

SOMERSET SCHOOLS ATHLETIC
ASSOCIATION

Cross-Country



2018

Report & Results



SOMERSET SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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2018 Cross-County Report “When Second becomes First.”

Venues for County Championships are now well established thus return journeys were made by our participants: the Junior runners to King's College and the County runners to Aldon Hill.

This year's South-West Championships were hosted by Devon Schools AA and the ESAA National Championships by West Yorkshire Schools AA.

I continued to take an administrative position behind many of the championships: receiving entries for the Junior and starting the races; organising the County and marshalling on the 'back straight'; paperwork for the South-West and in the finish area; bookings and paperwork for the Nats and for all continuously updating the website so that the great many athletes, in particular, who participate during the season are well informed.

I can only adopt this administrative stance because of the sound knowledge that during each of the championships there is a large band of officials, helpers and team managers working tirelessly and enthusiastically.

This report is written, then, at varying distances from the hub of the action but I hope does give an overview on the season.

Junior Championships –

This now established championships took place as usual at King's College with Richard at the helm of the day's organisation. The course was the same as the previous year and each group of athletes was lead around their respective course by SSAA/King's College senior athletes acting as 'hares'.

Entry numbers and consequently finishers from 24 schools were substantially higher than the previous year and builds on improvements seen in 2017:

	Entries	Finishers	Schools
2017	284	185	20
2018	385	283	24
% increase	35%	52%	

Statistically the afternoon was a great success but it was marred by circumstances outside of our control – that being a severe accident on the motorway a short distance to the north of Taunton causing much traffic congestion. Not only did I arrive late but a couple of teams arrived after the first race had started. Not to disappoint - those young athletes who missed their race were slotted into other appropriate races and their times inserted into the rightful race results.

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Again about 100 entries did not finish or take part! But this is about 4 athletes per school which given injuries, colds and other school activities is perhaps not surprising given that many entries are submitted a fortnight before the event.

With the large number of young athletes eagerly supporting team mates before or after their own race the atmosphere was animated and at times loud. I hope this year's group of young athletes will be keen to continue their participation.

A champion's badge was presented to each individual winner as they exited the funnel; this was followed, by post, with certificates to the first six and the winning team in each age group.

The champions and finishers were:

	Individual	Finishers	Team
Year 7 Girls	Lucy Shenton (Hazlegrove)	69	Hazlegrove
Year 7 Boys	Philip Monaghan (Hazlegrove)	90	Hazlegrove
Year 8 Girls	Alice de Pelet (Hazlegrove)	67	Hazlegrove
Year 8 Boys	Jake Fisher (Hazlegrove)	57	Hazlegrove

Hearty congratulations must go to Hazlegrove School, its competitors and staff, for not only securing a clean sweep but for doing so in a year which saw many extra numbers.

County Championships –

The championships took place at the 'home' of SSAA Cross-Country: Aldon Hill.

Organisation was identical to previous years, eg:

- information and entry forms sent to Area secretaries early in November as the first area championships take place in early December
- contact made with officials and subsequently duties drawn up
- Ian Humpreys enlisted to receive entries and produce results
- First Aid cover booked
- hire of toilets
- site visit in early January to ascertain any equestrian improvements by the owner and how they would impact upon the event
- course map updated
- simple programme produced

Early in the morning of the championships the course was laid out - essentially identical to the previous year as were the positions of the start and finish areas, administration area and car park.

Now that so many officials and helpers know the event and the venue many again arrived quite early, helped put the finishing touches to the course whilst rekindling old acquaintances. However, because so many now know the course and its location many athletes and thus parents in their cars arrived quite late! This put unexpected pressure upon car parking attendants and then area team managers.

Tim O'Neill again provided First Aid cover. He is now well versed in our championships, both cross-country and on the track, and is a real asset being highly visible whilst lending a hand in many areas other than medical assistance

After a misty, damp morning the championships were again blessed with dry and sunny weather albeit a little blustery. Area teams continued to be a maximum of 20 representatives per age group (making area selection and then management easier) meaning many athletes and spectators could enjoy an afternoon's racing of high calibre in good running conditions.

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A very pleasant interlude in the proceedings was a presentation by John Flatters (SSAA Cross-Country Secretary 1973 – 1981) of a commemorative plaque from 1981, the year in which we first hosted the ESAA Track & Field Championships, to Brian Baker (SSAA Secretary and SSAA Cross-Country Secretary since 1995).



The champions and finishers (compared to previous year) were:

	Individual	Finishers	
Minor Girls	Mackenzie O'Dea (Wellington School)	48	(+2)
Junior Girls	Lucy Chalmers (Millfield School)	47	(-5)
Inter Girls	Amelia Wills (Millfield School)	25	(-5)
Senior Girls	Cecily Turner (Millfield School)	10	(-4)
Minor Boys	Jack Amor (Millfield Preparatory School)	52	(+5)
Junior Boys	Tom Heal (Kingsmead School)	53	(-8)
Inter Boys	Matt Howard (Wells Cathedral School)	44	(+8)
Senior Boys	Sam Edwards (Wellington School)	20	(-5)

Of note were the strong runs by Tom Heal and Joe Ponter (2nd) in the Junior Boy's race.

My thanks to all who helped for without you this event simply cannot be the success it is.

A particular warm 'thank you' to those helpers who made their first visit to Aldon Hill and who have added to the ever growing number of admirers of our cross-country course and its surroundings.

South-West Championships –

The selection for this championship took place immediately after the county championships and was held at The Park School (Chilton Cantelo). Grateful thanks to Larry for the facility.

This year saw the first occasion of the new policy of automatic selection for the first 4 from the SSAA Championships; additional selections were thoroughly considered and ultimately quite straightforward. Literally a couple of 'experienced' athletes had not competed in the championships and were considered and a similar number had made themselves unavailable for the South-West Championships due to previously known school commitments.

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As is now customary the website was utilised fully to enable those selected to confirm their availability; as is now becoming quite common the bulk of the team confirmed immediately: some within minutes most within hours and only a few within days! Postal information was also sent to schools.

Through the confirmation system 7 athletes, including two SSAA champions, withdrew with coughs and colds and were replaced by reserves so that on the day we had full teams.

The championships were hosted by Devon and took place at Stover School, Newton Abbot. As in previous years, and now customary, athletes were asked to make their own travel arrangements to the event.

Devon Schools worked tremendous hard to put into place much 'infrastructure' for the event: car parking accompanied by shuttle transfer a short distance from the course and importantly a large tennis dome to house the seven competing teams.

On a testing course, Devon enjoyed a magnificent day, winning 5 of the 8 trophies whilst the individual champions represented 5 counties.

The champions were:

	Individual	Team	Somerset Ind / Team
Minor Girls	S Livingstone (Devon)	Devon	26 th / 6 th
Junior Girls	E Shaw (Dorset)	Dorset	4 th / 5 th
Inter Girls	Amelia Wills (Somerset)	Devon	1 st / 3 rd
Senior Girls	H Hobbs (Avon)	Avon	7 th / 6 th
Minor Boys	J Kolowska (Dorset)	Devon	7 th / 7 th
Junior Boys	Tom Heal (Somerset)	Devon	1 st / 2 nd
Inter Boys	O Smart (Devon)	Devon	5 th / 2 nd
Senior Boys	F Birnie (Cornwall)	Cornwall	13 th / 5 th

As I sat in the finishing tent collecting discs it was most pleasing to see our lead runners in contention for podium positions along with much satisfaction to see (again) Tom Heal and Joe Ponter occupying the top two positions.

'New Balance' English Schools' AA Championships –

Report by Richard Bowden

The 2018 venue was Temple Newsam Park, Leeds, and as usual, and thanks to Brian Baker's early booking, the team hotel was to be a Premier Inn a short distance from the course - on this occasion the Wakefield City North Premier Inn.

Selection had taken place more than two weeks after the South-West Schools' AA Championships as the selectors met at King's College immediately following the SSAA Junior Championships on Monday 19 February. This enabled athletes to overcome any coughs, colds and minor injuries, to declare themselves fit and for some to post an improved head-to-head performance, demonstrating current form. Most runners consolidated their places in the team but thorough consideration was given to each athlete as age group teams had to be cut from 10 at South-West level to 8 in Leeds. The Team Managers' South-West feedback added excellent detail to the discussions.

The website was again used to notify individuals quickly and to indicate confirmation of availability, with selected athletes required to download the detailed information pack and ensure each school had a copy. The schools were notified of the selected team by post and asked to consider offering financial assistance. It was gratifying to note that some were most generous in their responses.

Pick-up points on Friday 16 March were King's College at 11.15am, Junction 25 of the M5 (the BP Fuel Station) at 11.45am and Junction 23 of the M5 (Dunball) at 12.00pm. All team members travelled on the Berry's double-decker coach, accompanied by 8 Team Managers and Emma Radford-James who was to be the ESAA Lead Team Manager for the SIAB International. Jon Leonard showed

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typical loyalty in driving all the way to Leeds (joining us for the evening meal and the Team Meeting) having participated in a track cycling coaching course in Newport from 9.00am to 2.00pm.

This all makes the lead-up to the Championships sound smooth, but snow conditions in parts of the country (with snow forecast in Leeds during the weekend) put the event in some jeopardy almost until the first gun.

Registration at the Premier Inn was swift and efficient and the restaurant had been set up to allow the entire team to eat together on the Friday evening. The meal was followed by the Team Meeting during which the Team Managers were introduced and athletes were given the opportunity to ask any questions. Jason Allen took the traditional team photographs on the Saturday morning before departure for the course – just as the snow arrived.

Full results appeared on the website immediately after the Championships but the table below gives an outline of team positions (out of 45 counties) and our best individual performances.

Age Group	Winner	Winning Team	1st Somerset Finisher	Team Position
JG	Bea Wood (Wiltshire)	Essex: 200pts	Lucy Chalmers (Millfield) 22nd	24 - 846
IG	Ella McNiven (Mersey)	Surrey: 321pts	Amelia Wills (Millfield) 23rd	28 - 899
SG	Holly Page (Kent)	Essex : 189pts	Elise Thorner (Millfield) 45th	27 - 955
Aggregate Girls C Counties		Durham: 1850pts	Somerset: 2700pts	5th C Group
JB	Woody Jerome (Surrey)	Surrey: 76pts	Tom Heal (Kingsmead) 2nd	22 - 779
IB	Henry McLuckie (Hants)	Kent: 147pts	Alex Male (Taunton School) 49th	12 - 641
SG	Matthew Willis (Cheshire)	N Yorks: 172pts	Guy Tucker (Millfield) 24th	18 - 783
Aggregate Boys C Counties		Suffolk: 1991pts	Somerset: 2203pts	2nd C Group

Huge thanks go to the Team Managers who supported our athletes so wonderfully well throughout the weekend: Richard Llewellyn-Eaton, Jane Yandell, Frank Tickner, Katie Cobb, Jo Pike, Jason Allen, Jon Leonard and Simon Prior.

Finally, part of my thank you message to Geoff Snell and Paul Allison (ESAA Cross-Country Co-ordinators) and Rob Cameron (Local Organising Secretary) may serve to give a flavour of the whole event:

“First, I should like to thank you most sincerely for your magnificent efforts in the organisation of a wonderful event, thoroughly enjoyed by all who made the long trek north from the West Country. The pre-meeting communication was first class, giving team staff, athletes and parents full confidence that the Championships were in safe hands, with all the preparations in place for a most successful day – and what a success it was!

The venue and the course, in combination with the biting wind, occasional sunshine, snow flurries and heavy conditions offered a truly ‘English’ Cross-Country setting and presented the athletes, team staff and officials with a real challenge – one to which they all rose in fine fashion.

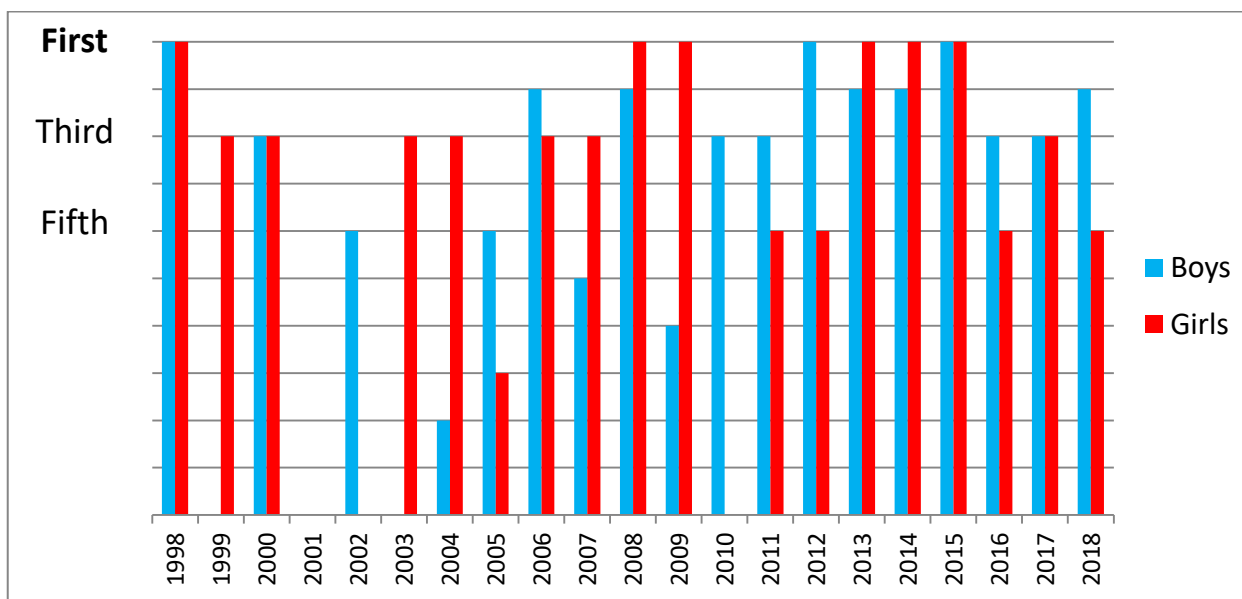
Clearly, conditions in the days leading up to the Championships presented you with more challenges than you would have chosen, so many thanks indeed for all your extra work behind the scenes which enabled the event to go ahead. We were delighted to see all that additional effort rewarded with a fantastic day’s racing after which we returned home tired but smiling.

I am receiving glowing feedback from athletes and parents which shows how much they enjoyed the whole experience; I am certain they would wish me to tell you of their gratitude.

Please pass on these sentiments to anyone else on the Local Organising Committee who should be reminded what a tremendous job they did – many thanks to all.”

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If there has to be one disappointment to the day it was Tom Heal missing out by one second (less than) to achieve a clean sweep of championships in the season. But this can be allayed by seeing Joe Ponter one second further back and both boys gaining England representation.



- In 2017 ESAA reorganised County groups; there are 13 counties in 'C' Group
- 2001 championships did not take place due to foot-and-mouth restrictions

Finally a huge 'Thank You' to those team managers who worked for the athletes and the Association during the season:

Richard Bowden
Richard Llewellyn-Eaton
Adrian Palmer
Jason Allen
Simon Prior
Frank Tickner
Jon Leonard
Brian Baker

Katie Cobb
Jo Pike
Jane Yandell
Lucy Macalister
Charlotte Fisher

SIAB International –

This took place at Wollaton Park, Nottingham a past venue for the ESAA Championships on the Saturday following the Nationals.

Our two representatives accredited themselves more than admirably. Throughout the season Joe Ponter had been a very close second to Tom but here Joe was crowned International Champion. An incredible finale to the boys' season.

The Somerset contingent was made up of:

- Emma Radford-James – Lead England Team Manager
- Joe Ponter - SIAB Champion
- Tom Heal
- Jo Pike - England Team Manager



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Finance –

I repeat a statement from previous years: *'Only those close to the financial ramifications of a SSAA season will fully appreciate the projections that take place to make, in my case, the cross-county season breakeven: meaning not a loss for the Association and not excessive fees from athletes.'*

This year I can report that my season's account showed a profit of £25.90 within a turnover in excess of £13000! A failure by that amount and a magnitude by three of last season's failure!

(The season's account within the full treasurer's report may be different as other small credits or debits may have been included into these accounts.)

Schools Cup Competition –

The County round of this competition (in the autumn of 2017) sees schools from just outside the border participating alongside Somerset schools in order to facilitate good competition.

Eight schools entered from the County with Millfield Preparatory or Millfield School winning the four age group events. They along with King's College in the Intermediate Boys progressed to the Regional finals at which Millfield School won both the Intermediate events.

At the National final in the Intermediate Boys final Millfield School placed 18th and King's College 20th; in the Junior Girls final Millfield Preparatory School came 5th and in the Intermediate Girls final Millfield School achieved second place just one point behind the champions.

Brian Baker

Somerset Schools Athletic Association 2018 Cross-Country Teams

Minor Girls	2018	SSAA	SWSch
Thea Piercy	Ansford Academy	dns	26
Phoebe Evans	Whitstone School	4	31
Lara Rusinov	Hazlegrove School	3	35
Lucy Acott	Huish Episcopi Academy	10	41
Madalyn David	Wellington School	6	43
Lily Fawcett	Queen's College	9	57
Carina Hand	Hazlegrove School	8	61
Lexie Pickup	Millfield Preparatory School	11	62
Lexie Wallace	King's Hall School	2	65
Jamie-Leigh Rose	Buckler's Mead Academy	7	dnf
Mackenzie O'Dea	Wellington School	1	dns
Jess Longley	The King Alfred School	5	dns
Oliwia Czenczek	Stanchester Academy	12	
Maisie Merrick	Danesfield Middle School	13	
Sophie Gillard	Westfield Academy	14	
Ashleigh Woodroffe	Westfield Academy	15	
	SW Team		6
	C' Group Team		4

Junior Girls	2018	SSAA	SWSch	ESAA
Lucy Chalmers	Millfield School	1	4	22
Lauren Pickup	Millfield Preparatory School	3	26	71
Hannah Blundy	Preston School	2	16	143
Sophia Wilson	Millfield School	5	28	150
Anyia Evans	King's School	4	39	223
Lara Chapple	King's College	7	48	237
Alice De Pelet	Hazlegrove School	8	43	270
Lydia Louw	Millfield Preparatory School	6	52	276
Tallulah Watson	Heathfield Community School	dns	57	
Jasmine Caley	Millfield Preparatory School	9	61	
Daisy Pellow	Millfield Preparatory School	dns	dns	
Kai Snell	Millfield School	10		
Robyn Laing	Heathfield Community School	11		
Macey Barrett	Taunton Preparatory School	12		
Jemima Rundell	King's Hall School	13		
Hannah Carter	Hugh Sexey Middle School	14		
	SW Team		5	5
	C' Group Team		4	6
	National Team			24



Inter Girls	2018	SSAA	SWSch	ESAA
Amelia Wills	Millfield School	1	1	23
Pia Lewis	Millfield School	4	9	87
Lizzy Ingram	Ansford Academy	3	14	135
Holly Bigger	Huish Episcopi Academy	2	26	181
Emily Murray	The Kings of Wessex Academ	9	42	226
Jo Keogan	Queen's College	8	52	247
Jessica Hudson	Crispin School	dns	50	259
Izzy Pugh	Millfield School	5	55	324
Anna Parkinson	Taunton School	10	51	
Charlotte Brown	Kingsmead School	7	dnf	
Abbie White	The Park School	6	dns	
Lucy Crossman	King's College	11		
Ella Leonard	Wellington School	12		
Imogen Rogers	Holyrood Academy	13		
Kirsten Hill	Queen's College	14		
Ruth Day	The Kings of Wessex Academ	15		
Andrea Gilbert	Kingsmead School	16		
	SW Team		3	3
	C' Group Team		2	5
	National Team			28



Senior Girls	2018	SSAA	SWSch	ESAA
Elise Thorner	Millfield School	dns	7	45
Cecily Turner	Millfield School	1	20	111
Lucy Davies	Millfield School	2	37	132
Caitlin Carnegie	Strode College	dns	28	205
Katie Lloyd	Strode College	dns	30	228
Sophie Jones	Queens	dnf	dns	234
Ruby Lowsley-Williams	Kings School	3	46	273
Emily Spiller	Wellington School	5	31	286
Lucy Pittard	Strode College	6	51	
Poppy Boyden	Kings School	4	59	
Cerys Lee	Taunton School	7	61	
Eleri Brown	Taunton School	8		
Sophia Schucking	Taunton School	9		
Maddie McInerney	Taunton School	10		
	SW Team		6	4
	C' Group Team		3	5
	National Team			27



Somerset Schools Athletic Association 2018 Cross-Country Teams

Minor Boys	2018	SSAA	SWSch
Philip Monaghan	Hazlegrove School	3	7
Josh Cobb	Hazlegrove School	2	15
Jack Harvey	Huish Episcopi Academy	4	21
Joeseeph Wright	Minehead Middle	dns	27
Findlay Robertson	Taunton Preparatory School	9	42
Joseph Page	Hazlegrove School	7	52
Oliver Bishop	Ansford Academy	6	54
Tom Alers-Hankey	Hazlegrove School	10	56
Jamie Howe	Bridgwater College Academy	8	57
Tom Winter	Kingsmead School	dns	64
Jack Amor	Millfield Preparatory School	1	dns
Alex Stevens	Whitstone School	5	na
Kadyn Andrews	Preston School	11	
Jake Thomas	Brymore Academy	12	
James Ford	Brymore Academy	13	
Archie Hunter	Hazlegrove School	14	
Isaac Henley	Holyrood Academy	15	
	SW Team		7
	C' Group Team		4

Junior Boys	2018	SSAA	SWSch	ESAA	SIAB
Tom Heal	Kingsmead School	1	1	2	14
Joe Ponter	Bishop Fox's School	2	2	6	1st
Jake Fisher	Hazlegrove School	8	19	169	
Toby Watson	The Blue School	6	na	170	
Daniel Maydew	The King Alfred School	4	9	214	
Dan Fisher	The Castle School	5	22	218	
Matthew Woodland	Kingsmead School	14	30	239	
Flynn Smith	Millfield School	12	27	288	
Lawrence Martindale	Millfield School	9	28		
Fred Fisher	King's College	7	40		
Tommy Hummel	Huish Episcopi Academy	11	53		
Henry Stevens	Millfield School	3	dns		
Bradley Glover	Preston School	10	dns		
Dylan Leonard	Wellington School	13			
Ben Dayer	Queen's College	15			
Hamish Barry	Millfield School	16			
Tom Houghton-King	Taunton School	17			
	SW Team		2	2	
	C' Group Team		1	6	
	National Team			22	



Inter Boys	2018	SSAA	SWSch	ESAA
Alex Male	Taunton School	2	7	49
Matt Howard	Wells Cathedral School	1	5	57
Oscar Lee	The Castle School	5	19	73
Sam Cobb	King's College	4	16	138
Sam Ponter	Bishop Fox's School	8	31	156
Charlie Cook	Crispin School	9	23	168
Matthew Quarterman	Huish Episcopi Academy	3	11	173
William Aitken	Millfield School	6	34	241
Tom Cave	Bishop Fox's School	10	42	
Archie Tyler	Stanchester Academy	7	45	
Nick Hobbs	Downside School	11		
Tom Pike	Kingsmead School	12		
Kurt Gilbert	Kingsmead School	13		
Seb Cook	Millfield School	14		
Will Carr	Sexey's School	15		
Max Watson	King's College	16		
	SW Team		2	2
	C' Group Team		1	1
	National Team			12



Senior Boys	2018	SSAA	SWSch	ESAA
Guy Tucker	Millfield School	4	13	24
Ben Lloyd	Yeovil College	2	28	50
Jonny Oakey	Millfield School	5	14	149
Dylan Dukes	The Blue School	7	30	183
Sam Edwards	Wellington School	1	42	184
Thomas Simpson	Millfield School	9	47	193
Matt Keogan	Queen's College	6	38	207
Tim Baker	Wadham School	8	54	211
Miles Critchley-Hope	Millfield School	10	55	
George Mathew	Downside School	11	56	
Will Howard	Millfield School	3	na	
Felix Hobbs	Downside School	12		
Chris May	Wellington School	13		
Huw Downes	King's School	14		
Panashe Gundani	King's College	15		
Farai Chadzimura	Taunton School	16		
Derek Lai	Wellington School	17		
Ben Mclean	King's School	18		
	SW Team		5	4
	C' Group Team		2	2
	National Team			18

