

### **South West Junior Squad Report 2014.**

As reported last year the squad is now dominated by two clubs Bristol and Devon, which is a reflection of the amount of time and effort both these clubs are expending on junior orienteering.

For the first time for fifteen years, I think, the 2013 Junior Inter Regional Championship was hosted in the South West. Wimborne and Wessex combined forces to organise the event at Gore Heath and Hampton Ridge and Chris Branford and his team must be thanked for this. The team performed very well and finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall, the best result for the South West since the competition was last held in our region. The challenge now is to replicate this performance in the Lake District later this month.

The past year has seen three days during the October half term training on Dartmoor, two days at Christmas racing in Wales and training on the Forest of Dean (on the first wet day of the winter!) and again training on Dartmoor for three days during the February half term after racing for our clubs at the 2014 CompassSport qualifier, all in preparation for JK2014 in South Wales.

One day was spent on the track at Bath early in September 2013 but was poorly attended by the squad. The other non-orienteering event that the squad attended was the final South West Coast Path relay held at the end of June 2014. One team, consisting of members of most south west clubs, ran the whole of the coast path with the squad enjoying a sunny day out on the south coast. Thanks to Gavin Clegg for organising this event from which the entry fees of runners are donated to the squad.

The coaches attached to the squad have recently been discussing the possibility of an annual tour to Scandinavia for those completing Year 11 and Year 13 at school. There is a chance that this will run for the first time in the summer of 2015.

Adam Potter, Cecelie Andersen, Grey Grierson and Zac Hudd represented England at the 2013 Ward Junior Home International held in Wales at the end of September 2013 and Cecelie Andersen, Chloe Potter, Lucy Tonge and Zac Hudd represented England at the 2014 Ward Junior Home International at the end of August 2014 in Scotland.

Eleven squad members represented the squad at the annual tours run by the Junior Regional Orienteering Squads (JROS) and British Orienteering this summer. This is by far the highest number attending from the south west squad in recent years. Congratulations to you all.

Fundraising by the Bristol juniors has been an important source of funds for the squad this year. Huge thanks to all involved in the cake selling and resale of O kit at south west orienteering events. It really makes a huge difference.

Finally thanks to Ben Chesters, Pete Maliphant, Dave Hanstock, Tess Stone, Jackie Hallett, Tim Haysom, Jenn Hudd, Susanne Andersen and Peter Grierson in assisting with the running of the squad over the last year. Without you all there wouldn't be a squad.

Jeff Butt  
September 2014

