

## **CORNWALL & WEST DEVON LEAGUE WINNERS**

1994	Dinnaton
1995	Tavistock
1996	Plymouth Leander
1997	Plymouth Leander
1998	Plymouth Leander
1999	Truro City
2000	Truro City
2001	Bodmin
2002	Port of Plymouth
2003	Dinnaton
2004	Plymouth Leander
2005	Plymouth Leander
2006	Plymouth Leander
2007	Plymouth Leander
2008	Plymouth Leander
2009	Bodmin Dragons
2010	Truro City

## **CORNWALL & WEST DEVON LEAGUE HISTORY**

### **The inaugural meetings and preliminary decisions**

Following an informal discussion between several clubs in Cornwall and Devon it was agreed to meet to form a League to accommodate clubs who either were not in the Speedo League or whose swimmers were not selected for Speedo League teams but who would enjoy a competition of their own.

A meeting was held at the home of Lorna Patterson in St.Austell on Sunday November 14th 1993 to discuss setting up the Cornwall and West Devon League.

Present at that meeting were: E. Walker , D. Edgson (Dinnaton), C. Jepson (Newquay), E. Scott (Truro), J. Saulter ( Penzance), G. Hooper, H. Richards (St. Austell), M. Gardiner (Launceston), D. Potham (Devonport Royals), B. Burnard (Carn Brea), R. Swift, C. Tremellen (Plymouth Leander).

It was decided against setting any limits on competitors at this stage but it was expected that in the spirit of the competition those swimming in individual events of Division 1 of Speedo League would not take part in the competition.

Age groups were to be 11yr+U, 13yr+U, 15yr+U, and Open.

All nine clubs present expressed a wish to join plus Tavistock, Caradon, Okehampton and Helston.

The League programme format was to be based on Speedo League in principle.

Officers elected were: Chairman- Mr. J. Saulter (Penzance)

Secretary – Mrs C. Tremellen (Plymouth Leander)

Treasurer- Mr. E. Scott (Truro)

Clubs to pay £10.00 per annum.

As Saturdays were a problem for all Clubs it was decided to hold galas on a Sunday, preferably late afternoon or early evening.

There would be three rounds to be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in April, May and June each year.

1994 dates were in fact April 17<sup>th</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup> and July 3<sup>rd</sup> (for one year only due to Devon County Centenary Inter County Gala in June).

Mr. B. Burnard offered to investigate the possibility of getting a trophy donated.

Suitable venues were discussed. Only Plymouth and Carn Brea able to host a six team gala.

It was decided to hold galas for four teams to spread hosting around the area.

Rules of the League were formulated and circulated.

The Inaugural Annual General meeting was held on December 5<sup>th</sup> 1993.

### **The first competition year in 1994**

The first gala was drawn for Round One.

Gala 1- Dinnaton, Truro City, Caradon and St. Austell at St. Austell

Gala 2- Plymouth Leander, Helston, Penzance and Tavistock at Marjons.

Gala 3- Carn Brea, Newquay, Team 11 and Team 12. At Newquay.

(If no teams 11 and 12 , Tavistock to compete in Gala 3, three teams in Galas 1 and 2 )

The first League winners were Dinnaton who were awarded the JOLLY's MINERAL WATER trophy.

### **Years 1995 and onwards**

The League has continued to flourish since these early days with changes as Clubs have joined and left.

The cost of membership has remained the same as apart from awards being given to all participating teams each year expenses are small. This is because from the beginning it was agreed that Host clubs would pay for pool hire but would retain any Programme and Raffle monies. The Pool costs would be offset against the cost of travel.

One main change has been the galas taking place on Saturdays. This is because late afternoon/early evening bookings on Sunday's were becoming more and more difficult. Even with only a 2-hour Coach journey home this meant teams were arriving back quite late and with School and College the next morning there were concerns.

### **The following teams have taken part over the years**

Teams still in the League or that taken part are: Tavistock, Newquay, Truro, Penzance, Brixham, Dinnaton, Carn Brea, Devonport Royals, Plymouth Leander, Caradon, Port of Plymouth, Bodmin, Wadebridge, Kingsbridge, Torrbridgeside, Kelly College.

Such has been the popularity of the League that in 2008 membership was expanded to sixteen Clubs.

### **Rules**

Rules too have evolved over the years always for the betterment of the Competition and all the swimmers taking part.

Jim Saulter, Chairman 1993 to 2010.