-West Champions were:

Junior Girls – 3rd – 58 points (Dorset 85)

1500m	Alice Davies	(Kings of Wessex Academy)	4:42.91
Hammer	Sarah Cavill	(Haygrove School)	31m17 (CBP)

Junior Boys – 1st – (Wiltshire) – 87 points

100m	Callum Wells	(Court Fields School)	11.26 (CBP)
800m	Samuel Edwards	(Wellington School)	2:04.28
1500m	Ben Lloyd	(Preston Academy)	4:18.48
Shot	Cliff Schwabauer	(Millfield School)	14m10

Intermediate Girls – 2nd – 87 points (Wiltshire 92)

Triple Jump	Maisie Brown	(King's College)	11m59
Javelin	Laurie Dawkins	(Taunton School)	39m25 (CBP)

Intermediate Boys – 1st – 112 points

800m	Dominic Taylor	(Heathfield School)	1:57.51
Hammer	Lee Nightingill	(Court Fields School)	45m27

Senior Girls – 1st – 94 points

3000m	Hermione Seymour	(Millfield School)	10:49.19
1500m Steeplechase	Emily Smith	(Wells Cathedral School)	4:59.80 (barrier missing)

Senior Boys – 1st – 112 points

3000m	Matthew Dickinson	(The King Alfred School)	8:50.44
110m Hurdles	Lukas Lakin	(Millfield School)	15.37
2000m Steeplechase	Philip Bridge	(The Park School)	7:06.46
Triple Jump	Joe Cooke	(King's College)	13m26
Shot	Jordan Davies	(Yeovil College)	16m03
Javelin	Charlie Granville	(Richard Huish College)	60m12
Hammer	Daniel Ogden	(Yeovil College)	43m 23

16 individual victories last year 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 this year was not truly remarkable, the strength in depth carried Somerset to a record number of trophies. All six teams finished in the top-3 – a stronger showing than usual from the Junior and Intermediate Girls, which is encouraging.

The first Bill Whistlecroft Hurdles Trophy was presented to Harry Close (Millfield School) for his 13.93 clocking in the Intermediate Boys' 100m 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 17 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 Yeovil. That meant we were able to provide two members of staff for five of the six age groups: Caroline Lewis and Katie Cobb (Junior Girls), Adrian Palmer and Martin White – making an outstanding debut - (Junior Boys), Julie Harrison and Hayley Mortimer (Intermediate Girls), Richard Llewellyn-Eaton and Norm Ridgway (Intermediate Boys), Charlotte Fisher (Senior Girls) and Gary Jennings with Jason Allen (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, so we can be proud of the contribution made by Somerset personnel to ensure the smooth running of what is a huge meeting. The officials' lunches were provided by Sexey's School.

RICHARD BOWDEN

ESAA TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Alexander Stadium, Birmingham
Friday and Saturday 11 and 12 July 2014

The Somerset team of 108 athletes had shown commendable strength in depth at the South-West Schools' AA Championships in Yeovil, securing a record haul of silverware with 10 of the 12 trophies. At the 'sharp end', 16 event wins in 2013 (compared with 24 in 2010, 20 in 2011 and 23 in 2012) and a single Championship Best Performance (compared with four in each of the previous four years) went up to 19 event wins this time and back up to four CBPs (for surely Emily Smith would have claimed one, even with that elusive barrier in place). Therefore, we set about the selection of our 25 athletes with great optimism on the morning of Sunday 22 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.

There were no withdrawals this year and it was gratifying to note that the two substitutes who took their chances to compete in 2013 gained places in the team by right this year - Brett Harrison (Stanchester Academy) and Harry Close (Millfield School). Transport arrangements ran smoothly, with Berry's Coaches, as usual, the pick-up points being Taunton and Dunball, with five athletes travelling independently and meeting the team in Birmingham.

We were delighted to hear that our allocated accommodation would mean a return to the Crowne Plaza Hotel (NEC) which had proved to be superb, with delicious food, in 2010 and last year. 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 an excellent initiative 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) 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. I received a lovely card from Amy saying how much she had enjoyed the experience. I am pleased to note the initiative is due to be repeated in 2015.

The tremendous team performance at Gateshead in 2012 (which included a record overall points score) was always going to be a hard act to follow but the team came up only seven points short. The highlights were our two gold medals – from Cliff Schwabauer (Millfield School) in the Junior Boys' Shot and Holly Brown (Queen's College) in the Senior Girls' 1500m Steeplechase.

We took the Intermediate Boys' team title (The Slough Rotary Shield) for the fourth time in seven years, by just four points from Lincolnshire and the Overall 'C' Group trophy (The Tonkin Cup) for the fourth time in eight years, by a mere six points from Oxfordshire.

Our overall performance is analysed below:

	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Personal Bests	10	12	3	12	8	8	6	9	7	3	4	10	7	14	8	8
Entry Standard	9	6	7	6	8	6	6	7	7	7	6	7	9	9	6	5
Nat Standard	8	6	2	8	3	5	4	7	8	9	8	12	4	14	9	14
Top-8 Places	12	13	7	11	9	11	11	12	13	15	16	15	9	18	11	17
Scorers	17	15	11	17	12	14	12	14	16	18	17	19	14	23	15	19
Total Score	78	87	44	68	40	78	57	83	98	98	85.5	106.5	55	125	80.5	118
Trophies	-	SB	-	JB	-	SG	-	JB	IG	IB	-	IB	-	JB	SB	IB
		IG		SB				SG	Ov	SG		SG		IB		Ov
												Ov		Ov		

The team scores and positions for each age group were:

Junior Boys	3 rd	16 points	(Winning Total = 30 – Bedfordshire & Luton)
Intermediate Boys	1 st	32 points	
Senior Boys	3 rd =	23 points	(Winning Total = 29 - Cambridgeshire)
Junior Girls	5 th =	8 points	(Winning Total = 36 - Dorset)
Intermediate Girls	7 th	17 points	(Winning Total = 33 - Oxfordshire)
Senior Girls	4 th	22 points	(Winning Total = 34 - Lincolnshire)
Aggregate Total	1 st	118 points	

We increased our medal haul from four in 2013 to seven this time - the two golds already mentioned and silvers for Archie Walton (The Castle School) in the Intermediate Boys' 1500m Steeplechase, Laurie Dawkins (Taunton School) in the Intermediate Girls' Javelin, Emily Smith (Wells Cathedral School) making it a Somerset 1-2 in the Senior Girls' 1500m Steeplechase and Charlie Granville (Richard Huish College) in the Senior Boys' Javelin, with a bronze for Sophie Hamilton (Hazlegrove School) in the Junior Girls' 1500m. There were agonising fourth places for another trio of athletes. Sam Sommerville (Stanchester Academy) missed the podium in the Intermediate Boys' 1500m Steeplechase by 0.1, being caught on the line; Jordan Davies (Yeovil College) was just 20 centimetres short of a medal in the Senior Boys' Shot and Redford Curtis (Millfield School) missed bronze by a mere 32 centimetres 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 last and I am delighted to report we matched that number in 2014, with Katie Cobb 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

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Middle Schools Championships 2014

My opening paragraph in last year's report was, "***This year's championships were the 35th since the first in 1976 with a couple having to be cancelled due to either track renovation or very severe weather.***"

My final paragraph was, "***The date of next year's championships has already been circulated to the nine middle schools. In fact the date was unanimously decided upon by schools who responded to my email query! Hopefully next year's event will again be in bright sunshine and with a full complement of enthusiastic young athletes.***"

Little did I know then that the 2014 event would have to be cancelled as five schools were unable to participate!!

As the organiser of the event from its inception this was a huge disappointment. I need say no more.

As with last year, next year's date has been circulated to the schools with the proviso it has to be confirmed at this meeting.

BB

Report for the Somerset Schools' A.G.M. 2014

E.S.A.A. Schools' Track and Field Cup 2014

County round

Thirty-six teams from fourteen schools entered this year (same number of schools but one less team than last year) and two venues were used (see appendix A for details of venues for each of the three rounds). Both events were contested keenly, see appendix B for results.

Regional final

Nine Somerset teams (two more than last year) qualified for the Regional 'A' Final at Millfield, organised by Rob Furlong and Gary Jennings.

Millfield (IB & IG)
Millfield Prep (JB & JG)
Queen's College (JB, IB, JG & IG)
Wellington School (IB)

Five Somerset teams qualified for the Regional 'B' Final at Yeovil Athletics Arena, Yeovil, organised by Brian Baker and Pat Gillett.

Haygrove (JB, IB)
Taunton (IB, JB, JG)

See appendix B for results.

National final

Two Somerset teams qualified for the National Final.

Millfield Prep (JG)
Millfield (IG)

Millfield Prep finished 10th and Millfield regained the national title, beating Brentwood School by eight points and Southend High School for Girls (last year's winners) by twenty one points.

See appendix B for results.

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

Rob Furlong - E.S.A.A. Schools' Track and Field Cup County Secretary.