**Cornwall Schools County Indoor Rowing Championships 2010**

A total of 172 pupils from 10 different secondary schools competed in the Cornwall County Indoor Rowing Championships on January 27th, held at Newquay Tretherras. 10 machines were linked and racing was projected on a big screen so the large crowd could cheer on their school.

The two Newquay schools took the top three honours in the year 7 girls 2 minute race with Whitmore and Pender from Tretherras finishing first and second, and Tamblin of Treviglas in third. Bowers of Mullion School and Searle of Richard Lander shared first place in the boys equivalent, scoring a massive 99% of the gold medal target with 507 metres. Randall of Mounts Bay shared third place with Shakespeare of Fowey School.

Looe Gig Club rower and Bodmin college student Emily Kneale repeated her success in the partnership event winning the year 8 girls race with 101% of gold medal target. Emily Todd, from Saltash School, who are a new school to indoor rowing came in second, and Pender-Carter of Mounts Bay finished third. Pellow took Penryn’s first honour winning the year 8 boys 3 minute race, with Cully of Tretherras second, and Wordon of Mullion third.

The year 9 girls 4 minute race saw another high score of 99% performance, this time from Jessica Newson of Poltair school, Tretherras pupil Richardson came in second, with Jess Powell of Penrice finishing third. The year nine boys race saw a fairly close finish with Looe gig rower and school pupil Adam Haler finishing in first place, 8 metres ahead of Molloy of Richard Lander. Another gig rower, this time for Cadgwith gig club – Mullion school pupil Tommy Phillips rowed 1076 metres to come in third.

The year ten girls race saw Fowey community school take first and second place with talented gig rower Fiona Norman scoring 99.8%, a mere 2 metres from the gold medal target to win the 5 minute sprint. Close friend Elen Thomas finished 54 metres behind in second. Looe gig rower Lucy Rawe finished in third place with saltash pupils coming in fourth and fifth. Looe school won their second event of the day, showing the depth of talent in the school, with gig rower Luke Chapman pulling 96% to win the year 10 boys race. Fellow gig rower and team mate Zach Thomas came in just behind in second. Leech of Tretherras finished in third.

The year 11 event saw both winners score over 100%, a mean feat at this age as the target really is high. Bonar of Bolitho score 101% to win the girls event with school mate Grant-Jones finishing second and Green of Richard Lander third. Harry Preston, part of the current under 16 gig rowing county championship winning crew but in a good performance in the boys race to win with 101%, beating Gribble from Mounts Bay into second. Williams of Richard Lander came in third.

Throughout the day, volunteers ran a relay event requiring a team of 5 to row 1000 metres. Mounts bay came out on top of the boys event, with Tretherras in second, and Saltash in third. Fowey girls proved their talent, winning the female relay, with Tretherras again runners up, and Looe in third.

The day ran smoothly, with thanks to British Rowing staff, competition managers and club volunteers. The next indoor rowing event is on 3rd of March, this time a regional competition, held at Marjons in Plymouth.

Rhiannon Halliday

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