

AVON TEAM MAKES HISTORY

The Avon Schools Senior Girls team competing at the English Schools Combined Events Finals at Bedford achieved the highest ever placing by an Avon team by finishing in the Silver medal position in the team event, just 40 points behind the talented Somerset Schools team.

This shock result was an unexpected surprise and made possible by the wonderful efforts of all the team, who performed with grit and determination, supporting each other in a great example of team work. Each athlete scored higher total points than in the Regional final earlier in the year.

Inspiring team leader Jenna Blundell (SGS College) finished a magnificent individual 3rd with a pb total of 5014pts and 5 personal bests in the 7-event heptathlon. Perhaps the outstanding event for Jenna was in the long jump, where she leapt 5m89 and drew gasps and applause from the crowd. She backed this up with pbs of 14.27 in the hurdles, 1m68 in the high jump, 2m26.8 800m and 25.62 in the 200.

Rebecca Ousby (Kingswood School) finished 14th also with 5 pbs (18.1 Hurdles, 1m50 High Jump, 8m95 Shot and 26.89 200m), finishing with a massive personal best in the 800m in 2m30 in which she front ran all the way, even scaring herself at 400m when seeing her split time.

The third member of this outstanding team, Renee Jelf (King Edwards School), had 3 personal bests in the long jump and javelin, and then fought every inch of the way in the 800m for another pb to help Avon onto the podium.

The previous day, in the Junior Boys competition, Luke Ball started off with a pb Hurdles in 12.2, a pb Shot of 10m21 and then a 1m71 High jump and 5m38 Long jump, eventually finishing 23rd of the 43 competitors in his first Combined Events finals.

Team Managers Dave Turner and Susan Jones were overwhelmed by the performances.

Thanks should also go to the many supporters and parents who encouraged the athletes every move, and also to the athletes coaches who had prepared them so well for this event.

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