



## SUSSEX SCHOOLS ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION

### Report 2015 from the Chair: Judy Lasis

2015 has been a very successful year for our Sussex Schools Athletes, we started the season in January with an incredibly successful and well attended Sussex Schools Cross Country event, Chris Jones has made me eat my words, when I said we would never get the schools to come out mid-week! The car park at Brighton Rugby club was lined with minibuses and the runners came out in their hundreds to face the elements, it was brilliant and Chris and his team organised a great event. We took the top 20 in each race to run at Reigate Priory the following month, where despite snow followed by wind and rain most people turned up and ran hard; our top 10 finishers were: Almi Nerurkar 3<sup>rd</sup> JG, Ben Collins 5<sup>th</sup> JB and Leah Harris 9<sup>th</sup> SG. Many others improved their positions from the Sussex run. In March we took a full team of 48 Athletes to the English Schools XC Championships in Blackburn, we stayed overnight just outside Blackburn and started race day with a hearty breakfast in the local Sainsbury's café; the weather had changed overnight to snow and a bitter wind, we arrived at Witton Park to find there was little or no cover and made camp in the leigh of the Sports Centre, the team spirit was tremendous and though results were variable everyone gave 100%; our best result was the Junior Boys team coming 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 44 counties: Thomas Thayre-23, George Pool- 29, Ben Martin-37, Ben Collins-38, Tomer Tarrangano-99 and Ethan Fincham-114; top 30 finishers were: Ben Golding SB 25, Almi Nerurkar JG 28 and Senior Girls team get a special mention finishing 7<sup>th</sup> from 38 Counties.

In June the track season started for the Schools and the weather was much improved, there was a good turnout at K2 for the SSAA particularly in the Junior and Intermediate age groups, the seniors are affected by the Southern U20 Championships! As usual Leanne Buxton organised a splendid Championships and we would like to thank all the Sussex Officials who helped run the events on the day. A Sussex Schools team was selected for the SES Inter Counties from the top 3 in each event in the Junior and Intermediate age groups, they travelled to Bexley in Kent the following week, many of them were competing for Sussex for the first time and achieved PBs with the strong competition from the other Counties. Sussex Winners were: Scott Staples IB Jav, Calum Neil IB PV, Alysa White JG 100 & 200m, Natasha Purchas JG PV, Dara Kuleyi JB LJ, Harrison Leach JB Discus, Orla Brothers IG 300m.

Next up was the English Schools T&F Championships in Gateshead, where we had our best ever set of results despite missing some of our elite athletes who were competing for England. The team spirit was brilliant and everyone bought into the aim of achieving points for Sussex with their very best efforts, hence we had many PBs. four gold medals, five silver medals and four bronze. The gold medallists: Senior Girl Livvy Connor in the

pole vault with a CBP of 3.85m, Orla Brothers in the Intermediate Girls 300m (39.59s), Joe Fuggle in the Intermediate Boys 400m hurdles (54.58s) and Amber Anning in the Junior Girls 200 metres 25.03s; Silver Medalists: Tom Eames JB 1500m, Bill Saunders JB PV, Calum Neil IB PV, Natasha Purchas JG PV, Anna Short SG 100m; Bronze Medalists: Ben Hawkes JB Hammer, Archie Davis IB 800m, Billy White SB 2000m SC, Katie Garland SG LJ. Joe, Archie, Orla and Calum were selected for the England team for the Schools International the following weekend in Scotland, winning Joe winning Gold, Archie Silver and Orla Silver.

Race walking saw Emily Gohse in 3000m coming in an excellent 2nd place and gaining selection for England Schools with our other 4 England schools selections at Grangemouth, Scotland.

In the English Schools Combined Events Championships at Bedford Senior Girls Katie Garland and Beth Crocker end their ESAA account on a high with a silver and bronze medal. Matt Smith comes 14th in the inter Boys competition.

As you can see it has been a very busy year and for all the brilliant results above there is a team of unsung heroes, who are the organisers, officials and the team managers; I would like to thank everyone by name but the list would be too long and I might miss someone off! So thank you everyone as without you we would not have a Sussex Schools athletics Association holding events for the young athletes of Sussex and giving them the opportunity to represent their County at Inter County and National level.