

“Pirates” Invade Port of Calais

There was a mini pirate invasion of Calais last weekend when Dover lifeguard club took a large squad of 50 swimmers to the town to compete in the annual “Challenge international des 6 Bourgeois”. The weekend was to start with the whole squad (including adult helpers) in full pirate garb taking over the P&O ferry, Pride of Canterbury, and making the officers “walk the plank” with some trying to learn sea shanties and tying knots as they crossed, becoming real “pirates of the English Channel”

Getting back to the serious business of the weekend, the team were to face some tough competition with teams from Belgium, France, Holland and elsewhere in Britain taking part.

This Challenge was spread over both days of the weekend with all swimmers taking part in 50m races across all 4 strokes. All top 12 finishes earned their respective clubs points for the overall “top club” trophy. Also every individual top 12 swim earned the swimmers points which were totalled to gain entry into the “grand final” on Sunday which would involve a swim off for medals in the individual medley.



The Lifeguards were to produce some massive improvements on their entry times with almost all earning the right to swim in the individual medley thanks to their efforts and finishing top 12 across the range of events.

This set of results shows the total domination that the lifeguards held across almost every age group. The points amassed by these swims saw them cruise home with over 150 points gap between them and the 2nd place team.

AGE GROUP	NAME	PLACE				
		FLY	BACK	BR	FS	IM
8-9YRS	HANNAH WAIN	1	1	1	1	1
	CONNIE WILLET	2	2	6	2	2
	KIRA TRANTER	3	3	3	4	3
10-11YRS	SHANNON SMITH	1	1	4	1	1
	SOPHIE WALLER	2	2	1	2	2
	MOLLIE ALLEN	3	3	3	4	3
	BROOK AMOS	7	6	6	6	6
	SARA WAIN	8	7	7	8	7

	ALEX HARDING	5	9	8	7	8
	DANIKA MOAT	9	8	9	9	9
	ED SMITH	1	3	6	2	2
	KYLE KENT	2	4	3	4	3
	CAMERON COOK	5	2	9	3	4
	CHRIS CLARK	12	11	8	6	5
	ASHLEY BALDWIN	4	5	11	11	6
	ROBIN CRAFT	7	9	-	5	7
	LUCA DE-FELICE	9	10	-	12	11
	KEIRON MENNISS	10	-	2	10	12
12-13 YRS	KATIE LATHAM	2	1	3	2	1
	MILLY FURNEAUX	8	5	1	6	3
	GEMMA LAWSON	4	2	9	1	4
	MEGAN CURTIS	1	9	4	3	5
	LILY FINKELSTEIN	6	4	-	9	6
	GRACE BEER	9	8	8	11	7
	PAM FLISHER	5	7	10	4	8
	ALICE LATHAM	-	-	5	10	10
	EVAN WATERS	3	3	2	2	2
	BEN EVANS	2	2	3	3	3
	CALLUM HAYWOOD	4	4	4	4	4
	DAN LATHAM	5	7	9	6	6
	TOM LATHAM	6	6	5	8	7
	CALLUM MEADOWS	10	8	6	-	9
	BEN FIDDOCK	9	12	-	10	11
	JAMES SMITH	11	10	-	11	12
14-15 YRS	MEGAN BASFORD	1	1	4	3	1
	DEVON AMOS	3	3	2	2	2
	TASHA HYDE	5	4	3	6	5
	CALLUM BASFORD	2	2	4	4	1
	MATT FARRAN	1	1	5	1	2
	LEWIS YOUNG	8	4	8	6	7
16-17YRS	LUKE MENNISS	5	5	9	7	5
	CALLUM BOWERS	3	6	7	2	6
	ABI COX	5	5	9	8	5
18 YRS	ROB DAWSON	3	4	3	2	3
MASTERS	JULIE HAYWOOD	2	3	2	2	2
	SCOTT WALKER	6	5	6	7	6

There were other great swims which produced personal bests from India Ribbans, Ben Crossland, Eleanor Spence Welsh, Jade Mincher and Matt Farran. The team of pirates journeyed back in great spirits with the giant winner's trophy in tow.

Head Coach Tim Hyde heaped praise on the team "This weekend has proven to be a great team builder, from the support each swimmer gave to their team mates, the playing of the national anthems, the team parade, the disco and the whole hearted way all of the swimmers embraced the theme of pirates for the weekend. The winning is just a giant cherry on the top of the proverbial cake. The times recorded have shown that every swimmer is moving in the right direction".

Special thanks to P&O ferries for their help and joining in with the spirit of the trip and Dover harbour board for all help given.