

# Sport

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Inter-Island Schools Sports Day at Footes Lane – Elizabeth and Grammar walk away with

## Magnificent seven records



### ATHLETICS

by Matt Lihou

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SOPHIE PORTER and Jay Piset were among the individual stars as they propelled their school to success on Inter-Island Schools Sports Day at Footes Lane.

One of the highlights of the junior athletics calendar has traditionally seen the Grammar School and two Colleges dominate, with this edition no exception.

They would be outright winners in all bar one of the 11 trophies up for grabs, the only exception being Les Beaucamps High doing enough to share the Year 7 boys' silverware with Elizabeth College.

Elizabeth would romp clear in a dominant overall boys display, while Grammar would get their rewards by edging out Ladies' College in the girls' equivalent.

But on a day not necessarily ideal for quick track times, there were still some outstanding performances and an impressive six records fell during the meet.

Make that seven records overall, with Rhianna Dowinton breaking a long-standing mark when the hurdles were held a few days earlier.

Nevertheless, it was one of the standout meets for some years.

Piset came agonisingly close to making it eight records in total as he fell a sole centimetre short in the triple jump, instead having to make do with having joint possession of that Year 9 record.

He could still console himself with a dominant victory in that, as well as the 100m and he also led his Grammar quartet to a big relay victory and subsequent overall team success at their respective age group.

And although all seven records set on the day fell to different individuals – six of them, as well as a Ladies' College relay team – he was arguably



One of the stars of the show: Grammar's Sophie Porter smashed the 300m record.



Taking time out from the football pitch: England schoolgirl international Maya Le Tissier claimed the shot put record.

(Picture by Peter Frankland, 15237376)

Multi-eventer Rhiannon Dowinton brings home the Grammar Year 8 sprint relay squad.

(Picture by Adrian Miller, 15237274)

the team trophies at top-standard day-long meeting

# fall as students aim high



And they're off: The start of the combined Year 9 boys and girls 800m.

(Pictures by Adrian Miller, 15237241)

the star along with the slightly older Porter.

Also wearing Grammar colours, Porter went into the event in fine fettle, having set a new under-15s island record in the 300m just a fortnight ago.

That time of 40.70 was never likely to be bettered again here, due to the strong winds that hindered sprinters in the home straight, but breaking the event record – which stood exactly 2sec. slower – was always possible.

So it proved, as Stephanie Ozanne's 2003 mark was obliterated by the 15-year-old after she crossed the line in 42.02 on the electronic timing system – a time later officially rounded up to 42.10.

There was nearly a memorable record double for Porter as she threatened to do similar in the long jump for a spell, but eventually fell just short.

Her effort of 5.40m in her second attempt suggested that she may come close to Kim Goodall's 5.69 from 1999, but she could not improve in her final effort and the record held. Nonetheless, Porter was pleased with her day's work.

'I thought that I ran well and was quite pleased with the time because conditions were not that ideal with the wind there was,' she said.

'By the end of the season I would like to run nearer the 40sec. mark than I am right now, so that is the big aim I have in the next few weeks and months.

'I also have the English Schools Championships in Gateshead next month, so it is an exciting time.'

Although Porter's efforts were not enough to see Grammar win the Year 10 girls trophy – they were narrowly beaten by Ladies' College – her wins were invaluable in her school's overall girls' success.

The other record to fall on the track was when the Ladies' College quartet took six-tenths off Grammar's mark from 2014 in the Year 9 4x100m relay, with a time of 53.80.

As ever, those double-point relays

rounded off the day's action in exciting fashion, with a handful of teams disqualified across the eight relays for various changeover problems.

Earlier in proceedings, it had been in the field where most of the stand-out displays had come, with four records falling in the infield and numerous others coming close, too.

Piset was eyeing up Robbie Titterington's effort of 12.43m from 12 summers ago and, after jumping 12.29 first up, it seemed on the cards.

His second attempt saw him fall just short with 12.42, although both jumps were easily enough to seal the competition victory.

In his final chance for the record, he improved by another centimetre and took a share of Titterington's spoils, while Piset also came within a tenth of the 100m record.

The four records that did go in the field were in the throwing events, with all being previously set in either 2014 or 2015 – with some of the weights of objects changing in that time.

Maya Le Tissier edged past the previous mark in the Year 9 shot put with a best throw of 8.78m, while Georgia Gray's 19.60m shattered the Year 7 discus record of 18.71.

A pair of javelin records also fell, as Eve Bott and Rebecca Le Tissier won the Year 9 and Year 10 events respectively, with the latter moving forward the record by more than three metres to 29.37.

The high jump arena was the other place to be for much of the afternoon, as both Lucas Rive (Year 10 boys) and Alice Hunt (Year 9 girls) came close to beating heights both set in the 1990s.

Rive fell five centimetres short of the 1.81m set in 1997, while Hunt was just four centimetres under the 1.60 from 1990 when she knocked the bar off for the final time.

Another impressive display came back on the track right at the start of proceedings, when Joe Chadwick's superb 24.60sec. was only three-tenths off Jason Woodhard's record – set 41 years ago in 1975.



Eye on the bar: Grace Moorshead managed 1m 35 in the high jump to finish second.

(Picture by Peter Frankland, 15237356)



Hugo Thompson throwing the javelin for Elizabeth College.

(15237368)



Rhiannon Dowinton, 13, cleared 1m 38cm in the high jump.



Strong and versatile: Year 10 800m winner Sam Culverwell.

(15237253)