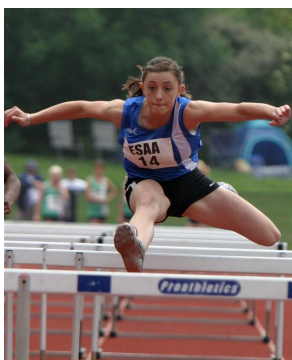


The Mason Trophy 20th June 2009

After the postponement of the annual inter-counties schools meeting, Northants were invited to compete in the Mason Trophy at Birmingham's Alexander Stadium. The meeting, which is a much bigger affair involving nine counties, gave the local youngsters a final chance to impress the selectors who sat down after the meeting to pick the squad for the English Schools Championships at Sheffield.

Holly Rice was one athlete who benefited from the rearranged fixture when she smashed her best to make the team after finishing a fine third in the Junior Girls 800m. She knocked nearly five seconds from her former best when clocking 2.18.9 to finish just one tenth of a second behind runner-up Codie Marsh (Notts) as Naomi Richardson (West Mids) won convincingly in 2.16.1. Also improving her best by a significant margin when finishing fourth in the B race was Emma MacFarlane, who came home in 2.24.2.



Others showing excellent form for the Junior Girls, who clinched the highest team position with fourth, were Lucy Hatton and Honor De Winton. The former sliced one tenth of a second from her best when finishing runner-up in the 75m hurdles to the country's top ranked hurdler, Yasmin Miller of Derbyshire. She clocked 11.4 behind the winner whose time of 11.2 strengthened her favourite tag for Sheffield.

De Winton added 3cms to her long jump best with her leap of 5.13m giving her third place behind Ella Gibbons (Hereford & Worcester) and the winner,

Nikita Campbell-Smith (West Mids), whose performances of 5.25m and 5.33m respectively were both lifetime bests.

The next best team placing for the county came from the Inter Girls who were sixth thanks to victories from Charlotte Bowling, Rachel Tyler and Katie James. Bowling won the 300m hurdles untroubled in 45.3 ahead of Rebecca Oakley of Staffs (47.2) and Cheshire's Abi Fitzpatrick (47.7).

Tyler was also comfortable when securing top points in the discus. The second best thrower currently in the UK only needed a modest 34.49m to finish in front of Emily Campbell of Notts, who recorded 28.57m.

Due to the number of teams competing on the eight lane track, James was put in the B race over 300m and despite not quite matching her best from the county championships she still easily won in 41.7 from Jodie Harrison of West Mids (42.7).

Others in this age group to make the squad for Sheffield were the 1500m pair of Charlotte Inwood and Sophie Reynolds plus Charlotte Burrows. Inwood took third place in the A 1500m race in 4.47.0 as Katie Holt (Staffs) ran out an easy winner in 4.35.6 from the West Mids' Lucy Farnell (4.44.0) and Reynolds clocked a new best of 4.47.2 when taking the B race.

Burrows squeezed inside the qualifying times for the English Schools when she finished third in the 80m hurdles. She sliced one tenth of a second from her best hand timed run when clocking 12.0 behind Tannika Burgess of West Mids (11.9) and the winner Jasmin Sawyers (Staffs) who logged a time of 11.8.

Another county hurdler in exceptional form was Themba Luhana who saw off the challenge of Greater Manchester's Daniel Needham (13.4) to win the Inter Boys 100m hurdles. He reduced his best hand timed run by one tenth of a second to finish first in 13.2.

Joining Luhana in Sheffield will be Liam Hutton and Sam Foster who both finished runners-up in their respective events. The former added 2cm to his previous high jump best when he cleared 1.92m behind Derbyshire's Jonathan Heath (1.94m) while hammer thrower Foster (50.32m) added 6cms to his best to finish behind Oliver Barnfield (West Mids), whose best effort landed at 54.85m.

Junior Boys

100m: A 8 Courtney Bain 12.3, B 5 Jasper Larken 12.4; **200m:** B 6 Teig Stephenson 25.2; **800m:** A 7 John Louden 2.14.6; **1500m:** A 3 Logan Roberts 4.25.8, B 6 Johnnie Bland 4.36.5; **80m Hurdles:** A 3 Chris Bayles 12.4, B 2 Marcus Wong 12.5; **High Jump:** A 4 John Louden 1.62m, B 4 Josh Elliott 1.52m; **Long Jump:** A 3 Fraser Ryan 5.57m, B 7 Dean Goodall 4.92m; **Triple Jump:** A 5 George Dale 11.59m, B 6 Simon Scott 10.88m; **Discus:** A 7 Aaron Cropp 28.35m, B 6 Ben Oddy 25.74m; **Javelin:** A 5 Scott Kendall 39.88m, B 2 Daniel Hauck 38.96m; **Hammer:** A 2 Oliver Dancer 26.67m, B 2 Sam Lloyd 23.96m.

Final match score

1 West Midlands 96, 2 Staffordshire 79, 3 Nottinghamshire 74, 4 Derbyshire 73, 5 Hereford & Worcester 71, 6 Cheshire 66, 7 Greater Manchester 64, 8 Shropshire 56, 9 Northamptonshire 53.

Junior Girls

100m: A 6 Meg Turner 13.2, B 6 Favour Anyaoha 13.7; **200m:** A 7 Niamh Bailey 27.4; **800m:** A 3 Holly Rice 2.18.9, B 4 Emma MacFarlane 2.24.2; **1500m:** A 7 Abigail Morrow-Harris 5.12.9, B 6 Clarissa Blake 5.16.3; **75m Hurdles:** A 2 Lucy Hatton 11.4, B 3 Honor De Winton 12.5; **High Jump:** A 6 Favour Anyaoha 1.45m, B 4 Meg Turner 1.45m; **Long Jump:** A 3 Honor De Winton 5.13m, B 5 Annie Bletsoe-Brown 4.43m; **Shot Putt:** A 7 Dominique Rosella 8.41m, B 3 Annie Bolle-Jones 8.26m; **Discus:** A 4 Morgan Butler 22.11m, B 3 Carly Lakey 18.76m; **Javelin:** A 7 Emma Golding 20.47m; **4 x 100m Relay:** 3rd 52.4.

Final match score

1 West Midlands 84, 2 Cheshire 68, 3 Hereford & Worcester 61, 4 Northamptonshire 55, 5 Staffordshire 50, 6 Greater Manchester 49, 7 Derbyshire 42, 8 Nottinghamshire 41, 9 Shropshire 38.

Inter Boys

100m: A 8 Tom Collins 11.8; **200m:** B 4 Michael Palladino 24.0; **400m:** B 3 Ross Davies 53.6; **1500m:** A 8 Rory Grant 4.25.7; **3000m:** A 3 Luke Robinson 9.25.5, B 3 Aaron Young 10.38.3; **100m Hurdles:** A 1 Themba Luhana 13.2, B 4 Matt Wilde 16.1; **1500m Steeplechase:** A 5 Ryan Burling 4.52.9, B 2 Connor Hills 5.00.1; **High Jump:** A 2 Liam Hutton 1.92m, B 2 Garnet Walters 1.80m; **Long Jump:** A 5 Simon Scott 5.72m, B 4 Reece Otchery 5.62m; **Triple Jump:** A 8 George Dale 11.98m; B 5 Simon Scott 11.90m; **Shot Putt:** A 5 Nick Blunson 11.54m, B 4 Jack Allen 10.68m; **Discus:** A 8 Scott Arroyo 27.49m; **Javelin:** A 5 Alex McKie 45.95m, B 5 Ben Care 34.79m; **Hammer:** A 2 Sam Foster 50.32m, B 2 Jamie Iddon 45.99m.

Final match score

1 West Midlands 129, 2 Staffordshire 94, 3 Derbyshire 85, 4 Greater Manchester 79, 5 Cheshire 77, 6 Nottinghamshire 76, 7 Hereford & Worcester 67, 8 Northamptonshire 55, 9 Shropshire 47.

Inter Girls

100m: A 2 Charlotte Burrows 12.7, B 6 Kaye Swanson 13.2; **200m:** A 5 Alice Chapman 26.9; **300m:** B 1 Katie James 41.7; **800m:** A 8 Gabby Moriarty 2.24.0, B 4 Danielle Smith 2.25.4; **1500m:** A 3 Charlotte Inwood 4.47.0, B 1 Sophie Reynolds 4.47.2; **3000m:** A 8 Imogen Stokes 12.22.4; **80m Hurdles:** A 3 Charlotte Burrows 12.0, B 2 Charlotte Davies 12.9; **300m Hurdles:** A 1 Charlotte Bowling 45.3; **High Jump:** A 4 Katie Rowe 1.37m, B 5 Emily Curtis 1.37m; **Long Jump:** A 5 Kate Swanson 4.83m, B 5 Taylor Ransley 4.65m; **Triple Jump:** A 4 Katie Rowe 10.53m, B 1 Charlotte Davies 10.36m; **Shot Putt:** A 6 Rebecca Davies 8.19m, B 3 Abby Lakey 7.75m; **Discus:** A 1 Rachel Tyler 34.49m, B 1 Abby Lakey 28.43m; **Javelin:** A 4 Karrine van Rooyen 26.77m, B 4 Lauren Jones 18.66m; **4 x 100m Relay:** 5th 51.8.

Final match score

1 West Midlands 111, 2 Cheshire 90, 3 Nottinghamshire 86, 4 Staffordshire 84, 5 Derbyshire 82, 6 Northamptonshire 76, 7 Hereford & Worcester 72, 8 Shropshire 65, 9 Greater Manchester 54.

Overall score

1 West Midlands 420, 2 Staffordshire 307, 3 Cheshire 301, 4 Derbyshire 282, 5 Nottinghamshire 277, 6 Hereford & Worcester 271, 7 Greater Manchester 246, 8 Northamptonshire 239, 9 Shropshire 206.