

SW Schools Cross Country Championships 12 February 2011

HOBIE Martin and Isabel Steele extended their unbeaten starts to 2011 with impressive victories at the South West Schools' Cross Country Championships.

Steele also led the Cornwall inter girls' squad to the team title for her second gold of the day while the junior girls' squad also picked up the team trophy with an exciting win from Devon.

"It was an excellent team performance," said delighted team manager John Knowles.

Falmouth School student Steele has been one of the most exciting new stars to emerge this season, the 14-year-old sweeping to her fourth successive victory adding the regional schools' inter girls' title to the South West club's triumph at Bicton College last month.

It seems no matter how great the challenge Steele raises her game accordingly and over the new course at RNAS Merryfield, Ilton, Somerset – which will host the English Schools' Championships next year – she quickly set the tempo at the head of the field chased hard by Wiltshire's English Schools' medallist Loren Bleaken.

But there was no denying Steele again as she edged steadily away to cross the line 15 seconds clear of Bleaken for a commanding victory.

"I was really pleased with the way the race went," said Steele. "My tactics were to get to the front and see how I felt. I soon found myself in front and just kept pushing and suddenly I had a lead and it kept growing.

"I am delighted to win again and it just keeps getting better and better."

Steele will now lead the Cornwall team at the English Schools' Championships in Nottingham next month and while it would be unfair to expect the teenager to keep on winning who can say what she may achieve.

As for the team success the Truro School pair of Olivia Connell and Natasaha Ffrench-Constant made the top 15 with the Penair School duo of Finlay Bray and Zoe Fisher just behind. Penrice Community College student Amy Sweet completed the scoring in 25th place ensure a narrow 12 points victory over Devon.

Newquay Tretherras School student Martin is better known on the circuit and the 16-year-old has improved considerably under John Knowles' guidance in the past year. Indeed, twelve months ago he was eighth in the same event held in Truro.

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His victory in the inter boys' race was his fifth on the trot going back to early December and on this form he'll have a great chance of making the top six in the national championships.

"I just sat in on the first lap and waited to see what everyone else would do," said Martin. "No-one took on the pace so when we hit the small hill on the second lap I put in a big effort and straightaway opened a gap and from then on moved away."

The junior girls' success in the opening race of the event was the perfect start to the day. Truro School's Yvonne Chart finished an impressive fourth with schoolmate Francesca Waters sixth and the Newquay Tretherras School pair of Georgia Timson and Charlotte Cayton-Smith also making the top ten.

The scoring was completed by Truro High School's Harriet Lord and Wadebridge School's Molly Long.

There were sixth places for Liskeard School's Dan Nash and Treviglas College's Danny Old in the senior and junior boys' races respectively while Callington Community College's Danny Parnham was eighth in the minor boys' race.

Finally Newquay Tretherras School's Emma Morley just missed out on a medal in the minor girls' race finishing fourth with Bodin College's Lily England eighth. Fortunately neither girl went home empty-handed as with Alexandra Maskell (Truro School), Abby Cayton-Smith (Newquay Tretherras), Ella Buzza (Pool School) and Kitty Rolls (Truro School) in support the squad finished third team.

RESULTS

South West Schools' Cross Country Championships, RNAS Merryfield, Ilton, Somerset – senior boys: 1 Aaron Phelps (G) 22:16; 2 Adam Sloan (Do) 22:37; 3 Jack Partridge (Do) 22:51.

Team: 1 Gloucestershire 67; 2 Devon 73; 3 Avon 111.

6 CORNWALL 225pts: 6 Dan Nash 23:03; 35 Steven Sims 25:31; 36 Harry Preston 25:33; 57 Sam Harry 28:59.

Inter boys: 1 Hobie Martin (C) 19:41; 2 Luke Jacobs (A) 19:48; 3 Zac Tobias (A) 19:54.

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Teams: 1 Wiltshire 114; 2 Somerset 114; 3 Gloucestershire 127.

4 CORNWALL 145 pts 14 Callum Jones 20:50; 16 Tom Rawet 20:57; 25 Sam Heslop-George 21:17; 40 Andrew Worden 21:40; 49 Kieran Rowe 21:59; 59 James Craddock 23:02; 63 Dale Triggs 24:19.

Junior boys: 1 Oliver Fox (S) 12:17; 2 Andrew Smith (Do) 12:22; 3 Callum Hall (D) 12:28.

Teams: 1 Devon 73; 2 Gloucestershire 112; 3 Somerset 121.

7 CORNWALL: 6 Danny Old 12:33; 16 Sam Lane De Courtin 13:03; 33 Sam Adams 13:30; 39 Edward Holmes 13:36; 47 Luke Spry 13:48; 52 Ben Rogers 13:59; 53 Lewis Golden 14:00; 60 Olly Piper 14:21; 62 Ben Parnham 14:34.

Minor boys: 1 Harrison Yarnold (Do) 9:00; 2 Patrick Free (S) 9:01; 3 Will Stockley (W) 9:10.

Teams: 1 Somerset 69; 2 Dorset 76; 3 Avon 1216.

7 CORNWALL: 8 Sam Parham 9:35; 24 Max Caddy 9:57; 40 Will Bunning 10:24; 41 Isaac Solomon 10:24; 50 Ben Mitchell 10:31; 58 Dan Woodley 10:46; 59 Peter Holmes 11:09; 60 Harry Brewerton 11:14; 61 Dan Alford 11:16.

Senior girls: 1 Abigail Jones (Do) 13:19; 2 Olivia Sadler (A) 13:23; 3 Jess Harvey (D) 13:32.

Teams: 1 Avon 84; 2 Somerset 111; 3 Devon 113.

CORNWALL: 42 Caitlin Mulroy 17:11; 43 Charlotte Williamson 17:30.

Inter girls: 1 Isabel Steele (C) 13:18; 2 Loren Bleaken (W) 13:33; 3 Victoria Kenny (A) 13:37.

Teams: 1 Cornwall 84 (12 Olivia Connell 14:27; 13 Natasaha Ffrench-Constant 14:36; 16 Finlay Bray 14:44; 17 Zoe Fisher 14:46; 25 Amy Sweet 14:58; 28 Dulcie Atkinson 15:02; 45 Jessica Behennah 15:39; 54 Jose Gilbert 15:59; 60 Hollie Martin 16:16); 2 Devon 96; 3 Dorset 116.

Junior girls: 1 Isobel Glaisher (Do) 11:19; 2 Victoria Weir (D) 11:41; 3 Holly Brown (S) 11:44.

Teams: 1 Cornwall 54 (4 Yvonne Chart 11:50; 6 Francesca Waters 11:53; 7 Georgia Timson 11:56; 8 Charlotte Cayton-Smith 12:00; 11 Harriet Lord 12:09; 18 Molly Long 12:19; 31 Charlotte Emsden 12:31; 34 Annie Trotter 12:37; 53 Tessa Massilink 13:00; 64 Ashley Smith 13:31); 2 Devon 87; 3 Wiltshire 128.

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Minor girls: 1 Lucy Baldwin (S) 9:56; 2 Ellie Wallace (A) 10:05; 3 Ellie Leatherhead (A) 10:06.

Teams; 1 Avon 83; 2 Devon 89; 3 Cornwall 103 (4 Emma Morley 10:09; 8 Lily England 10:20; 11 Alexandra Maskell 10:25; 13 Abby Cayton-Smith 10:30; 30 Ella Buzza 10:57; 37 Kitty Rolls 11:06; 42 Flo Gregory 11:12; 45 YoYo Barnsley 11:15).