

Men's Southern League Division 3W – Plymouth, Saturday 12th July 2008

Dave Varney writes:

It was job done & promotion guaranteed for the Newquay & Par Southern Men's team at Plymouth on Saturday after maintaining their 100% record with a fourth win. All that is left at the final fixture in Abingdon next month, is to finish Champions of Division 3 West as they go head to head with Chichester who are on equal League points of 16 and a solitary match point behind!

There are five clubs below, including Plymouth, each on twelve points and with a maximum four match points for the winning team, both clubs are already promoted when they fulfill their final league commitment. But neither is likely to want to bow out on a hiding & will almost certainly be fielding their strongest teams for the Championship title.

Despite four of their talented young athletes being away at the National Schools Finals in Gateshead, the team rallied around to cover all of the events & included a few new under 17 athletes making their debut to ease the burden on the more established team members.

Right from the start they set out to make their mark with double victories on both opening field & track events. Brett Marsh & Mike Madden paired up for all the four throws, starting with victory in the Hammer.

Mat Harris & Isaac Clayton won the Long Jump, Triple Jump & High Hurdles, with Mat joined by Gareth Massey for the longer hurdle 'double' to start the day.

One of the closest finishes came in the 1500m where Chris McQuillen-Wright & Dean Scott battled it out with Plymouth's Simon Anderson. As Anderson closed on McQuillen-Wright approaching the line, Chris's dip was all it took to secure the win. In the 2 lap race, James Ansell proved too good for the rest with a clear win.

New team members, Dexter Cater, James Barker, Callum Watts & Graham Hodgson, all played their part, with John Perkins coming close to improving his Veteran County Record in High Jump & acting team Manager, veteran sprinter, Sean Cater even stepping in for the extra points in the 5000m, which may make all the difference next month, if the unlikely event occurs of the two teams drawing!

With several of the team selected to represent Cornwall at the South West Inter Counties Championships at Exeter on 3rd August, there could be a few bleary eyes if the title goes to the Cornish Club the day before!

team result: 1 N&P 119, 2 Plymouth 94, 3 Overton & Andover 83, 4 Wessex, Bath & Salisbury 47