

# England sweep team awards

## SIAB Schools International, Truro March 27

**AGAINST** the magnificent backdrop of the city's cathedral, Truro School provided a fitting venue for the climax of the season for UK's top teenage cross-country runners, Jacky Brett reports.

England took all the individual medals and all team golds with the exception of the junior boys' title.

Cornwall's enthusiasm for staging the big events is second-to-none. It was only three months ago that they hosted the English Schools Cup final. Paul Manning and his group of willing volunteers continue to lobby to hold the World Schools Championships in this country for the first time and have gained the support of Lord



Harvey Dixon (1), Robbie Farnham-Rose (5), Conor Robinson (2) and Kieran Clements in the inter race

Photo: Mark Cross

Sebastian Coe.

The chairman of the ESAA, Mike Dooling, commented that he found everyone very welcoming and that he appreciated the distance that the Cornish competitors usually face to travel to competitions.

A host of Cornish legends were invited back to present the medals, including former marathon international Dave Buzza, who is still beating most of the opposition, former 1:47 800m runner local radio DJ Neil Caddy, a, ex-international Jon Richards and Mark King, a two-time World Cross Country Championships representative.



Loren Bleaken (3), Amy Griffiths (2) and Abbie Hetherington

### Junior girls

IN a race won by Loren Bleaken, England dominated the first race from start to finish with all their runners finishing a full 20 seconds ahead of the rest of the field.

Going into the second lap, four girls were in contention with the pace pushed hard by Florrie McLeish. She was followed by Abbie Hetherington, Katy Wood and Loren Bleaken, but McLeish continued to stretch the field, eventually leaving just Loren to challenge. In the final sprint home, Loren mounted her attack, proving to be the stronger of the two, taking her to the title with Florie only a second behind.

"After the National Schools at Manchester last week, I kept my training normal this week, the same as the week before," said Bleaken. "I ran really well, I felt good and I'm very happy to win."

McLeish said: "I was pleased with my race. I gave it everything I could. It was a good course but hard work!"

### Junior boys

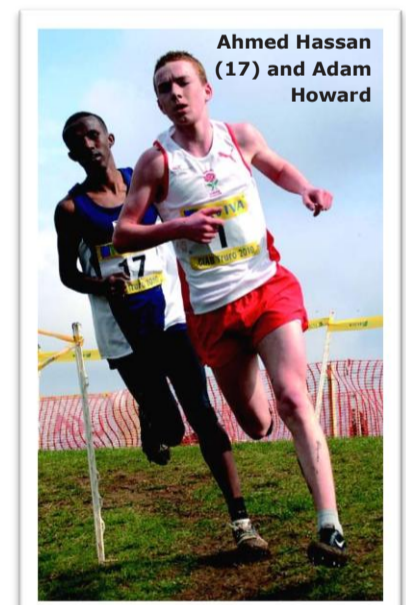
ERITREAN-born Scottish schools champion Ahmed Hassan took victory by five seconds.

By the end of the first lap Adam Howard had broken away with Hassan right on his shoulder. These two continued stride for stride into the second larger lap, but on the final climb to the finish it was Hassan who opened his stride and strode past Howard quite majestically.

Hassan said: "I found the course hilly in places. My plan was to sit in and then power to the finish."

Howard added: "It was a great race, well done Ahmed. I have been training for this for 12 months and that was great, better than I expected."

Xander Tansey held off Scotland's Lewis Boyle for the bronze medal.



Ahmed Hassan (17) and Adam Howard

### Intermediate girls

ENGLISH Schools champion Jessica Judd continued her domination of the domestic cross-country scene with a nine-second win. With England's Susan Shiel-Rankin and Scotland's Ffion Price pushing the early pace, Judd found herself in the unusual place of leading the chasing group.

However, towards the end of the first lap, Judd was restored to her normal dominant leading position. She quickly opened up a 50m lead from Emily Wallbank, who also gained a 10-metre advantage on the chasing group.

Although Wallbank closed slightly towards



Jessica Judd

the end of the race, Judd never looked in danger of being caught. In a sprint for the line, the very slight figure of Alice Wright clinched the bronze ahead of Susan-Shiel Rankin.

After the race Judd reported: "I was alright until the last climb to the finish. I am tired now and I am relieved that it is all over because sometimes I struggle to keep it going at the end of the season."

"I am really happy with my win and it is the highlight of my year. I am going to have a week off now, but I will probably be bouncing off the walls at home."

"I am planning to run 800m and 1500m this summer and hope to break my PBs."

Wallbank said: "That was a good race, it was fast and hard. I have had a good season and done what I really wanted to do."

### Intermediate boys

HARVEY DIXON, who had won the English Schools title seven days earlier, took a comfortable 14-second victory in the final race of the day. Local hopes lay with Conor Robinson of Cornwall AC. He caused concern, starting the race midway through the field with his coach, Pete Meredith, remarking, "I told him to sit in on the first lap and then move up and just see what happens on the third, but I'm not sure I meant

that far back.”

By the end of the first lap, though Robinson had moved up with the leading runners that were still well bunched. There was little change during the second lap, but by the third lap a clear leading group of Conor, Harvey Dixon and Robbie Farnham-Rose emerged.

Kieran Clements led the chasing group. With half a lap remaining, Dixon and Robinson pulled away from Farnham-Rose, with Harvey’s relentless pace continuing until he eventually pulled clear of Robinson as well.

Dixon was delighted with his win: “It was a super run, a super course and the flatter parts made it really fast. I was delighted after winning the national schools last weekend and it gave me confidence.

“I am really looking forward to the track season and the faster races over 800m and 1500m and I may do some 3000m races as well.

Robinson added: “It was a really good turn-out and great to have so much home support. I have just been doing gentle runs this week and chilling.”

### **Inter boys**

1 H Dixon (ENG) 18:25; 2 C Robinson (ENG) 18:39; 3 R Farnham-Rose (ENG) 18:46; 4 K Clements (ENG) 18:56; 5 G Benson (ENG) 18:59; 6 M Rose (ENG) 19:00; 7 S Tobin (IRL) 19:00; 8 M Shaw (ENG) 19:07; 9 G Muir (SCO) 19:09; 10 L Carroll (ENG) 19:20; 11 C Wellcoat (SCO) 19:27; 12 S Attride (IRL) 19:29; 13 A Monaghan (IRL) 19:34; 14 M Daves (WAL) 19:37; 15 F Rae (SCO) 19:41; 16 F Corrigan (IRL) 19:44; 17 J Walker (SCO) 19:46; 18 D Mullins (IRL) 19:53; 19 D Cronin (IRL) 19:58; 20 S Fitzsimmons (IRL) 19:59; 21 A Coomber (WAL) 20:00; 22 J Wightman (SCO) 20:05; 23 L Lloyd (WAL) 20:05; 24 J Crowe (SCO) 20:08; 25 D Colley (SCO) 20:17; 26 M Ward (WAL) 20:19; 27 E Hardee (WAL) 20:33; 28 M O’Leary (WAL) 20:36; 29 S Longville (WAL) 20:37; 30 P Monaghan (IRL) 20:44; 31 E Murray (SCO) 20:44; 32 M Smith (WAL) 22:04

**TEAM:** 1 England 21; 2 Ireland 85; 3 Scotland 98; 4 Wales 139

### **Junior boys**

1 A Hassan (SCO) 12:58; 2 A Howard (ENG) 13:03; 3 X Tansey (ENG) 13:25; 4 L Boyle (SCO) 13:28; 5 L McLoone (SCO) 13:30; 6 K Wye (ENG) 13:30; 7 M Burton (ENG) 13:31; 8 L Stedman (ENG) 13:33; 9 C O’Donovan (IRL) 13:35; 10 B Wilson (ENG) 13:40; 11 C Christie (IRL) 13:42; 12 B Wattleworth (ENG) 13:46; 13 A Staneley (SCO) 13:52; 14 K Larkin (IRL) 13:53; 15 J Kerr (SCO) 13:53; 16 K Roberts (WAL) 13:54; 17 E O’Neill (IRL) 13:56; 18 B Everson (ENG) 13:56; 19 R Thompson (SCO) 13:58; 20 G Hairs (SCO) 14:00; 21 R Granville (WAL) 14:01; 22 C Treacy (IRL) 14:02; 23 C Gillen (IRL) 14:03; 24 O Davies (WAL) 14:06; 25 C Kirwan (IRL) 14:08; 26 C Matthews (SCO) 14:12; 27 C Lovett (WAL) 14:31; 28 A Coscoran (IRL) 14:35; 29 J Gooch (WAL) 14:44; 30 L Dragone (WAL) 14:50; 31 L Preece (WAL) 14:59; 32 C Davies (WAL) 15:36

**TEAM:** 1 England 36; 2 Scotland 57; 3 Ireland 96; 4 Wales 147

### **Inter girls**

1 J Judd (ENG) 14:04; 2 E Wallbank (ENG) 14:13; 3 A Wright (ENG) 14:16; 4 S Shiel-Rankin (ENG) 14:19; 5 R Haynes (ENG) 14:26; 6 G Taylor-Brown (ENG) 14:31; 7 B Swords (ENG) 14:33; 8 A Watson (ENG) 14:35; 9 E Mitchell (IRL) 14:35; 10 R Dunn (SCO) 14:55; 11 F Price (WAL) 14:59; 12 M Withers (WAL) 15:02; 13 A O’Donoghue (IRL) 15:03; 14 K Pennell (SCO) 15:04; 15 H Rees (SCO) 15:10; 16 C Hewson (IRL) 15:18; 17 K Veale (IRL) 15:24; 18 O MacKenzie (SCO) 15:28; 19 F Lewis (WAL) 15:32; 20 C McCarthy (IRL) 15:37; 21 B Daw (WAL) 15:40; 22 R Price (WAL) 15:44; 23 L Daly (IRL) 15:48; 24 L Bell (WAL) 15:50; 25 D Hannah (SCO) 15:51; 26 L Casey (IRL) 15:51; 27 S Livett (WAL) 16:03; 28 L Stewart (SCO) 16:13; 29 M Murray (SCO) 16:21; 30 A Darcy (IRL) 16:26; 31 L Neumann (WAL) 16:37; 32 B Wilson (SCO) 17:19

### **Junior girls**

1 L Bleaken (ENG) 13:21; 2 F McLeish (ENG) 13:22; 3 A Hetherington (ENG) 13:26; 4 K Wood (ENG) 13:33; 5 E Smith (ENG) 13:41; 6 A Griffiths (ENG) 13:48; 7 S Riches (ENG) 13:50; 8 K Gillespie (SCO) 14:10; 9 L Conroy (IRL) 14:11; 10 C Cowan (SCO) 14:14; 11 O Gwynn (WAL) 14:21; 12 C Cummins (IRL) 14:26; 13 K Turner (SCO) 14:30; 14 E Prise (SCO) 14:34; 15 C Carthy (IRL) 14:41; 16 B Wallace (SCO) 14:46; 17 J Coyne (IRL) 14:47; 18 L McPhillips (IRL) 14:50; 19 R Stewart (SCO) 14:50; 20 A Backshall (WAL) 14:51; 21 R Evans (WAL) 14:52; 22 S Flanagan (IRL) 14:54; 23 E Raffter (IRL) 14:57; 24 S Hawkshaw (IRL) 15:05; 25 C Graves (SCO) 15:07; 26 M Osborne (WAL) 15:11; 27 P Thompson (WAL) 15:13; 28 J Hunter (SCO) 15:13; 29 K Roberts (WAL) 15:22; 30 P Lewis (WAL) 15:30; 31 K Seary (WAL) 16:23

**TEAM:** 1 England 21; 2 Scotland 80; 3 Ireland 93; 4 Wales 134