



Northsea "B" Win Promotion at the First Attempt

A stunning conclusion to the final gala of the 2013 arena league saw Portsmouth Northsea clinch the Division Two West Championship and promotion to Division One West.

Northsea went into the gala knowing that a top 2 finish would secure promotion to division one in their first ever Arena league campaign. It was clear by the way in which they started that they had no intention on settling for 2nd place and that they were determined to go up as champions.

With four wins from the opening 8 relays Northsea set the pace early on, alongside fellow promotion hopefuls Guildford City as they were both tied for first place on 63 points after 10 races. Wins from Dominic Johnson (Boys U13 Breaststroke) and Joe Hendry (Boys U15 Backstroke) helped to open up a 3 point lead over Guildford after 18 events.

As the gala approached the mid-way stage, it was clear that Portsmouth and Guildford were going to take the top 2 places as they opened up a 27 point lead over 3rd place Alton but the race for 1st place and the title of Division Two West champions was well and truly hotting up. Northsea extended their lead to 9 points with three successive wins from Jacky Knight (Girls U15 Butterfly), Aaron Lloyd (Boys U15 Butterfly) & Megan Owen (Ladies Backstroke) and a further win from Max Hewitt in the men's breaststroke.

With the atmosphere reaching fever pitch the battle continued as Guildford applied the pressure with wins of their own to close the gap to 4 points going into the final 8 relay races. Guildford turned things around with victory in the first 2 relays and second place in the third to open up a 4 point lead with just 5 races remaining.

However, Northsea still had plenty of fight in them as they produced a stunning finish to the evening. Back to back victories in both the Boys and Girls U13 freestyle relays and a 3rd place finish in the Boys U15 Medley relay saw Northsea edge back in front with just 2 events to go. In a thrilling finale to a wonderful night of competition Portsmouth Northsea took victory in both the men's & woman's freestyle relays and secured victory on the night by 5 points and along with it, the title of Division Two west Champions.

A stunning achievement in their debut season, produced by hard work and a fantastic sense of team spirit. Congratulations to all swimmers, well done!

Round 3 Results

Place	Club	Points
1st	Portsmouth Northsea B	302
2nd	Guildford City C	297
3rd	Chalfont Otters	240
4th	Alton & District	239
5th	Didcot Barramundi	223
6th	Windsor B	190
7th	Basingstoke Bluefins	173
8th	West Wight	119

See overleaf for overall league results and positions

South - Division Two West

Team	Gala	Gala	Gala	Gala	League	League	League	Bonus Points	League
	Points	Points	Points	Points	Points	Points	Points		Points
	R1	R2	R3	Total	R1	R2	R3		Total
Portsmouth Northsea B	305	318	302	925	8	8	16	24	56
Guildford City C	322	274	297	893	8	8	14	24	54
Chalfont Otters	304	259.5	240	803.5	7	6	12	24	49
Alton & District	262	259.5	239	760.5	6	7	10	24	47
Didcot Barramundi	273	288	223	784	7	7	8	24	46
Windsor B	277	274	190	741	6	6	6	24	42
Basingstoke Bluefins B	240	239	173	652	5	5	4	24	38
West Wight	224	202	119	545	4	3	2	24	33
Staines B	218.5	200.5	270	689	5	2	12	12	31
Worthing	191	175	214.5	580.5	3	3	10	12	28
Wey Valley	163	161	205.5	529.5	3	2	8	12	25
Godalming	135	177	285.5	570.5	1	4	6	12	23
Chichester Cormorants	157	131	230	518	2	1	4	12	19
Andover	127	145	137.5	409.5	1	1	2	12	16
Bognor Regis	153	0	203	356	2	0	0	12	14