

Chairman's Report 2011/2012

Having just read Brian's 'Cross Country Novel' and in preparing to do battle with Dick's stack of multi-coloured paperwork which constitutes a not very 'Short Story', I believe you will all be grateful if my report is reasonably brief this year. Apologies therefore if I miss something I should have mentioned!

The role of chairman is always an honour and a privilege; never more so than in a year such as this. I have been extremely fortunate to be in attendance at many of the events which Dick and Brian describe so comprehensively in their respective reports. Not quite so fortunate in experiencing the vagaries of the British climate. From the freezing unrelenting wind at our County Cross Country to the raw cold, mud and gloom at Exeter. Then a first in my entire athletics' history-weather so appalling on the second day of our County Combined Events - it left us no choice but to abandon the event. This was clearly immensely frustrating, particularly for Dick as organiser; his stoicism did him proud.

However, at a certain little event in March, the sun shone and the day stayed dry. This ensured a richly deserved and magnificent conclusion to the months and months of meticulous planning undertaken by Brian and Richard. I didn't stop smiling all day. Somerset really showed the rest of England how it's done in the West Country.

Moving on to July - a truly outstanding team travelled to Gateshead - and returned with a superb set of results and silverware. Yet another example of our youngsters receiving the best possible care enabling them in many cases to produce their best possible results.

Schools' Cup results also added to the Somerset winners' haul; then finally the successes in Bedford last month rounded off a remarkable year for Somerset Schools' Athletics - in a wonderful year for British sport. I have had the best of times as Chairman and I hand over to Steve with the sincere wish that whilst he may not be quite so busy this year, the experience will be no less enjoyable.

A massive thank you to Brian, Dick, Richard, Les and everyone else involved with SSAA - you should feel immensely proud of your efforts and achievements. I for one am immensely proud to have been 'in the Chair'. Thank you so much.

Jane Yandell