



## City Of Plymouth A.S.A

### Report of City of Plymouth ASA Gala 2014.

#### Day 1

To say that the day was dominated by unforeseen technical challenges totally beyond our control and heroically managed by the control room team would be an understatement. It would be silly not to mention it here but the conversation as to how we deal with that is not for this report.

After a sedate first event of 400m free for the boys, the racing gathered pace culminating in a blistering Mens backstroke final seeing Christopher Lee (PL) setting a new Championship record by going under the minute. Hot on his heels, team mate Rebecca Gribble also set a new Championship record in the Ladies freestyle.

They received their awards from Cities Chairman Mr Diego Walker and the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Plymouth, Councillor Michael and Mrs Rosemary Fox. They had an informative morning watching the racing from the balcony where they were entertained by Fay Jones. Their knowledge of producing young competitive swimmers will now be encyclopaedic and a big thank you to Fay for representing the Cities in style.

After a welcome break for the poolside officials, the second session saw Mr Chris Elliott, President of the ASA south West Region, assisted by Mr Diego Walker present two more PL swimmers with well-deserved Championship Trophies. They were Molina Smalley for the Ladies IM and Joe Tibbetts in the Mens Fly who also set a new Championship record.

The technical gremlins caused the Championship Presentations to be delayed unacceptably and I was impressed by the patience and good grace of the swimmers who were affected.

Parent volunteers who played starring roles were Bee Wilkins (PL), selling hats and bottles on the balcony for us and Sarah Robinson (PL) who kept us all hydrated with cheerful efficiency and was a welcome addition to the control room team.

Gary McCoy from Devonport Royal provided superb vocals on the announcers table, his contribution was immense. Well done, clear the diary for next year Gary.

#### Day 2

There had been some feverish activity overnight at the Life Centre with the tech, things were less problematic for the control room team who for reasons that I can't explain, came back.

Neil Glasson, Richard Davies, Andy and Rachel Hutchinson (PL), you are some kind of heroes or need to get out more – whichever it is we are all so very grateful to you and salute your contribution.

Mark Phillipson (PL) took up the microphone with aplomb and we were off with two distance events to get us started.



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We were again fortunate to have Chris Elliot on hand to present our Championship finalists, PL swimmers Rob Fannon (Breaststroke) and Jazz Harbour (Fly) with their awards. Two more Championship best times set in exciting races, well done to them.

The timekeepers went off for a well- deserved rest before the second session when the records tumbled again. In the finals we saw Christopher Lee take the IM Championship and Emma Noyce from Kingsbridge Kingfishers break the PL domination of the Champions podium, each setting new records on the way.

We were very lucky to have June Porter and her daughters help us by taking photos of the presentations as well as some great action shots for the archive. They did a great job, our thanks to them.

### Day 3

Our relay events started the final day of the Championship with yet more cracking swims and sportsmanlike rivalry. The Two PL teams set new records and carried the historic trophies off with well- earned pride. It was unfortunate we didn't get the correct 3<sup>rd</sup> placed team onto the podium on the day. That conversation will be for the Management team 'going forward.'

The gruelling 1500/800m events were next up with 5 new age group records set and both events having previous records smashed. Molina Smalley took the 800m down by 6 seconds and Christopher Lee went comfortably under 17 minutes for the 1500m. Significant efforts by two superb PL athletes.

The final Championships of this year were taken by Christopher Lee (PL) in the Freestyle and Emily Lawrence from Kingsbridge Kingfishers in the Breaststroke with Chairman Diego Walker doing the honours with the presentations.

Our new awards, generously donated by Councillor Pengelly for the top performing girl and boy overall were won by Nathan Linden and Molina Smalley whom we hope will join us at the Bagcat event to celebrate their achievement.

We are very grateful to the officials poolside who give of their free time with generosity and good heart. We are especially grateful to Mel Jeynes who gets them all around the poolside for us and who is without doubt a great role model and team player.