

## Success for Avon Schools Combined Events Teams June 2022

Avon Schools were represented by 5 teams at the South West Schools Combined Events Championships in Yeovil.

Pride of place goes to the Senior Girls team who were crowned South West Champions. The 4 other teams all came 2<sup>nd</sup> to give Avon their best ever showing.

There was a myriad of personal bests across the events. Lily Bailey (St. Brendan's College) led the senior girls with an individual 3<sup>rd</sup> place with Melissa Choong in 5<sup>th</sup>, Phoebe Gooch (Gordano) in 6<sup>th</sup> and debutant Alex Oliver (SGS) in 8<sup>th</sup>. Lily's best event her High Jump with 1m65, Melissa a fine 1m68, Phoebe a brilliant time in the 200m in 28.7 and Alex the 800m her best event in 2m41.9. Phoebe and Lily have competed for Avon Schools in each of the age groups over the past 5 years, a wonderful effort.

In the Inter Girls event, Myalee Osola (Colston's School), and Alice Wilson (King Edward's) fought out a thrilling competition with Myalee just edging Alice for 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Alice finishing 4<sup>th</sup>. The position was decided on the 800m which saw both running side by side in the race with Myalee just edging Alice in a sprint finish.

Myalee a superb Hurdler ran 11.82 to Alice's 12.90. Both girls had excellent Javelin throws over 30m. The team lost 2 team members to injury during the week but Ellie Siegle (Gordano) came in at the last minute to ensure Avon had a team. She performed above expectation in her debut recording a 200m 29.2 in her best event.

In the Inter Boys Conor Hewitt (Gordano) had a solid 2 days finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in a very competitive age group. All his events were great but his best points wise was the 400m a pb of 54.67. Supporting him in the Inter Boys were 2 Year 10 students, Noah Parry and Peter Critten (Writhlington) who were experiencing the Octathlon for the first time. They were brilliant with new pbs in every event. Noah finished 8<sup>th</sup> and Peter 10<sup>th</sup>. Noah's best event was a 58.4 400m and Peter's an incredible High Jump of 1m53 in which he kept clearing on 3<sup>rd</sup> attempts. Both showed great competitive spirit.

The Junior Boys put together at short notice saw Abdul Yousef (St. Katherines') win the Avon battle in 7<sup>th</sup> place with Owen Boon in 8<sup>th</sup>, and Joel Martineau (St. Katherines') in 9<sup>th</sup>. The 4<sup>th</sup> member Dan Webb suffered an injury in the High Jump but continued bravely to finish the competition in 13<sup>th</sup> place.

Abdul having learnt to hurdle the week before won his race and then surprised himself in the High Jump clearing 1m47. The impressive Owen Boon a year young fought out a great 800m with Abdul coming out just in front with Joel close behind. Owen jumped a fantastic 5m30 in the Long Jump.

Abdul's best event the Hurdles in 13.3, Owen's the Long Jump an impressive 5m30, Joel's the 800m in 2m 24.9, Dans best event the Hurdles.

Lastly the Junior Girls saw Team Leader Holly Bagnowiec (Backwell) a year young finish in an incredible 4<sup>th</sup> place in the most competitive age group. Her best event the High Jump of 1m44.

She led Fleur Hardie (Backwell) 9<sup>th</sup>, Ruby Woodman (Hayesfield) 13<sup>th</sup>, Florence Thomas (Hayesfield) 17<sup>th</sup>.

Ruby arrived with a concern about an ache in her knee and then putting it out of her mind proceeded to record 5pbs in a truly gutsy performance.

All worry about the Hurdles but all did pbs. Ruby then proceeded to jump 4m93 in the Long Jump although she scored more points in the 800m with 2m 41.5. Fleur solid throughout again had 5pbs with her best being her 1m41 High Jump. Florence a year young again with 5pbs achieved a 1m32 High Jump for her best score.

As a result of the team's performances, the Senior Girls team, Myalee Osola, Conor Hewitt and probably Alice Wilson will proceed to the ESAA Combined Events Championships in Bedford in September.

This will be a record number for Avon Schools athletes progressing.

Team Managers Dave Turner and Susan Jones

would like to thank all who supported the athletes, a wonderful group of parents who made a lot of noise, 2 athletes who came to support, Phoebe Havard and Tamara Jackson whose presence helped enormously, and especially, support coaches Julie Alexander, Ken Holmes, Andrea Garcia and St. Katherines' Head of P.E. Mr Dave Cook who all worked tirelessly to get the best out of the athletes.

A wonderful weekend of team spirit, camaraderie and great athletics.

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