**Combined Team Manages and Cross Country Report for Somerset County AGM**

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Cross Country

The county cross country championships were held in conjunction with Avon and Wiltshire counties at the University of Bath back in December 2017 in good XC conditions. County Champions were as follows: U11G IIsabella Piercy (Mendip AC), U11B Ryan Reed (Taunton AC), U13G Hannah Blundy (Wells City Harriers), U13B Daniel Fisher (Taunton AC), U15G Lizzy Ingram (Wells City Harriers), U15B Sam Cobb (Taunton AC), U17M Morgan Curry (Taunton AC), U20M Felix Rusby (Wells City Harriers), SW Emma Fisher (Wells City Harriers), SM Adam Stokes (Taunton AC). There were no U17W/U20W competing. Masters category winners are available on the county web-site.

Entry numbers are not published, but competitor numbers (taken from the official results) were down again last year, both in absolute numbers and as a percentage of overall numbers - which are holding remarkably consistent. A comparison of competitor numbers since the stand-alone Tri-County championships were (re)commenced is shown below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| U11G | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| U11B | 9 | 5 | 7 |
| U13G | 9 | 7 | 11 |
| U13B | 10 | 14 | 9 |
| U15G | 5 | 5 | 6 |
| U15B | 4 | 7 | 12 |
| U17W/U20W | 8 | 7 | 0 |
| U17M/U20M | 7 | 5 | 2 |
| SW | 2 | 3 | 7 |
| SM | 19 | 15 | 10 |
| SOMERSET TOTAL | 78 | 70 | 65 |
| OVERALL TOTALS | 351 (22.2%) | 344 (20.3%) | 348 (18.7%) |

The population of Somerset is 25% of the combined figures for the three counties, with overall participation at these championships at 1.62 per 10,000 of the general population. The 2018 event takes place on 9th December.

Inter-County Teams – Cross Country

Cross County teams were selected for two events – the SW Inter-Counties, which took place on “home” soil at Aldon Hill in Yeovil during January and the UK Inter-Counties as a joint Avon & Somerset team at Loughborough during March.

At the SW event 76 athletes represented Somerset, plus an additional 9 who contested the U11 events. Team performances were 1st U20M, 2nd U13B, 3rd U15B and SM, 4th U13G, 6th U15G. Four categories failed to complete teams. Leading individuals were U20M 1st Luke Prior (Aldershot, Farnham & District), U17W 2nd Elised Thorner (Wells City Harriers), U13G 3rd Hannah Blundy (Wells City Harriers). Wells Harriers were the winning U15B club team, and were second to Bristol & West in the SM section.

The UK Inter-Counties had a disappointing turn-out, with only 50 of the possible 82 places filled. The U17 and U20 age-groups were particularly disappointing this year. Only 19 Somerset athletes completed (38% of the total – down on the “usual” 42-45%). The best team performances were 10th places from the U15B and SM. Top 50 performances were recorded by Hannah Blundy (U13G 35th), Rosie Hamilton-Jones (U15G 30th) and Luke Prior (SM 46th).

Track and Field Teams

Three Somerset athletes (Ronnie Wells, Naomi Taschimowitz and Georgia Silcox) were part of a combined Avon & Somerset squad at the CAU Inter-Counties Championships in 2018. The men’s team finished 2nd of the “division 2” counties and 9th overall men’s team. Best home performance was Naomi’s 5th place in the 5000m.

The main inter-county event was the SW championships, which continues to run using an “open meeting” format. The event organiser does not seem to have published a county results table, though from memory Somerset were in 4th place overall. There were 87 performances from 54 Somerset athletes from a possible 156 possible events. There were 18 event winners for Somerset, who are listed below:

U13G 200m Oliwia Cwienczek, LJ Grace Fielder

U15G 75mH Lydia Smith, LG Lydia Smith, DT Sophie Hamilton

U15B 300m Harry Barton, 80mH Oliver D’Rozario, HJ Stewart Hardy, LJ Oliver D’Rozario, TJ Oliver D’Rozario

U17W 800m Holly Bigger

U17M 400m Sam Edwards

U20M HJ Jamie Croucher, TJ Toby Sauter

SW LJ Hayley Stewad, SP Hayley Steward

SM DT Mark Plowman, JT Ben Gibb

Road Running

The SW Inter-County challenge continued this year, though with only two events both held within a fortnight of each other in October. Due to lack of pro-active interest and (both) team managers being out of the country for the whole of September, these events were not contested as teams by the county. Hopefully the 2019 series will be better supported.

And Finally, a big thank-you to those involved with team management duties throughout the year. Team selection for various events remains an issue as does staffing for events such as the SW T&F where all the likely team managers were involved in crucial roles supporting the running of the event.