

EVENT REPORT

Derek Crookes U13 Intercounties Match – Walton-on-Thames

Sunday 4th August 2024



A Dorset team of Under 13 boys and girls travelled to Walton-on-Thames on 4th August to compete at the prestigious Derek Crookes U13 Intercounties T&F competition. This annual fixture brings together county teams from 13 southern English counties and the standard of competition is consequently very high. The Dorset team was made up of some of our brightest emerging talent from clubs such as Bournemouth AC, Poole AC, Poole Runners, Wimborne AC and Dorchester AC.

There were some excellent individual performances, especially in the girls' field events. Of note:

1. Girls javelin: Mila Desborough and Bethany Cassidy (both WAC) won the A and B strings respectively
2. Girls discus: Lumen Myers (PAC) was first in the A string and Bethany Cassidy (WAC) third in the B string
3. Girls shot put: Lumen Myers (PAC) was third in the A string
4. Girls high jump: Imogen Pope (BAC) was fourth (one string)
5. Boys 100m: Junior Buron (BAC) was third in the A string
6. Boys high jump: Charlie Talbot (PR) was equal third (one string)

We fielded a full team in the girls competition and came eighth out of 13 counties. This masks how crowded the middle of the pack was: with 310 points Dorset was only 10.5 points behind the fourth place county.

Our boys team was not quite at full strength but still managed a very creditable eighth place which was one better than last year.

Many thanks to the children for all their efforts and the parents for making the long journey to Surrey. I would also like to thank Richard Cassidy and Maz Samways for managing the team on the day and Claudia Howse, Jemma Bates and Hazel Bates who spent all day judging the events (as did I!). The officials do an often-unheralded job yet without them track and field competitions could not happen.

Representing your county is an honour and a definite step up from club competition. The photos show the strong team spirit and the day was great competition and very enjoyable. I would encourage all Dorset athletes to make themselves available for county competitions and, if asked, pull on the green Dorset vest, be it for track & field, cross country, road or Sportshall.

Andy Howse
August 2024

