

Somerset Schools Athletic Association
Chairman's Report – October 2009 – October 2010

Thank you all for affording me the honour of the role of chairman through what has been a truly remarkable year for Somerset Schools Athletics. Although we did start downbeat, with the news that John Lee was ill. Fortunately, a wonderful card from Pat on our behalf and our prayers saw him through.

So, onto cross-country we marched. This of course set the standard we were to aspire to for the whole year, with the Minor Boys' Team taking the South West title and Charlie Maclean the Senior Boys' Individual title. Clearly an inspirational event because Emily Smith produced a truly gut-wrenching run to come from 23rd at the half way stage to take the race and become the English Schools National Cross-country Champion in Manchester.

Our year then got even better as success followed success. All three boys' teams took the South West track and field titles accompanied by the overall team title. This led to the selection of probably the strongest team Somerset has set to the English Schools National Track and Field Championships. They certainly lived up to expectation with four National Champions and three silver medallists, no wonder we won the 'C' group category. This wonderful set of results included CBP from Izzy Jeffs in the Javelin. A week late and more success as Robin Danaher became the SIAB javelin champion, with Jimi Tele and Blair Brown both winning silver medals.

In combined events all three boys' teams again took the South West title. Teams were not perhaps as strong as they could have been for the National Championships. However, all three worked extremely hard as a team and each forged out a podium position with junior and intermediates place third whilst the seniors' were 2nd.

Our year's fabulous success was rounded off with the selection of Izzy Jeffs and Alex Wright for the Commonwealth Games where they both placed 13th.

Well, what an unprecedented year, of course the athlete's success is often orchestrated behind the scenes and without the support of their teacher, coaches, association officials, their parents etc none of this would be possible. I am sure the athletes would like to join me in giving a huge, huge thank you to each and everyone of you for the part you have played in making this past year so remarkable.

I would also like to acknowledge the huge amount of work that both Richard and Brian undertake for the Association. There is no doubt that the standard of athletics has risen and the new association website is sensational.

Finally, I am painfully aware of my failure to be an effective chairman; all too often unable to make association meetings. I am sure that Mike will be a much better leader and now ask Pat to do the honours and hand over the chain of office on my behalf.

I wish the association continued success in the coming years.

Larry Tulett