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JERSEY Spartan AC runners gained an individual and a team medal at the Hampshire Cross-County Championships at Fairthorne Manor, near Botley, on Saturday.

Led by Sean Adkin with an individual bronze, the under-15 boys team of Adkin, Isaac Dodds, Thomas Atkinson and Jem Gurner finished five points behind Aldershot Farnham District to pocket team silver.

In the senior men's and veterans' race, middle-distance runner Elliott Dorey placed fourth helping Jersey into fourth position – one slot behind Channel Islands rivals Guernsey.

Dorey's performance is believed to be the best by a Jersey senior runner for over three decades [since Bill Tweed and Chris Flower back in the late 80s] and it has earned him a place in Hampshire's team for the forthcoming Inter-County Championships.

Guernsey's Lee Merrien, who led for the first third of the race, was runner-up by 19 seconds to TeamSpy's Matt Sharp, who finished in 39 min 40 sec. Dorey's time was 41.32.

The first person to win the JEP's new Sports Personality of the Month Award, last September, Dorey said: 'I'm very happy, I knew I could be in or around that sort of placing and on reflection I would have liked third.'

'The first two had quite a big gap, so I wasn't going to get anywhere near them and third place was only 12 seconds ahead of me in the end.'

'It would have been nice to have won a medal but it was a course that did not suit me that well; it was quite muddy in certain areas and being more of a road-runner it got away from me a bit there.'

Dorey (23) ran with the third-placed runner for the vast majority of the 11,750-metre race, before Southampton's Matthew Revier pulled away from him with half a lap remaining.

Dorey said: 'I struggled when he pulled away – he was quite strong. Being a road-runner I struggle a little on the muddy sections, so I look to pick up again on the drier ground.'

'It was a tough course and several of the other Jersey lads got a bit of a shock because they are



■ Elliott Dorey, in blue, placed fourth on Saturday – helping Jersey Spartan AC finish fourth in the team standings Picture: PAUL HAMMOND

Hampshire Championships: Spartans claim two medals

■ Cross-country

by Andy Bradshaw

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not used to running in conditions like that [mud].

'It's nice to get into the senior [county] team for the first time and I look forward to that.'

'It's my best result as a senior [fourth], I had a fourth at under-15 level and I won the U13 race when I was 12.'

'The team ran well, however it was disappointing to finish behind Guernsey because we thought we had a good chance of beating them this time.'

'A lot of our seniors were competing [at the Championship] for the first time and I'm sure they will have gained from the experience and are already looking ahead to next year.'

'It really was a good [team] effort and it shows that we can compete with Guernsey again, as they've dominated for a good number of years now.'

Dorey's father Chris, a middle-distance coach who accompanied the Spartan party, said: 'The juniors turned in some really good performances, Sean [Adkin] finished just four seconds behind the silver position and he was backed up well by Isaac Dodds, Thomas Atkinson and Jem Gurner to win team silver.'

'Casper Whitewood had an impressive run in the U13 boys' race to place fourth and he was

really unlucky as he was just pipped for silver with 50 metres to go. Casper was close to the front throughout and it was a really good first Hampshire County Championship run for him.'

'He is a year young in the age group and he has great potential. He was astute as well, he was totally aware of where he was in the race and in control.'

'The only reason he missed out was because he is a year young, he was just not strong enough physically on the day.'

'The girls were impressive too; Yasmin Lookess had her best ever result to win a place in the county team after finishing sixth in the U20s' race.'

'Elizabeth Atkinson [U13] and Lily Scott [U15] are both a year young in their groups and they too turned in really gutsy performances to place eighth and 11th respectively.'

Individual results

Men's seniors and veterans: 4th Elliott Dorey 41.32; 24, Bruno Francisco 44.34; 26, James Faudemer 44.42; 27, Ryan Poingdestre 44.49; 30, Phil Taylor 44.51; 36, Tom Perchard 45.54; 59, Joshua Brien 48.06; 75, Paul Duxbury (8th O40) 49.08; 80, Alex Rafa 49.50; 93, Ger Mooney (13th O40) 50.59; 105, Dan Garrido 51.53; 111, Gary Le Couilliar 52.18.

U13 girls (3,000m): 8, Elizabeth Atkinson 14.06.

U15 girls (4,300m): 11, Lily Scott 18.25; 36, Julia Bochenska 23.58.

U20 women (6,200m): 6, Yasmin Lookess 27.30.

Senior and veteran women (8,400m): 58, Rosie Adamson 42.36; 80, Terri O'Donoghue (15th O40) 47.40; 83, Jackie Davis (7th O35) 48.02.

U13 boys (3,300m): 4, Casper White-



■ Elizabeth Atkinson finished eighth in the under-13 girls race Picture: PAUL HAMMOND (20319546)

wood (12.46); 12, Razvan Roman 13.21; 24, Sol Sylvester 13.40.

U15 boys (4,300m): 3, Sean Adkin (15.49); 6, Isaac Dodds 16.11; 8, Thomas At-

kinson 16.18; 25, Jem Gurner 17.47; 37, Harvey Butler 20.26.

U17 men (6,100m): 18, William Atkinson 24.15.



■ Yasmin Lookess achieved her best ever result at a County Championships Picture: PAUL HAMMOND

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