

Track & Field 2008



May Day marked the start of the 2008 competitive season for the Summer Fields Athletics Club. In a break with tradition, our 'friendly' triangular meeting now included Magdalen College School, who helped boost the standard of competition demonstrated by the Dragon and ourselves. In keeping with so many Bank Holidays, the day was overcast with intermittent showers. Indeed, the conditions were sufficiently bad for the event to be placed on hold until just 45 minutes before it was due to start, when a window in the weather enabled almost all events to be competed, with only High Jump falling foul of the weather. The Dragon Under 14 squad's physical size was more than matched by its ability, winning all events bar the Discus. I am sure that I am not alone in wondering just why we have so many small children at Summer Fields – sadly in athletics (particularly at Under 14 level) physical size is often more significant than talent or technique. This having been said, there were some pleasing results. **Guy Linzee Gordon** (Under 14) proved his worth in both the 100m and 200m, coming second in both. Joining the list of Under 14 Silvers was **Harry Fox**, who showed real promise in the 400m; **Ed Dehnert** in the Triple Jump; **Harry Luard** in both the Shot and Discus; and **James Pascall** (Under 13) in the 1500m. At Under 12 level Golds were gained by **Aabynn Cha** in the Hurdles; **Edward Macdonald-Buchanan** in the 200m and **William Coleridge** in the 800m. The meeting drew to a close with some exciting

relays, particularly at the Under 12 level, where our 'A' Team were just piped to the post by the Dragon, and were very closely followed by our 'B' Team.

The next fixture was our only opportunity to field a full team spanning all five age groups – the *Winchester House School Invitation Athletics Meeting*. In warm, though rather blustery conditions our squad of thirty-one performed better than any previous team in the ten years that we have been competing in this fixture. With a total of 11 schools competing, the boys should be justly proud of the medal count: 9 Golds, 6 Silvers and 5 Bronzes. Of particular note was **Sile Ogundeyin** (Under 10) who came 1st in both the 100m and 200m. In the Under 12's, **William Coleridge** won the Long Jump and **Freddie Spickernell** won both the Javelin and Shot. At Under 13 level, **Bami Ogundeyin** came 2nd in the 100m and 1st in the 200m and **Robert Peacock** came 1st in the Shot with a New Under 13 Record of 8.45m. **Ed Dehnert** came 1st in the Under 14 Triple Jump as did **Harry Fox** in the 400m.



Following the Winchester House Invitation meeting, **Guy Linzee Gordon** was appointed Captain of Athletics.

As Common Entrance drew to a close on Thursday 5th June, it made way for the annual *Radley College Athletics Club Meeting*. As with previous years, in addition to a competent Under 14 team, a small number



of junior athletes also competed, giving them a much needed run prior to the Regional Championships. The Radley fixture always provides tough competition, and this year a record nine schools were competing, including the Radley Under 15's. As always, the Radley team won, with the Summer Fields squad coming a comfortable 2nd. There were some commendable individual performances with many PB's being achieved. The team medal count was 2 Silvers and 5 Bronzes, including the 4x100m Relay. **Jasper Henson (OS)** provided strong opposition while competing for Radley, by gaining Silver medals in the 100m and 200m and a Gold the High Jump – pushing **Jonty Browne** into Silver medal position on count-back.

With 'Sports Day' looming, by Wednesday 11th June, the School Office had handed on to me a record number of complaints about the team selections. A particularly impressive feat since at that stage the League Teams were not even finalised; indeed the lists were not published until noon the following day. I managed not to let these memos worry me too much and my office shredder seemed even less concerned by them!

The format for the *League Athletics Meeting* is now well practised, with the organisation being made that bit simpler this year as a result of there being no Summer Ball. The addition of out-sourced catering, in the form of *Costa Coffee* and *M&S 'Food to Order'* seemed to be well received, although there was much discussion about the need for *Diageo* to supply a Pimms tent! There were some fantastic individual performances during the competition, most noteworthy being **Sile Ogundeyin**

(Under 10) who gained gold in all three of his events and **Benedict Lowe** who set a New Under 11 1500m Record of 5'23.32 (some 13s faster than the previous record set in 2001). Additionally, the following all gained two gold medals: **Guy Linzee Gordon** and **Gus Kelly** (Under 14); **Bami Ogundeyin**, **Robert Peacock**, **George Scott** and **Arthur Studholm** (Under 13); **William Coleridge**, **Frank Faber**, **Tom Nevile** and **George Peake** (Under 12) and **Leo Burrough** (Under 11).

The trackside Prize Giving provided an opportunity for Athletics Colours to be awarded. As a result of continuous hard work, dedication and commitment to athletics over a number of years, **Guy Linzee-Gordon**, **Gus Kelly** and **Charles Courtenay** were re-awarded their colours. The following also gained their colours for the first time: **Jonty Browne**, **Edward Coleridge**, **Ed Dehnert**, **Harry Fox**, **Harry Luard**, **Nugo Norbury**, **Bami Ogundeyin**, **James Pascal**, **Robert Peacock** and **William Watson**.

Just five days later it was time for the *Mercia Area Athletics Championships*. A talented squad of 20 competed at the Iffley Road stadium in ideal conditions. With his High Jump competition being interrupted by the 100m heats, **Jonty Browne** (Under 14) just missed the gold medal place but still qualified to compete at the National Championships. **James Pascall** (Under 13) ran a superb 1500m, winning comfortably and securing his place at the Nationals. He was joined by **George Peake** (Under 12) who won the 200m with little difficulty. It was a gruelling day for **Bami Ogundeyin** (Under 13) who produced the fastest times in the heats for both the

100m and 200m. He then went on to win the finals of each event, so joining the other three in a place at the Nationals. It was a long day of competition for many of the boys, but their individual efforts and support for each other helped make it a real pleasure.

On the final Monday of term, Mrs Sparrow, Mr Walker and myself accompany **Jonty Browne**, **Bami Ogundeyin**, **James Pascall** and **George Peake** to the Alexander Stadium in Birmingham for the *National Prep Schools Athletics Championships*. The quality of competition was, as always, phenomenally high, but all four boys deserve much praise for qualifying to compete the meeting. Once again **Bami** had a punishing day with heats and finals to contend with for both the 100m and 200m. He managed to come 5th and 4th respectively in the finals, with the medal places for each event being filled by the same three boys - all much nearer my size than his!



The End of Term Prize Giving saw **George Peake** win the Junior Victor Ludorum and the Senior Victor Ludorum went jointly to **Gus Kelly** and **Guy Linzee Gordon** (With Guy also receiving the Summer Fields Athletic Standards Trophy in recognition of being the Junior Victor Ludorum in 2006; the Under 13 Best Athlete in 2007 and the Senior Victor Ludorum in 2008). Particular congratulations must also go to the gold medal Best Athletes: **Sile Ogundeyin** (U10); **Benedict Lowe** (U11); and **Bami Ogundeyin** (U13).

Another season has flown by, with many talented athletes moving on to their Public Schools. While we

may not have the largest boys, they more than make up for their lack of size by their commitment and enthusiasm. They are also fortunate enough to be supported by a very capable team of coaches, with JASP leading the way on the track.

DCP