

## Dover Lifeguard Club in Kent Junior league action

On Saturday the younger part of the Dover Lifeguard squad trekked to the Hartsdown pool in Margate for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the 2007 season Kent Junior league.

The gala opened with an empathic win for the 'guards 9/10 yr girls in the 4x 25 Medley relay with twin sisters Katie and Alice Latham building a big lead over the first 2 legs and Grace Beer and Gemma Lawson extending this lead further to finish well ahead of the rest of the teams.

This opening performance was to prove a spur for many more fine swims throughout the evening with personal best performances across all ages from both boys and girls.

Megan Curtis and Dan Latham both put in new PB's in the first of the evening's individual races in the 11/u butterfly.

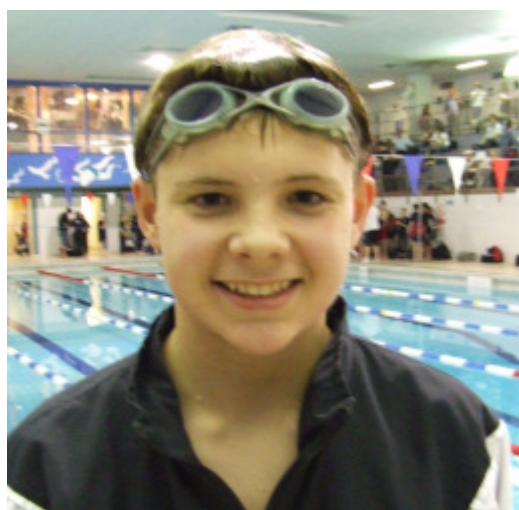
The boys 13/u freestyle relay team of Matt Farran, Sam Woodard, Oliver Latham and Bradley Harvey all put in near personal best swims to finish 2<sup>nd</sup>. As the evening progressed there were good swims all around with the youngster's showing great determination and gaining extra points from some strong finishes.

Gemma Lawson and Jamie Woodard were 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> respectively in the 11/u fs. Matt Farran then left a class field in his wake to finish first in the 13/u 100m back. Katie Latham then repeated this feat in the 10/u back with a comfortable first place and new PB. For the boys, Ben Evans also lead from start to finish in the 10/u back to give the team valuable points.

The 9/10yr girls fs relay team then repeated their earlier comfortable win with each of the girls extending the lead gained by Katie Latham on the first leg. Gemma Lawson, Alice Latham and Grace Beer showing an excellent team spirit cheering each other on as they left the water having kept their team ahead of some tough competition.

Grace Beer was to show some true determination and courage as she swam up 2 age groups, in the 12/u 100m butterfly. Grace Competed against swimmers 2 yrs older than her in her first competitive race on the stroke over this distance and dug deep to finish 5<sup>th</sup>, hinting a natural talent on butterfly.

Thomas Latham gave a demonstration of power through the water in the 11/u back to finish a close 2<sup>nd</sup>.



Matt Farran continued his excellent form with a 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 13/u 100m freestyle quickly followed by more success for the Dover team's backstrokers when Megan Basford romped home in first place in the 12/u back.

Alice Latham was in fine form as she emulated her twin sister Katie's earlier 1<sup>st</sup> place performance, Alice eased home in first place in the 10/u breaststroke, indicating that the natural winning talent must be in the family DNA makeup.

Ben Evans capped a fine evening's performance with another first place, this time in the 10/u butterfly.

In the final event of the evening, the squadron freestyle relay the team showed determination, fighting for first place with 2 other teams over all 8 legs- Gemma Lawson, Ben Evans, Megan Curtis, Evan Waters, Megan Basford, Sam Gibbs, Florence Papougnot and Matt Farran all swam

well but were just pushed into 3<sup>rd</sup> place in a close finish.

The points totals for the night were totalled up and this small, young squad had produced some excellent results to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> overall on the night. This also leaves the team in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the league with one more round to go.

Coach Tim Hyde was pleased with the result "considering we had one of the smallest squads here tonight which meant our swimmers were in the water more than the other clubs this is a good performance. Our swimmers have showed tonight that not only are we amongst the fastest but we also have high levels of stamina to perform so well over and over again on a night like tonight. This is the reward for the swimmers who train hard for up to 16 hours per week, they have a great future in the sport."