

SOMERSET SCHOOLS ATHLETICS A.G.M. OCTOBER 2011

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I was delighted to be asked to take on the role of chairman of Somerset Schools, having admired the work done by them, from the outside, for many years. My only regret is that I haven't been able to give more time to support both committee and athletes at the various events because I have always been occupied in another capacity, as an official.

The South West cross-country weekend clashed with the Midland counties indoor track and field championships at the National Indoor Arena. I was having dinner at the hotel in Birmingham when a group of Cornish athletes and officials arrived as they were competing the next day at the N.I.A. They had competed that day at Merryfield and were in raptures about all aspects of the South West cross- country championships.

The Somerset Schools Combined Events in May was as always an outstanding success with a total of 308 entries, an amazing number. The programme itself is a most impressive document which must take hours to compile. The senior and junior track and field championships were also well supported and extremely well organised. Hours were spent selecting teams for inter county events. Any boy or girl that is selected to represent the county is always made to feel very special and all arrangements are sent to them in the minutest detail.

I have said many times that it is an absolute joy to officiate athletes representing Somerset schools whether in local or national events. They are always well looked after and are well turned out, polite and keen to do well . This is obviously down to the happy band of team managers who tend to their every need!

What can I say about the Somerset schools website. It is an absolute encyclopedia of Somerset athletics the envy of all county athletics bodies.

The amount of work that has gone into this season and past seasons and that is already going on now into the planning of next season, with the National cross country championships being the big event, is immense.

I have purposely not mentioned individuals in this report so far but in conclusion I must thank Brian, Dick, Jayne, Pat and Les for the sterling work which they do year after year. What a team!

Over to you Jayne for another term of office. HIP HIP (sorry) Hooray!

Mike Eastmond