

SOMERSET SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2007

The Somerset Schools' Athletic Association and its team of dedicated, enthusiastic and professional personnel is a pleasure and honour to be a part of. The hours of work that go on behind the scenes to ensure that this Association runs so efficiently are not easily counted. Brian Baker, Dick Bowden, Les Neville and Pat Gillett are among the most dedicated people I have ever had the pleasure of working with. Brian in particular has guided me through my duties as Chairperson, and I must also thank Jane Yandell for stepping in when I was unavailable.

This year has seen our strong links with the County Athletic Association grow as David Cooke with his photo-finish and computer software and team of helpers have facilitated most of our County competitions. We also have strong links with all the local clubs who develop and bring to our attention athletes who may never come to light if they had to rely on their schools for information. This year has seen more schools participating particularly from the Sedgemoor area, this is possibly due to these club links.

Although the Coaching clinic in November was not particularly well attended, the March event saw a large number of athletes. Our Cross Country season was very successful culminating in the Senior Girls winning the "Witham Trophy", at the Nationals in Leeds.

The track and Field season was so successful that selection meetings were long and often extremely difficult to make final decisions, but we obviously made the right ones as we won almost all the age groups at the South West and were best overall County. The decision to increase programme production was also a winner. The Nationals at Birmingham were perhaps the most difficult to select a team for as for perhaps the first time ever we had more "Entry & National" standards than we had places for. The chosen athletes performed superbly and we came away with two trophies. We even managed to persuade Dick Bowden to walk in the parade.

This year also saw the 50th wedding anniversary of Bill and Ann Whistlecroft, our President and the return to the track-side of David Metherell. I would like to thank Pat and her little black book for knowing all these special dates and for looking after our personnel so well.

My thanks to each and every one of you for making my year in office a real pleasure, it has been an honour and a privilege for me to be your Chairperson.

*Julie Singleton
October 2007*