

ESSEX MASTERS 2007

THE OFFICIAL REPORT

Congratulations to all those who competed at this years Essex Masters. Particular praise must go to our Top Male/Female athletes. In the women's section, Hannah Ueckermann from Witham Dolphins won the coveted first place from Frances Alvarez. Hannah competed in the 40/44 year age group and won with 35 points. Frances (Romford Town) was second and Jill Complin (Brentwood) third. Sally Bettinson from Diss Otters, was the best placed guest swimmer (Non Essex). Sally ended the day with 30 points.

In the Men's events David Blandy was again a joint winner for the Top Overall men's prize with Richard Gillman (Redbridge BM). Blandy from Thurrock SC previously won this event sharing top prize with Nick Hunt of Chelmsford in 2005. Nick, last years overall champion was a very close second behind the two joint winners on 46 points. Blandy and Gillman amassed 47 points, so it was especially close. Newcomer to the Masters event was Thurrock's Ben Millington Jones swimming in the 25/29 year age group. MJ was sensational in the 100m IM event winning the event in a new East Regional record time of 1:02.89. In some very fast races over the weekend, ex International swimmers Ivan Myall (Chelmsford), Martin Fenner and Dawn Palmer (former double European Masters Champion) both the latter representing Romford, had some strong swims, least not Fenner's 31.92 in the 50m Backstroke. Former World Champion Lara Clarke (Romford) was competing for the first time since the birth of her Daughter but looked in fine fettle during the competition and is still winning county titles. Stan Clarke went head to head with Alan Canham in a torrid 50m Breaststroke for the 65/69 age group. Stanley (Romford) and former Olympian edged out East Regional record holder Canham (Harlow) in a new record time of 39.86, one of the highlights of the day.

Another highlight came in the 50m sprint Freestyle events for men and women. In the past few years Essex have donated winner's trophies for the 18-24 age group. This year Adrian Fenner (Waltham Forest) was in sparkling form winning the Men's 18-24 years event in a time of 23.97 over Russell White of Chelmsford (25.96). In the women's event, the sprint queen came from Thurrock SC, with former Essex age group Top Girl Daniella Nice winning her trophy in a time of 30.66 from Julia Braybrooke of Killerwhales. Fenner went on to win the 50 Fly title in a very fast 26.27, pipping Ben Millington Jones on 27.69 in a pulsating final heat. Equally the final heat of the women's 50m Fly saw a scintillating finish between Louise Parsons of Rochford (32.60), who saw off close age group rival Shelly Wakeling from Braintree (32.70).

In the age group categories, congratulations go to the following winners Men's; (ESSEX ONLY) Len Cochrane, Romford (80/OV), Paul Alvarez and Janos Leigh, both Romford, joint winners' 70/74 age group. Michael Giles Brentwood 65/69. Ivan Myall, Chelmsford 60/64, Jeff Hillier Waltham Forest 55/59, Nick Hunt, Chelmsford 50/54, Martin Fenner 45/49, Dave Blandy (Thurrock) 40/44, with Richard Gillman Redbridge BM joint top winners. Paul Norris Leyton 35/39, Paul Coster, Thurrock 30/34, Ben Millington Jones 25/29 and Russell White Chelmsford 18/24.

The age group winners in the girls categories. Our group winners are; (ESSEX ONLY) Daphne Gilbert Brentwood 80/OV, Joy Cochrane Romford 70/74, Jill Complin Brentwood 65/69, Diana Hunt Colchester 55/59, Nicola Fletcher Rochford 45/49, Hannah Ueckermann Witham 40/44, Jenny Swallow Halstead 35/39, Nichol Albertyn Harlow 30/34, Elizabeth McKinnon Bo Southend 25/29 and finally Julia Braybrooke Killerwhales 18/24.

Many Eastern records were broken during the day, too numerous to mention. All those wishing to claim record, must do so by visiting eastswimming.org, click on to the MASTERS section and go to records. A claim form can be completed without evidence of the cards as I have sent the results to David Robinson at East independently.

And finally.

Top Club were once again Romford on 427 points, with the overall points **not** including the X Age group. Romford headed Rochford in second place on 393 points and Thurrock in third place 247 points.

Top men's club were Romford on 275 points, who edged out Rochford on 256 points and Thurrock close again on 208 points. Less than 20 points separating the top two in the most competitive title race in years.

In the Women's top team event, Romford were crowned champions with 152 points over Rochford in second place just 15 points off the top with 137 points. Colchester were third on 79 points.

There were 21 teams competing and the level of competition made for a pulsating days entertainment from all.

A special word for the Essex Relay events, consisting of over 40 marvellous team races on the day. Rochford led the way with 10 success' Romford and Colchester winning the remaining events between them. Romford with 4 event wins, Colchester with two.

Congratulations go then to all our medallists, teams, officials, helpers and competitors. A special thanks to Janice King and Pete Eddy of Essex County who worked their magic for the results service and PC and a special mention for their wedding day on April 28th! Phil Nice of Thurrock Swimming club for the efficient running of the Electronic timing and so much more on the day. The boys at Thurrock swimming club Masters who whilst not competing helped the smooth running on the day doing the 'chores'. Alex Morgan Thurrock's chief coach who came along to keep the officials well oiled with drinks, during the first session! And to Neil McGuire for all his invaluable help on the day...not forgetting his wife and lady president Kay McGuire who not only officiated but handed out the winners trophies at the end. I would like to also thank our medal lady Margaret Evans who once again gave up her time to keep a track on regional records, handing out advice and ensuring the medals were presented. Two other volunteers helped on the day to ensure our excellent officials under Fred Gale, Essex County and president in waiting, were fed during the interval. Thanks then go to Kerry 'Coster' and Lindy 'Blandy' for all their help...PLUS a little mention to Rebecca Hayes, who came along to help dad. The little Essex swim star and county record holder in the 400 Freestyle at 10 years was delighted to witness her dad swim 19 lengths instead of 16! I assure all those who know me that I will not be attempting that again too soon. Thanks also for all those who reminded me again during the 100 Breaststroke that I still had three lengths to go after touching on the first length! Cheers Mr Edgell, amongst others!!

Best regards to all with thanks for all your continued support
Paul Hayes
Essex County ASA Masters Secretary