



Jessica Lowe of Bingham Penguins in action

Amazing Grace wins top award at Cerebral Palsy nationals

The new 50m pool at Harvey Hadden Sports Village in Nottingham hosted the Cerebral Palsy Sport National Swimming Championships.

Fifty-three swimmers, all but one with cerebral palsy, aged 12-52, competed in up to five events each throughout the one-day event in early April. It was held long-course for the first time, giving swimmers the opportunity to compete over the full 50m. There were 20 events - 50m and 100m in freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly, 200m freestyle and 200m individual medley, with separate events for males and females.

Matt Walker, CP Sport ambassador, presented the medals for the morning session, and Bill Crichton, vice-chair of CP Sport, presented the afternoon's medals and also the two trophies.

The Swimmer of the Year trophy was presented to Grace Harvey. Grace holds long-course British CP records in 50m back, 200m back, 200m fly and 200m IM, as well as short-course British records in 800m free, 200m back, 100m fly, 200m fly and 200m IM.

Grace also represented England in the 2015 CP World Games, where she won gold in the 50m fly.

The Andrew Stubbs Trophy was presented to Ryan Crouch. Ryan stopped swimming at the end of 2014 due to illness, but has since

made a magnificent comeback with double gold at the CP World Games in August, breaking his own short-course British record in the 100m free in November and two golds and two silvers at nationals in December.

British Paralympic Association physiotherapists were also on poolside throughout to offer free pre- and post-race treatments to any swimmer wishing to use the service.

The physios form part of the team due to go out to the Rio Paralympics with the British swimming team and wanted to

gain some extra CP swimmer experience.

Sarah Livesey, national



Leo Johnson of Chelsea and Westminster SC in the men's 200IM

swimming development officer for CP Sport, said: 'Feedback from all swimmers and parents has been so positive.

'They all loved the new venue and the way we ran the event, and the overall biggest feedback point was that they all just love coming together to this event not only to see their friends and catch up but to swim in a competition where the impairment is all the same and they have all had the similar hurdles to overcome, both swimmers and parents.

'It was great to be able to work with the BPA physio team, and for us to be able to give something back to British Swimming.

'It seems to make sense to work together when we are getting 50-plus swimmers of the same impairment in the same place at the same time. My aim is to get 60 swimmers next year,' Sarah added.



Grace Harvey receiving the Swimmer of the Year trophy from CP Sport vice-chairman Bill Crichton