

Dover Lifeguards Win Top Honours at Canterbury Open Meet

Dover Lifeguard Club won the top club award at the Canterbury open gala on Saturday thanks to some superb performances from the whole squad. There were some strong swims from all and almost every swimmer achieved times better than those they were entered on.

It was to prove a long day as the morning session warm-up started on schedule at 8.30 with a lot of bleary eyed swimmers preparing themselves for the morning's events. The squad were onto the pace from the outset and Tom Russell was an example of the standard the improvements the 'guards were achieving. Tom achieved improvements on his entry times every time he entered the water with the best, a massive 15 sec in the 200m individual medley. This went along with 4 sec on the 100m breast, 2sec on the 100 fly and 100 freestyle and 1 sec on the 100 back.

The morning session saw entry times improved and final placings for Megan Basford (11-12 100m breast), Sam Gibbs (11-12 100m breast), Gemma Lawson, Katie Latham and Shannon Smith (9-10 50m breast), Dan Latham (9-10 50m breast), Tessa Dunford (13-14 100m freestyle) and Sam Gibbs and Callum Basford (11-12 100m fly). The afternoon session was another success for the team with more final placings from Gemma Lawson, Katie Latham and Shannon Smith (50m freestyle), Ben Evans and Jamie Woodard (50m freestyle), Katie Brown (100m backstroke), Sam Woodard (100m backstroke) Charlotte Hyde and Laura Austin (100m Breaststroke), Gemma Lawson and Shannon Smith (50m backstroke), Ben Evans, Tom Latham and Jamie Woodard (50m backstroke) and Tessa Dunford (100m Fly)

The last session of the day saw the squad produce yet more strong performances. The team had more final placings for Megan Basford (100m back), Callum Basford (100m Back), Grace Beer and Gemma Lawson (50 Fly), Ben Evans and Jamie Woodard (50 Fly), Laura Austin (100 back and 100 freestyle), Tessa Dunford and Katie Brown (100 Breast) and Sam Woodard (100 breast).

The list of finalists does not give a complete picture however as the Lifeguard team had a large number of other swimmers who bettered their entry times and many young swimmers who were very inexperienced at competitive swimming. Some of those who won heats and swam better than ever before in some events were Mathew Menniss, Oliver Latham, Sacha Wild, Mollie Allen, Kieron Menniss, Kyle Kent, Mathew Austin, Dominic Wild, Tasha Hyde, Amy Gibbs, Luke Menniss, Bradley Harvey, Megan Curtis, Josh Rhydderch, Lewis Young, Evan Waters, Stephanie Jordan, Callum Meadows. All of these swimmers played their part in gaining the club valuable points.



At the end of a very long day the club were announced winners of the top club trophy.

Coach Tim Hyde commented "I am pleased with the overall performance from all of our squad. This has given us an indication of where we are and will be a benchmark for us as the season develops and we move onto tougher challenges"