

## Dover Lifeguard's youngsters at Margate Open Gala

The youngest members of the Lifeguards squad attended the Margate open which was held at the Kingsmead pool in Canterbury due to maintenance at their home pool. For many this was their first open gala but nerves were under control as they went about preparing for their races. The young swimmers were in impressive form with many personal bests recorded throughout the day and almost every event saw Dover swimmers in the finals.

Luke Menniss had a good day with personal bests in the backstroke and breaststroke and finishing 7<sup>th</sup> overall in the freestyle. Younger brother Mathew had a great debut gala with personal bests in the backstroke and freestyle. Even more impressive was Crawford Auld who recorded an impressive 4 personal bests from 4 swims with some determined swims, overcoming first time nerves with some huge improvements on previously recorded times. Callum Haywood was another very composed young man who then swam a blistering breaststroke race to record a 7 second personal best. Mathew Austin was in great form and recorded personal bests in Freestyle and Backstroke, bringing home a 6<sup>th</sup> place medal in the final of the backstroke. Jamie Woodard also did well with 4<sup>th</sup> place in the final of the backstroke 4<sup>th</sup> in the freestyle. Ben Evans seemed to be on fire and romped home in first place in the final of the butterfly, backstroke and freestyle and finishing with a personal best and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the breaststroke.

The girls were in equally impressive form. Grace Beer recorded personal bests in Butterfly, breaststroke and Backstroke. Alice Latham was another young lady who went about the business of recording personal bests almost every time she went into the water. She improved her times on Backstroke, Freestyle (5<sup>th</sup> in the final) and breaststroke, winning the final of the breaststroke a full body length ahead of the rest of the field. Twin sister Katie Was also impressive, making 3 finals and winning the freestyle, backstroke and butterfly. Saskia Seagrove-castle was also in good form, she recorded personal bests in the freestyle, butterfly and breaststroke which was impressive considering she has been recovering from a knee injury. Hannah Delo was a finalist in the backstroke –finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> and had great swims in all of her other races with a 7<sup>th</sup> place finish in the freestyle and butterfly and 8<sup>th</sup> in the breaststroke. Katie Brown narrowly missed out on finals with great all round swimming and personal bests in breaststroke and freestyle and finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the final of the backstroke and 8<sup>th</sup> overall in the fly.



Tasha Hyde was also in good form, another swimmer who is recovering from injury she stormed into 4 finals and finished the day with silverware for 3<sup>rd</sup> in the fly and breast and 6<sup>th</sup> place in the freestyle and backstroke.

“This was a very determined group of youngsters, who took every opportunity that presented itself, they can all be proud of their achievements”

**Ben Evans and Tasha Hyde**