

Sportshall Champs 2018

On Sunday 28th Jan 18, some of Somerset's most promising junior athletics talent headed off to Wellsway School in Keynsham near Bristol, to take part in the Regional Fun in Athletics Sportshall Competition for U11s.

Having gone through some challenging qualifying rounds, and a couple of weekends coaching and training, 2 boys teams and 1 girls team set about the task of taking on 4 other teams from Bristol Gloucester.

Continuing the tradition set over the last 15 years, the standard was as high as it has always been, so repeating last year's success where Somerset's girls won their event and the boys came second was going to be a tough ask.

However, the team spirit was high, and every athlete gave their best in all the various running, jumping and throwing events. The structure of the event ensures everyone gets to compete in several different events, and many of our athletes demonstrated multi-talented skills which will stand them in good stead for the future.

Although the team had many close attempts at winning several of the boys and girls races, this year the teams from the other counties, Gloucester in particular were just too strong, although our second and third places were extremely tight and well contested races. In the field events, again, although many of Somerset's athletes jumped, and threw to produce their best ever performances, we were just off of the pace compared to the competition.

Overall the boy's competition was won by Gloucestershire, Somerset coming 3rd and 6th. Top 3 places going to Luke Paul with a Vertical Jump of 42cm for 3rd; Samuel Winter 3rd with a Target Throw score of 11 and William Ladd also with a Target Throw score of 11 in 3rd place; Tobi Robinson finished 1st with a maximum Balance Test score of 60.

The girls also finished in 3rd place. Top 3 places going to Nia Rodgers with a Standing Triple Jump of 5.84m for 2nd place; Lotty Wheeler in 1st place with a Balance Test 60; Kayleigh Spiers 3rd in Javelin with a throw of 12m; and Chloe Thorne 2nd with a Target Throw score of 11.

Results – Girls:

- 1 Avon Crusaders 486
- 2 Gloucestershire All Golds 470
- 3 Somerset Spartans 446
- 4 Avon Stormers 405
- 5 Gloucestershire All Stars 403

Athletes achieving a top 3 place:

- Nia Rodgers Standing Triple Jump 5.84m 2nd
- Lotty Wheeler Balance Test 60s 1st=
- Kayleigh Spiers Javelin 12m 3rd
- Chloe Thorne Target Throw 11 2nd =

Team Races:

- Obstacle Relay: 2nd = 1:25.6
- 1 + 1 Lap Relay: 2nd 25.5
- 4 x 1 Relay: 2nd 51.0
- 6 Lap Paarlaf: 3rd 1:24.0
- Over & Under Relay: 3rd 1:10.9
- Hurdles Relay: 4th 1:02.1
- Grand Prix: 2nd 57.0

Results – Boys:

- 1 Gloucestershire All Yellow 484
- 2 Avon Crusaders Red 467

3 Somerset Spartans Orange 430

4 Avon Stormers 426

5 Gloucestershire All Stars 374

6 Somerset Saracens 369

Spartans:

Athletes achieving a top 3 place:

Luke Paul Vertical Jump 42cm 3rd =

Samuel Winter Target Throw 11 3rd =

William Ladd Target Throw 11 3rd =

Team Races:

Obstacle Relay: 4th = 1:25.3

1 + 1 Lap Relay: 2nd 24.8

4 x 1 Relay: 3rd 49.7

6 Lap Paarlauf: 3rd 1:21.1

Over & Under Relay: 1st 1:08.7

Hurdles Relay: 4th 59.5

Grand Prix: 5th 1:02.3

Saracens:

Athletes achieving a top 3 place:

Tobi Robinson Balance Test 60 1st =

Team Races:

Obstacle Relay: 4th = 1:25.3

1 + 1 Lap Relay: 4th 26.0

4 x 1 Relay: 6th 53.2

6 Lap Paarlauf: 6th 1:31.2

Over & Under Relay: 4th 1:11.3

Hurdles Relay: 5th 59.9

Grand Prix: 4th 1:02.1

For a full set of results go to:

<http://www.sportshall.org/resultsfixtures/results/results-primary-results/results-fun-in-athletics-results-2018?menu-item=menu-item-762>

Athlete Statistics

NB we had a large proportion of year 4 & 5 athletes. The boys' team from Glos were giants – they looked like year 7/8, and not unsurprisingly they won! Hopefully the work we have done with the younger athletes this year will be reflected in next year's teams!

Athletes attending trials:

MAC: 9 (one also an ACE athlete)

TAC: 22

YOAC: 0

WCH: 1

SSDC Junior Academy: 6

ACE: 2 (one also a MAC athlete)

Unattached: 18

Athletes selected to represent Somerset:

MAC: 8 (one also an ACE athlete)

TAC: 14

YOAC: 0

WCH: 1

SSDC Junior Academy: 5

ACE: 2 (one also a MAC athlete)

Unattached: 12

Parental Feedback

1. I just wanted to say a huge thank you to you and all of team Somerset for today. My daughter had a great day and a great experience competing against other youngsters.

The coaching sessions you provided were equally brilliant.

Thank you all for your time and efforts.

2. We just wanted to contact you to say a huge thank you! Our son has really enjoyed his athletics and is keen to try again next year! We thought the organisation and hard work you put in to preparing the team was fantastic. He was the only person from his school and he's also a very keen sportsman hence his wish to attend. He is dyslexic and can find some unknown situations daunting, however you supported him and made him feel at ease amongst all the others. Thank you.

We thoroughly enjoyed the final today and once again it was so well organised. We look forward to working with you again in the future.

3. We would just like to say a huge thank you and a huge well done for your efforts today. Our son, although slightly apprehensive this morning, thoroughly enjoyed his day and had a great time taking part and working hard for Somerset. You obviously put a lot into it, and we just wanted to say thank you for all the training events and obviously today, which was a really entertaining day out. Lovely for us to see how he has developed too as an athlete.

Thank you to you all. And above the sporting success of Somerset, how the children learn through events like this is really hugely valuable. Our son has actually asked if he can do it again, but I'm guessing he will be too old now. Hopefully further great opportunities like this exist in the future.

Keep up the good work! Many thanks

4. And a big thank you to yourself and Graham for giving our daughter the opportunity to compete. We thoroughly enjoyed the day and she also enjoyed the training days leading up to it. It has been great for her to be part of the team.

5. I agree, it was a fantastic day with lots of enthusiastic involvement across the board.

I wanted to thank you and the other coaches, as my daughter left the selection day and each training day very encouraged, motivated and energised. I appreciate that you and the other coaches did all of this in a voluntary capacity.

I did want, however, to provide a little feedback about yesterday. My daughter felt a bit deflated that she wasn't chosen initially to take part in any track events (she says she was placed in the grand prix later on). She was chosen to do the SLJ and balance, which was OK, but not her best events. Now I do recall Graham explaining that even though the athletes may have got a top spot in the selection/training they may not represent in that event at the regional final (she was first in STJ and VJ in the training by far). This is fine, but given that she wasn't chosen for any races the general feeling she had from this was that she wasn't an equal part of the team especially as it was clear

that some girls got to take part in a good few track events. In training she was often first in the selection races, so even I was a bit confused by this.

I can imagine this might sound a little like nit-picking. However, I am genuinely not trying to diminish the overall benefit to her experience and skill-development being part of the build up; but, given that all of that really motivated her and that yesterday's experience left her somewhat demotivated, I feel it is only right to share this with you. She started the finals feeling deflated from the outset and didn't feel like she gave anything like her best shot as a result.

I hope you appreciate my concern and don't think this an undue attack, rather some necessary feedback, especially as I am keen for her to continue to explore her athletic potential.

6. Thanks for all the work you guys did. Despite not feeling great, my son still really enjoyed the day! Some lovely pictures. Thanks again.

7. Thank you to you and the coaches for making the day so enjoyable. My son loved every minute of it and 3rd place out of 6 teams showed a really good performance by all. Photos are brilliant, some great action shots.

8. It was a fantastic day. The effort, commitment and behaviour of the children was awesome. Thank you very much to you and all of the coaches for all of your involvement. My son had a wonderful day and can't wait to do it all again next time.

9. Just like to say what an absolutely fantastic day Sunday was. My son had such a great time. It was so well organised by yourselves the children were made to feel part of a team encouraged to do their best but still competitive.

The training days previously too were very helpful with their skills and techniques and even his PE teacher has noticed a vast improvement in his running starts and stance

Will there be any other further competitions that he could trial for this year? If so could you let me know please. Thanks in advance and thank you and your team for all the support and help you give to these children.

He did say to me on Sunday night

'I know I'm not the best but I did try my best' this is what it's all about

