

Hythe Development Gala

Hythe Aqua Swimming Club hosted the latest development gala at the Kingsmead pool in Canterbury on Saturday. The Dover Lifeguard team were looking to maintain their excellent record of top 3 finishes in every one of this year's development galas.

The young team started out with a hard fought win in the squadron breaststroke relay, with the lead changing hands over the 12 legs, but the Dover team dug deep and finished a comfortable first place. The 18/u backstroke produced a first place for Tasha Hyde (37.86) and a second for Luke Menniss (36.30 PB). Ebony Wright and Kieron Menniss both recorded personal bests in the 11/u breaststroke with both youngsters finishing a close third place in their races. There were more personal bests from Leah Meadows (45.32 9/u freestyle), Callum Meadows (49.86 12/u fly), Ella Savage (44.77 15/u breaststroke 2nd place) and Oliver Latham (46.36 15/u breaststroke 3rd place).

There was a fantastic performance from youngster Chris Clarke- he finished first in the 9/u freestyle, second in the 9/u breast, second in the 10/u fly and received a speeding ticket in the 10/u 100m IM when he smashed his previous time to finish in 1.45.45.

The 9/u freestyle relay saw a superb team effort from Kyle Kent, Sophie Waller, Chris Clarke and Mollie Allen to storm home in first place. The 15/u medley team also fought hard and came home in a good second place with Oliver Latham, Ella Savage, Callum Bowers and Abby Taylor-Baptie all putting in good performances.

The next series of individual swims saw more personal bests for the 'guards' team. Cameron Cook (46.78 11/u backstroke), Sophie Waller (49.20 9/u breast 1st place), Milly Furneaux (35.89 12/u freestyle 1st and 12/u IM 1.28.48 1st), Callum Haywood (34.77 12/u freestyle speeding ticket), Amy Bacmeister (38.89 15/u back 2nd place), Tom Jefferson (36.70 15/u backstroke speeding ticket) and Dan Latham (1.31.70 12/u IM 2nd).

The next series of relays produced some very close races. The 18/u freestyle relay team of Tasha Hyde, Tom Russell, Laura Austin and Tom Jefferson finished second. The 10/u freestyle team also finished second with Cameron Cook, Mollie Allen, Kate Holt and Chris Clarke just missing out in a close finish.

At the half way stage of the gala the lifeguards' were in a close second place and looking to push for more points as the next set of individual races started.

There were first places and PB's for Tom Jefferson (18/u freestyle 30.23), Connor Miller (9/u back 45.77) and Grace Beer (12/u breast 46.57). Mollie Allen (9/u back) and Cameron Cook (10/u freestyle) both finished second, there were PB's and speeding tickets from Edith Cooke (11/u fly 41.51), Dan Latham (11/u fly 42.57) and Callum Bowers (15/u fly 43.26). Abby Taylor-Baptie (15/u fly 43.26), Amy Bacmeister (1.24.87 18/u IM) and Luke Menniss (18/u IM 1.18.16) also recorded personal bests.

The 9/u medley relay team yet again produced a winning team performance with Connor Miller (back), Kyle Kent (breast), Mollie Allen (fly) and Leah Meadows (fs) leading from start to finish.

The last set of individual swims produced a speeding ticket for Grace Beer (11/u fs 37.01), first place for Kyle Kent (10/u breast 57.52) and personal bests with second places for Lewis Young (15/u fs 33.16), Kate Holt (10/u breast 54.51), Callum Meadows (12/u back 44.09), and Connor Miller (11/u fs 40.83). Milly Furneaux also finished second in the 18/u breaststroke and Kyle Kent was also placed second in the 9/u fly. One of the best performances of the night came from debutante Sophie Carter who swam well in the freestyle relay and then produced a personal best in the 15/u freestyle.

The 12/u medley team of Tom Latham (back), Milly Furneaux (breast), Alice Latham (fly) and Callum Meadows (fs) finished second to leave the points finely balanced with three teams within reach of the first place trophy.

With the next set of relays the Dover team were still in with a chance going into the last relay, but they would have to win and hope the first placed team finished last.

The lifeguards' freestyle squadron team fought hard and over a closely fought 12 leg relay the crowd were on their feet as the lead changed hands a number of times but the team of Sophie Waller, Mollie Allen, Ebony Wright, Alice Latham, Abby Taylor-Baptie, Laura Austin, Connor Miller, Chris Clarke, Dan Latham, Callum Haywood, Callum Bowers and Tom Jefferson fought throughout and finished in first place.

There was a long wait for the results to be totalled, when the announcement came the 'guards' had finished a very close second on the night. There were awards for Tasha Hyde- best girl, best boy- Callum Bowers and best overall performance- Ebony Wright.

Coach Tim Hyde was happy when he reflected on yet another top three finish. "This team makes me proud every time they swim, they are demonstrating what team play is all about and everyone gave there all tonight, what more can I ask of them?"

Anyone interested in joining the competitive training squads should phone Tim Hyde on 01302 206881 for a trial.

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