

OUTSTANDING EFFORTS by AVON YOUNGSTERS

At the South West schools Combined Events Championships Avon's 5 teams managed a massive 58 personal bests between over the 2 days of competition.

The outstanding team were the Junior Boys made up of Owen Boon (Bradley Stoke School), Dan Webb (Mangotsfield School), Jacob Sanchez Fulton (Beechen Cliff) and Josh Palmer (Churchill School)

With one event to go the 800 metres the team were in 2nd place 70 pts behind Somerset but each athlete ran their hearts out with 4 pbs to win by over 350 pts a magnificent achievement. Team Captain Owen Boon finished 2nd individual with 4pbs, Jacob 7th with 5pbs, Josh 9th with 5pbs and Dan in 11th 4pbs. The team now progress to the ESAA Combined Events Finals in September in Bedford.

Conor Hewitt (Gordano School) finished in a terrific 3rd place to also book his place for Bedford with an incredible 6 pbs of the 8 events the highlight being his first long jump over 6metres.

He was ably backed up by Adam Durran (Backwell School) who recorded a pb in every event an incredible effort. His highlight was a 55.26 400 metres and a 15.91 Hurdles recording 588 and 598 pts respectively.

The 3rd member of the team Owen Garrett (Wellsway) threw an amazing Javelin of 45m79, and a Shot of 13m49 for 697 pts but recorded a No Mark in the Discus However he recorded 5 pbs in his competition in which the team finished 3rd.

The Junior Girls event saw Holly Bagnowiec (Backwell School) running the race of her life in the 800m to secure 4th place of the 22 starters to secure her Bedford place. 4pbs in her 5 events with a superb 620 points in the Shot with 11m38.

Annabel Gordon (Winterbourne School) finished in 7th place with her 800m time of 2m41.73 bringing her up 7 places in the standings.

In her first Pentathlon Year 8 student Heidi Martineau (St. Kath's School) ran away from the field in the 800m recording a phenomenal 2m27.66 for the best Avon score of the day with 722pts. Florence Thomas (St. Gregory's School) the 4th member of team finished in 22nd with her best event the High Jump with 1m32 gaining 429 pts.

The inter Girls team saw Hebe Hill (Clevedon School) become Avon Champion and blossom into the event with 5 pbs over the 7 events. She finished 12th with a magnificent pb in the 200m with 27.36secs. The arrival of Rula Francis (Hayesfield School) boosted the team finishing in 16th in her first Heptathlon. Her best event as well was the 200m where she blasted around the bend in 29.17 for 542pts. The 3rd member of the team astonished herself with 6pbs in her 7 events. Natasha Buro (Sidcot School) scored 400pts in the 800 metres. Attempting some events for the first time she competed with enthusiasm and skill.

The Senior Girls led by an enthusiastic Alex Oliver (SGS) battled it out with Libby Harley Harris (SGS) for the Avon title with Alex finishing 6th and Libby 7th. Together with Naomi Holt

(Gordano School) whose best event was the 200m in a magnificent 28.36secs for 603 pts, the three had a lot of fun finishing 2nd to the strong Somerset squad.

Alex surprised herself with an incredible 6second pb in the 800metres running 2m 34.76 for 634pts.

All 3 girls have qualified for the Bedford Finals.

A great weekend supported by a wonderful group of parents, and helped by the expertise of coaches Ken Holmes and Julie Alexander.

Congratulations to all concerned. An inspiring group of young athletes.

David Turner/Susan Jones CE Team Manager