

SPEEDING TICKETS SHOW TEAMS CLASS AND DEPTH

Dover Lifeguard's development squad were in action at the Black Lion pool in Gillingham on Saturday , hoping to follow up on the club's recent success in the kent junior league. This level of gala has a safeguard of speeding tickets-which are seen to be the individual swimmers ultimate goal and therefore a badge of honour set to ensure that the clubs taking part do not use top level swimmers. If the time restrictions are broken by swimming too fast a speeding ticket is issued and the team receive no points. This weekend was to bring in the highest level of speeding tickets the lifeguards had ever won and therefore an indication of just how fast this team were swimming.

The gala opened with the 'guards very quick to show their determination and finished in a close 2nd place in the squadron breaststroke relay thanks to great swims from Kira Tranter, Brooke Amos, India Ribbans, Sophie Waller, Milly Furneaux , Tasha Hyde, Chris Clark, Cameron Cook, Kieron Menniss, Ben Strachan, Callum Meadows and Luke Menniss. The first quarter of the gala was to see the youngsters produce some stunning swims with 1st places for Tasha Hyde (18/u bk) and Abby Taylor Baptie (15/u br), and 2nd place for Luke Menniss (18/u bk).. There were also speeding tickets for India Ribbans (11/u Br), Lily Finklestein (12/u fly), Dan Latham (12/u Fly) , Brook Amos and Cameron Cook (both in the 100m individual medley). Edward Smith also won a speeding ticket in the 10/u backstroke which was a superb swim, showing no nerves, considering this was Edward's first competitive team gala.

The 15/u medley relay team of Callum Haywood, Milly Furneaux, Ebony Wright and Lewis Young produced a strong performance to finish in a close 2nd place.

The 2nd series of individual events had more first places for this young team from Callum Bowers (18/u fly), Chris Clark (9/u br), Milly Furneaux (15/u bk), and Lewis Young (15/u Bk) . There were 2nd places from Callum Meadows (12/u IM) and India Ribbans (11/u Bk). More Speeding tickets were won by Cameron Cook (11/u bk) and Grace Beer (12/u IM). There was yet another good performance from the relay teams with the 10/u freestyle team of Ashley Baldwin, Edward Smith, Leah Meadows and Brook Amos leading from start to finish to come home over 5m ahead of their nearest rivals.

The 2nd half of the gala was to prove as exciting as the first with a lot of races being a blanket finish and the judges having to decide the placings. There were more speeding tickets for the lifeguard team for Sophie Waller (11/u fly), Tom Latham (12/u bk) and another debutante , James Smith was not phased by the noise from the team mates and balcony as he grabbed a speeding ticket in the 11/u freestyle with a massive 3 second personal best. There were first places for Lewis Young (15/u fly), Marysia Abbott (10/u fs), Ben Strachan (12/br), and Grace Beer (12/u br). This great points haul was supported with 2nd places from Tom Russell (18/u fs), Abby Taylor Baptie (18/u 100 IM), Luke Menniss (18/u 100 IM), Brook Amos (11/u fs), Sophie Waller (12/u bk), Leah Meadows (10/u br), Ebony Wright (15/u fs), and Ben Strachan (15/u fs).

The last series of relays was to prove impressive for the Dover team with first place for the 12/u medley team of Lily Finklestein, Grace Beer, and twins Dan and Tom Latham.

The rest of the relay teams all produced 2nd place finishes ,the 10/ medley team Leah Meadows, Cameron Cook, Brook Amos, Edward Smith. The 18/u medlay team of Katie Brown, Tasha Hyde, Luke Menniss, Callum Bowers and the Freestyle squadron relay team Kira Tranter, Brook Amos, Sophie Waller, Lily Finklestein, Abby Taylor Baptie, Laura Austin, Chris Clark, Kyle Kent, Cameron Cook, Ben Strachan, Callum Haywood and Luke Menniss had been a close fought gala and there was a nervous wait for the points announcement. Due to an error with the electronic timekeeping and recording system the result was not known until later that night and the Dover team had finished a very close 3rd place overall only 6 points (1 race) from 1st place. Coach Tim Hyde reflected " the goal of these gala's is speeding tickets and by that measure tonight was a huge success, it was a close competition despite the large number of speeders we had and this shows the depth we have in the squad at present. They can all be proud of themselves"

Awards on the night went to:

Best Boy –James Smith

Best Girl- Marysia Abbott

Best Overall performance- Kira Tranter

