

Seagulls clean up at award ceremony

On Sunday evening at Two Riversmeet Leisure Centre, Christchurch and New Milton Seagulls Swimming Club hosted the 2008 Christchurch Sports Achievement Awards.

The awards are normally held centrally on one grand evening but this year there were so many Seagulls recipients that they had to host their own event.

There was a great atmosphere on poolside with the Seagulls swimmers, award nominees and a large crowd of spectators amassed. The presentation of the awards was led by the Mayor, Coun. David Flagg and Coun. Colin Bungey, with Seagulls Head Coach, Barry Aldrick, introducing each award winner and providing an overview of their achievements.

This year Seagulls had well over 30 award winners ranging from Junior swimmers, Water Polo players and Masters swimmers.

A spokesman for the club said: "The fact that the winners were sourced from all sections of the club highlights the strength and diversity that Seagulls offer to those who are interested in water based sports.

"It is extremely encouraging that the club has been so successful and this fully endorses the decision of New Milton Torpedoes and Christchurch Seagulls to combine forces in late 2006 to create a stronger and more dynamic outfit," he added.

The top Silver awards went to swimmers Peter Griffiths, Isabelle

Frampton and water polo players Anand Vaithilingam and Sam Webber.

Peter is ranked in the top ten in the UK for his age in 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m and 1500m Freestyle events. He is the South West regional champion for 11 years 400m freestyle and county champion for 11 years in 100m, 200m, 400m Freestyle, 100m, 200m, 400m, Individual Medley, 50m, 200m Butterfly, 200m Backstroke, 200m Breast-stroke. He also holds county records for 11 years 200m and 400m Freestyle and 200m Butterfly;

Isabelle is South West regional champion for 11 years 200m and 100m Butterfly and county champion for 11 years 200m and 100m Butterfly.

Junior water polo player Anand Vaithilingam is a National and regional squad member and has represented the county at the South West U17 Junior Championships. Sam Webber is a regional squad member for Junior Water Polo 2008 and has represented the county in South West U15 mixed tournament.

OTHER RESULTS. BRONZE AWARDS Swimming: Sophie Duffell, Simon Price, Stacey Angliss, Casey Vatcher, Charlotte Vatcher, Melissa Bennison. Water polo: Georgina Crossley, Josh Farmer, Joe Foale-Groves, Cianan Mann, Ali Rogers, Kristy Rides, Laura Spence, Natasha Webber, David Gallagher, William Crossley, Meghan Fletcher, Daisy Wyper, Connor Sleightholme, Stefan Wyper, Chris Chamberlain. Swimming Masters: Reg and Lynn Rendall.