

KKSC NEWS

Swim Fast, Swim Happy!

Many thanks to our raffle sponsors...



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Twenty-Five Years!

Celebration in Stokenham a Great Success

Current club members mixed with the old at The Taphouse at Stokeley Farm on the 9th September as KKSC celebrated their 25th anniversary since forming in 1998.

On a very warm evening, it was one of the club's first ever county qualifiers over twenty years ago who claimed the top prize in the raffle. William Trout was the recipient of a thirty minute sightseeing flight around the South Hams, in a raffle which raised over £400.

Many other generously donated prizes were offered by local businesses in the community, a list of whom you can view to the left. Read the following pages to learn more about what's been going on at your swimming club!





Devon County Championships 2024

One of the biggest events of the year for Kingfishers are the Counties, which take place in January and February next year.

However this is not an event for just anybody. For entry into the Counties, you must be able to achieve a **qualifying time**.

Furthermore, you can't just achieve a qualifying time anywhere! You need to achieve the time at an official event, such as the Exeter Sprint Meet, or **December's Plymouth Leander Christmas Open**.

Many of our Gold and Silver Squad swimmers want to test themselves against the best. Are you one of the fastest in Devon? Can you reach a medal final out of everybody your age living in Plymouth, Exeter, and everywhere above, below, or in between?

Have a look at our calendar on the following pages and save some dates for the season ahead, to allow your child to test themselves in the best competitions.

Blast from the Past:

A History of Hats

As well as excellent pizza, drinks, music and conversation, it was notable that many current and past swimmers had forgotten the club's original colours during the 25th anniversary quiz.

For despite the fact a kingfisher will flash past your eyes in nature in a flurry of bright blue and orange, the original swim hats for the club's first seven years of swimming were in fact green!



Teaming up for an open water swim at Blackpool Sands in July 2000, here we see six green hats on display. There were no images on the hat like we see today. The letters spelling Kingsbridge Kingfishers were written in blue capital letters on both sides of the cap, one word on top of the other.

It wasn't until we were competing in the old Speedo League that an opposing team wearing bright orange caught the attention of coaches and parents on the committee. It was at this point in the mid 2000s that the switch was made to the colours we see today.

Orange and blue has made sense ever since, with only a very select few remembering the early days of green hats and white shirts.

Exeter Sprint Meet: Jack Strikes Back

Jack wins gold to deny Ethan, while Emilia and Oliver D secure county times



Twelve swimmers took to the pool at Plymouth Life Centre on Sunday 24th September at the annual season starting event hosted by Exeter City Swimming Club. Medals are always hard to come by in such a large field, with some age groups containing almost thirty swimmers! To come top of the pile requires talent and dedication.

Step forward Jack Sagar, who kicked off his season with Kingfishers' only gold medal in the event in the 50m breaststroke. Ethan Clack, who beat Jack in breaststroke for the first time in the summer, finished 3rd to win bronze. Aaron Lansdale came home with the most medals on the day, with 2 silver and 2 bronze in his pocket.

Chloe Morris had to battle hard for her medals, securing 1 silver and 2 bronzes. Just missing out on a medal with two 4th placed finishes was debutant Emilia McKinlay, an exceptional effort that was rewarded with county qualification times in 50m backstroke and 50m freestyle. Oliver Douglas also swam a county time in the 50m butterfly, and picked up a bronze medal in the 50m backstroke.

There were PBs in at least one event from every swimmer, in a squad that also included Faye Morris, Oliver McKinlay, Danny Clack, Fabiano Noto, Harry Sagar and last but not least Oslo Bastin, who swam a rapid 50m freestyle in only 29.11 seconds, securing PBs of more than 1 second in all 50m events!

Overall Club Medals: 1 Gold, 4 Silver, 7 Bronze

Top Points Scorer: Chloe (74)

City of Plymouth Championships

KKSC youngsters to swim their first ever relay!

The City of Plymouth's begin this coming Saturday 30th September, with further sessions on Sunday 1st October and Sunday 15th October. Club Captains Jess and Aaron will be given the chance to lead the team on Saturday, while Conor will coach both Sundays.

Look out for news of how we get on in next month's newsletter!

Amongst the highlights of this meet will be our entry into three relay events. For our younger swimmers, who've never competed in a relay event before, this will add some extra excitement! We also can't wait to see Bert Rogers in action, making his debut on Saturday in his favoured backstroke events, as well as the 50m breaststroke.



Almost £2500 raised for new lane ropes!

New ropes set to improve training and competitions at Quayside



Throughout the month of August, a group of former Kingfishers and coaches got back into the pool to help raise funds for new wave reducing lane ropes.

The initial aim was to team up to swim the distance between Kingsbridge and Jersey across the Channel, however by the 31st of August a growing team of determined Kingfishers managed to double that distance, completing a total of 224 miles of swimming.

The distance was completed by former swimmers across the UK, with one former member, Darcie Rhoden, adding her distance from her home in France. Former head coach Sharon Bellamy praised the fundraiser, not only for the money raised, but for bringing old faces back together.

A special thanks go to those who donated three-figure sums to club. This includes **Martin Pears Engineering Ltd** and **Lansdale Building Ltd**, as well as **Peter Betteridge Beds** and **Gob2b Integrated eCommerce**.



Lane Ropes: Skydive raises yet more funds!

Sam Stewart jumps out of a plane

A massive thank you must also go to **Sam Stewart** who raised over £300 on his own in a fairly unexpected way! Next time you see him, make sure you ask him if it was worth his while...



Season Calendar: Save the dates!

| Competition | Dates | Venue | Notes |
|---|--|----------------------|---|
| City of Plymouth Champs | 30 Sep, 1 Oct, 15 Oct | Plymouth Life Centre | Entries Closed |
| Swimarathon | Friday 13 October | QUAYSIDE | 5 to 6pm Please Come! |
| NCD & Newquay Open | 11 Nov, 12 Nov | Bodmin | |
| KKSC Club Championships | 16 Nov, 21 Nov, 23 Nov, 24 Nov, 25 Nov | QUAYSIDE | Compulsory for all club swimmers, bronze, silver and gold |
| Long Distance Club Champs 800/1500 Free | TBC Nov/Dec | Dartmouth | Points available for our club championships |
| Plymouth Xmas Splash | 10 Dec, 16 Dec, 17 Dec | Plymouth Life Centre | Last chance qualifier for County Champs |
| County Championships | TBC January & Feb | Plymouth Life Centre | Qualification required |
| Two Counties Meet | 16 March, 17 March | Plymouth Life Centre | Big event for the club! Last chance qualifier for Regional Champs |

For any queries regarding competitive swimming, please talk to Karen or Conor, who can help your child to decide which events to enter.

To enter competitions, your child should be in silver squad, or be invited to compete by a coach in bronze squad. All entries are ultimately submitted to Karen.

Furthermore, the club hopes to be able to arrange **at least one team gala this season**. In past years this used to happen more frequently. Fingers crossed we will be able to arrange something in the spring months of 2024!

Swimarathon: Friday 13th October

5 to 6pm: As many swimmers as possible please!

1 hour to swim as many lengths as possible. Who's up for the challenge? Sarah Lansdale has been busy handing out sponsorship forms. These can be returned in person (to any club coach) or to Sarah by email.

This is open to all swimmers in bronze, silver and gold. It's a great opportunity for swimming as part of a team, and to swim for a good cause!

Save the Date: Club Championships

This is a compulsory event for all of our swimmers. For many, it is the friendliest possible way to be introduced to racing!

Each year since 1998, the club have been awarding trophies to age group champions who score the most points across all of the events available. The more points you win, the more likely it is you will be crowned age group champion.



How do you win points? The more events you swim, the more points you can win.

When are the events? Thursday 16th November (6-8pm), Tuesday 21st November (6-8pm), Thursday 23rd November (6-8pm), Friday 24th November (6-8pm), Saturday 25th November (4-8pm)

Can I enter any event on any day, even if I don't normally swim that day? YES! Even better, it only costs £5 to swim every event on the calendar.

What are the events? 50m in every stroke, 100m in every stroke, 200m in every stroke, 400m freestyle, 100 and 200 individual medley, as well as an 800 and 1500 freestyle hosted by Dartmouth Swimming Club.

Will we be swimming with Dartmouth again? Yes, much like last season, their swimmers will be invited to join our competition, however only KKSC swimmers win points for our own trophies. Dartmouth swimmers are swimming for their own trophies!

If I swim a county time, does it mean I've qualified? Unfortunately not, you'll need to enter the Plymouth Christmas Splash event to qualify for the counties, if you haven't qualified already.

Why is the Saturday Night event special? We expect every swimmer to attend on the 25th November from 4-8pm, and for good reason! As well as having the chance to win plenty of points, there will be a raffle and the famous **SKINS RACE**, where the five fastest male and female 50m freestyle swimmers compete in an elimination race for prize money.

Who are the current club champions?

GIRLS: Darcey Lennon (8&U), Faye Morris (9), Chloe Tapper (10), Chloe Morris (11), Izzy Pears (12), Lily Drews (13), Edie Francis (14), Jess Stewart (15&O)

BOYS: Alex Mockridge (10), Lucas Quiggin (11), Hugo Bodmer (12), Cody Steer (13), Jack Sagar (14), Aaron Lansdale (15&O)

SKINS CHAMPIONS: Jess Stewart (F) and Will Rawlinson (M)



Tesco Bag Pack: Saturday 7th October

Important for club fundraising - please sign up on the notice board!



In order to further fundraise, which is always important for all of our local sports teams, the club will be doing their annual bag pack at Tesco Kingsbridge on the 7th October.

Please donate at least one hour of your time during the day to help us!



I'm told last year's champion bag packer was Danny Clack, so if you think you can take the title off him, please do sign up!

Do you want to sponsor our newsletter?

Taking expressions of interest!

If your business would like to sponsor a newsletter with a full page advert, please talk to a member of the committee.

As part of our fundraising drive, we'll be asking you to **pay what you think** it's worth!



Many thanks again for your large donations towards our new club lane ropes!

We shall see our new ropes in action sooner rather than later...

