



TRI CLUB GALA REPORT

On Friday 04 February SPBSC hosted its first interclub gala. It was held at St Paul's Girls School and the three clubs competing were our very own SPBSC, Chelsea & Westminster Swimming Club and The Brompton Bees.

The atmosphere crackled with fierce but friendly competition and the home team were clearly out to win! Revved up to a competitive frenzy by Milton's team chanting, St Pauls romped ahead with an early lead. Martin was smiling, it was all looking good. But slowly, race by race, Chelsea & Westminster began to claw back. St Pauls were getting twitchy, Martin wasn't smiling!

During the short break while the teams got themselves organised for the 200m relays, Chelsea & Westminster's coach Bram Montgomery showed he meant business, leading his squad in a pumped up chant, they were on fire and preparing to take the lead from the home team. Milton rallied the troops! "Huddle!" he said, they huddled for the team talk, they chanted, they were ready! Martin was pacing the deck.

The relays were closely fought and very exciting, all culminating in a HUGE squadron relay. Cheering! Shouting! Screaming! The noise level was deafening! Chelsea & Westminster won the squadron relay with St Pauls coming in a worrying second. Would the home team have enough points to hold their lead? The final scores were announced as the swimmers held their breath in anticipation...Brompton Bees 550 points, Chelsea & Westminster 693 points and the home team, St Pauls Barnes Swimming Club in first place with 704 points. They'd done it! The entire home team leapt into the pool in celebration! Martin was smiling again! And the life guard looked on nervously!

What a superb night of competition! The swimmers clearly enjoyed swimming for their clubs, competing and supporting with great sportsmanship. A huge thank you must go to Annie Barker and Lacey Dikkers for their sterling work as non-swimming Team Captains and also to St Pauls Girls School for letting us use their wonderful pool.

With only 7 points in it, there must surely be a rematch!