

## **Dover Lifeguards enjoy another successful weekend of competition**

Following a weekend free of competition the junior squads of Dover Lifeguard club had a very busy weekend travelling to the Black Lion pool in Gillingham to take part in the Dartford open on Saturday and the Black Lion development gala on Sunday.

The club took just 18 swimmers to the Dartford open gala on Saturday but this relatively small group were keen to impress and they set about their races with great determination. Chris Clarke was in impressive form to finish 1<sup>st</sup> in the 50 fs/50breast/50 back/50 fly and he also stormed to a speeding ticket in the 100 IM. Cameron Cook romped to 2 speeding tickets and a first place in the 100 fs. New squad member Harry Bartram did well in his first outing at an open gala and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 50 back and 4<sup>th</sup> in the 50 fs. Mathew Austin produced a good swim in the 100m back to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> overall. Ben Crossland recorded two 2<sup>nd</sup> places in the 50 breast and 100 IM. Luca de Felice swam a good 100 Im to finish 6<sup>th</sup> and team mate Ben Fiddock produced 4<sup>th</sup> in the 100 back, 5<sup>th</sup> in the 50 fs and 6<sup>th</sup> 100 fs. Kyle Kent showed some fine butterfly technique to finish ahead of the field and take 1<sup>st</sup> place he was also 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 100 fs and received a speeding ticket for his 100 back. Kieron Menniss was looking to return to winning ways following a tough period of swimming and he did well to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 50 fly and 100 breast. He then finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 100 Im and 4<sup>th</sup> 100 back. Tom Kilmurray, another debutante finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the 50 breast. Twins Dan and Tom Latham had a good days swimming with Tom 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 50 fly and 50 back he was also 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 50 breast and 100 back, a 4<sup>th</sup> in the 100 breast and 6<sup>th</sup> in the 50 fs showed he is enjoying a good show of form. Brother Dan was first in both the 50 and 100 fs, he gained a speeding ticket in the 100 back, 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 50 back and 4<sup>th</sup> in the 50 breast. Robert Keen showed why he is one of the clubs young stars of the future with fine swims and well earned 2<sup>nd</sup> places in the 50 back and 50 fly. He combined this with 3<sup>rd</sup> in the fs and 4<sup>th</sup> in the 100 IM.

The girls were also doing well. Alice Latham was 1<sup>st</sup> in the 50 back she also brought in more club points with 3<sup>rd</sup> in the fs and fly, 4<sup>th</sup> in the 50 breast and 5<sup>th</sup> in the 100 breast. Grace Beer earned herself a speeding ticket in the 100 back and finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the 100 fs. India Ribbans who only started swimming around Easter last year showed she is coming into great form with 2<sup>nd</sup> places in 50 fs, 50 fly and 100 back. India was also 4<sup>th</sup> in the 50 breast and 6<sup>th</sup> in the backstroke. Sara Wain showed why the coaching team have such faith in her ability with 2 speeding tickets, 1<sup>st</sup> in the 50 fs, and in the 50 fly and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 50 back.

The club may have had a small band of dedicated swimmers present but they had done themselves proud. In the top club points they had finished a close 2<sup>nd</sup>. Coaching assistant Lynne Latham said "The winning club were Dartford who had 60 swimmers taking part. For us to come 2<sup>nd</sup> when we were totally outnumbered by over 3 to 1 shows the class of the swimmers who came from Dover today"

On Sunday the next Development gala of the season took place and Black Lion hosted in their home pool. The 'guards took a very young and inexperienced team along, but the young stars shone. There was a first place in the first individual race of the gala for Tasha Hyde who fought hard in a very tight race to touch just ahead in the 50 back. C Willet showed the club's youngest age group is very strong with 1<sup>st</sup> places in fs and back. Kira Tranter continued her improvement on the backstroke to take 1<sup>st</sup> place. Max Pettifer was swimming his least favourite stroke but still finished 1<sup>st</sup> in the 50 back. Hannah Wain is another of the club's 9yr olds that show massive potential and she romped to 1<sup>st</sup> place in both the breast and fly.

Brook Amos d4g dee- 6n the fast length of her fs race to touch just ahead of the field. George Cullen, swimming his first team gala put in a solid performance to win the fs and Robert Keen produced a fine display of fly to win by over 5 meters from his nearest rival. Grace Beer (back) and Ben Andrew (fs) both put in brave swims and touched out their closest rivals at the wall. Milly Furneaux has now developed into a good all round swimmers and she led from start to finish in the 50 fly. Her team mate Dan Latham also repeated this feat on the boys 50 fly. Lewis Young has come so far over the last few

months and he came very close to a speeding ticket in the 100 IM but he did just enough to walk away with first place. Devon Amos, who is a natural backstroke swimmer impressed with her 50 breast, her start brought her up ahead of the field and she did enough to earn the club 6 points for 1<sup>st</sup> place. Lee Sheppard continued his good form with a first in the 50 breast, and James Smith stormed to another 1<sup>st</sup> in the 50 fs. This set of results had the lifeguards in a strong position and yet the team had more to give Ben Andrew continued his improvement since returning to the sport after a 4 year break with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 50 back. Lewis young saw the rewards of his hard work in training with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 50 fly and Sara Wain grabbed more points for the club with 2<sup>nd</sup> in the backstroke. Brook Amos powered through in breaststroke length of the 100 IM and finished 2<sup>nd</sup>. Tom Latham followed up his fine swims on Saturday with 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 50 back.. Grace Beer moved up 3 age groups to swim the 50 freestyle yet she still finished 2<sup>nd</sup>. Alfie Herrington showed more promise with a fine swim in the backstroke he also finished 2<sup>nd</sup>.. Chris Clarke was a little off form but he recorded 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the back and breast to earn the club more points.



This fine set of results had ensured the Dover team were now in the lead. The relay teams also played their part and every team finished in the top 3 , each age group showed some strong team spirit often pulling back from lower positions they delivered a huge haul of points to add to the individual swim performances. The final relay of the night was a very close fought competition between the lifeguards and the host club .the lead changed hands over the 12 legs but the Dover team just edged it as anchor leg Lewis Young stormed through to touch first.

The main goal of these gala's is for the swimmers to gain speeding tickets and move up to higher level competition and there were no less than 12 speeding tickets for the Dover team. Amelia Beardsmore ( fly), Joe Bailey (back and fs ), Kyle Kent (br and fly), Lee Sheppard (100 IM), Josh Morgan (fly), India Ribbans (br), Connie Willett (fs), Ryan Manley (fs), and Alice Latham (fs and Back).

Coach Tim Hyde was impressed with the team spirit "this team of youngsters has produced a performance that belies their lack of experience. They will go far with this support for each other and this is key to ant team's success."

Individual awards on the night went to  
Best boy Ryan Manley  
Best girl Connie Willett  
Best overall performance Amelia Beardsmore