

Dover Lifeguards Dominate Home Gala

Dover Lifeguards hosted the first of the seasons development gala's and took full advantage of swimming in their home pool. Opening the individual events, Amy Gibbs got a fine 1st place in the 18/u backstroke. This was quickly followed by 1st place in the 11/u breaststroke for Gemma Lawson and Callum Haywood. Shannon Smith then recorded 1st places in the 9/u fly and 9/u breaststroke with Hannah Delo coming home 1st and 2nd respectively in the 12/u freestyle and breaststroke. Gemma Lawson again put in a fine performance to romp home 10 metres ahead of the competition in the 12/u 100 I.M.



Katie Brown, who was swimming up two age groups in the 18/u age group finished 1st in the freestyle and 3rd in the breaststroke. Grace Beer followed on from her recent success in the Kent Junior League with a fine 1st place in the 11/u butterfly. This was repeated by Evan Waters in the boys 11/u fly. The Dover youngsters were finishing 1st against some tough competition from other local clubs.

Next saw Ben Evans, record 1st place in the 9/u back and 9/u butterfly finishing half a length ahead of the nearest rivals.

Oliver Latham, who would class breaststroke as his least favourite event, then swam the race of his life to finish 1st in 46.74.

Another boy who does not like breaststroke, Tom Russell, then finished 1st in the 18/u breaststroke, giving a clear indication that the clubs policy of all training being based around the individual medley, is paying dividends.

Another of the team's youngsters, Mollie Allen, had a good meet too, with 1st place in the 10/u freestyle and a speeding ticket for going faster than the time restrictions in the 10/u 100 I.M.

Other swimmers who received speeding tickets were, Matt Austin 10/u back, Jamie Woodard 11/u back, Grace Beer and Dan Latham both 10/u butterfly.

One of the clubs senior swimmers, Laura Basford then gave a superb demonstration of stroke technique in the 18/u 100 I.M to finish comfortably ahead of the field with a fine 1st place. The final 1st place of the day in the individual events came for Luke Matcham in the 15/u freestyle to round off a good set of results for the team.

To fully capture how good a performance this was from the team, there were 68 events and in only 10 events did the Dover team fail to finish in the top 3. In every relay, except 1, they had 1st or 2nd place. The 9 year old relay teams finished 1st each time they were in the water and their older counterparts did equally as well with either 1st or 2nd place finishes.

Other great performances in the individual events came from, 2nd places for, Kyle Kent (9/u freestyle), Stephanie Jordan and Adam Delo (18/u butterfly), Mollie Allen (11/u back), Amy Bacmeister and Luke Matcham (15/u back), Adam Delo (18/u freestyle), Megan Curtis and Luke Menniss (15/u fly), Sam Gibbs (18/u 100 I.M), Grace Beer (11/u freestyle), and Megan Curtis (12/u back).

3rd place finishes on the day, for individual events, came from Kate Holt (9/u freestyle), Gemma Lawson and Oliver Latham (12/u fly), Courteney Tranter (10/u back and 10/u breast), Matt Austin (10/u 100 I.M), Crawford Auld (12/u freestyle), Dan Latham (12/u 100 I.M), Chris Clarke (10/u freestyle), and Callum Austen (10/u breast).

Coach Tim Hyde praised the superb team effort and awards were made on the day to; Luke Menniss, Best Boy, Gemma Lawson, Best Girl and Tom Russell as best overall swimmer.

When the points were tallied, final positions were; 1st, Dover Lifeguards, 2nd Folkestone, and 3rd Ashford.