

Athletics

2003/4



Girls U12 relay team at Birmingham



In a weather affected season training and preparing for competitions was very much limited to the occasional dry Friday afternoon. Nevertheless we did manage some fine achievements in a variety of events at different venues.

Our annual Head to Head Track Event with DPS was an "away" fixture this year and our boys team was severely depleted due to the swimming finals. This enabled many to compete for the school for the first time and experience the "buzz" at such an event. Victories were few and far between for most of the afternoon but the whole team tried their best and cheered the few successes we did have.

The girls went to Crawley to compete in the Sussex Championships and gained the following 1st places :-

Eliza Baker, 1st in the U14 200m, Jenny Bolden, 1st in the U11 Long Jump, Annie Caffyn, 1st in the U10 Long Jump, Kirsten Mair, 1st in the U11 Hurdles and the U12 4 x 100m relay team won their final.

Other performances of note came from Harriet Colderick, 2nd in her hurdles, Charlotte Mursell 2nd = in the High Jump, and Chrissie Edgar 2nd in the triple jump.

The relay team, Pascale Hughes, Mary Fowler, Jenny Bolden and Harriette Blackstone - Harriet, Charlotte, Eliza, and Kirsten were all chosen to represent Sussex at the National Championships.

At Hustpierpoint, the boys had their chance to show what they could do and it was not until the first race after lunch that things started to look up. Calum Marris won the U12 1500m, Stuart Flint came 2nd in his 1500m, Will Wheeler was 2nd in the 800m and Bertie James was second in the 70m hurdles. There were promising performances from some of the younger athletes but only the above four were selected for the Sussex team.

At Tonbridge, a few days before the National Finals, we entered the Tonbridge Trophy to give our senior athletes a chance to improve on their techniques and performances. We entered a mixed boys and girls team without some of the "regular" first choices as they were away on cricket tour. No wins, but valuable "track time" for those involved.

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At the National Championships in Birmingham we came across the best of the best from the rest of the country and although we did not bring back any medals this time all those who took part enjoyed the experience. The U12 girls relay team qualified for the final and finished 7th. A photo opportunity with Jamie Balch (GB athlete) completed an excellent day's athletics. Look out for the collage of photos in the sports hall!

I am hoping that the completion of the new Long Jump run up and pit will encourage some pre season training and perhaps put us in better shape for 2005 when we hope to build on the success of athletics in the school. It is always awkward to ask for time off school for these events but I feel that they are hugely enjoyable and do the school's name a lot of good in the local area. I hope the school will continue to give its support to athletics - Vinehall was one of the largest contributors to the Sussex team at the Nationals! Thanks to the staff for allowing the children to compete and congratulations to all who represented the school in athletics this season.

I was pleased to award Full Colours to William Wheeler, Stuart Flint, Bertie James, Harriet Colderick, Eliza Baker and Charlotte Mursell.

N J Butcher

