

Dover Lifeguard's excel at Herne Bay open gala

Last weekend (07/07/07) saw the Dover Lifeguard squad attending the annual Herne Bay open which was held at the Kingsmead pool in Canterbury. There is usually a close fought competition for "Top Club" honours with this year being no exception with large squads from most clubs around the Kent area attending. Each swimmer had their part to play and the young squad from Dover set about the task in a professional manner in a manner which belies their young age's.

In the 9/10 yr girls 50m fly there were personal bests from Grace Beer, Shannon Smith, Alice Latham and Katie Latham. Katie went onto swim in the final and finished 5th overall. In the boys fly event for the 9/10 year olds Kieron Menniss, Dan Latham and Ben Evans all produced personal bests with Ben going on to the final and finishing second overall.

Next up saw the 11/12 year olds backstroke, Megan Curtis, Natasha Hyde and Megan Basford all bettering their entry times with Megan Basford finishing 4th in the final. For the boys, Crawford Auld, Sacha Wild, Lewis Young and Sam Gibbs all swam personal bests and Callum Basford and Sam Woodard both reached the final with Sam finishing first and Callum 6th.

In the 100m breaststroke for 13/14yr olds there was a 100% personal best rate, Ella Savage, Katie Brown, Amy Gibbs, Bradley Harvey, Matt Farran and Luke Menniss all swam superbly and brought home points for the club.



In the 15 and over open freestyle Charlotte Hyde swam well to record a personal best.

In the 9/10 year olds 100m freestyle the youngest members of the team were in awesome form with 100% pb rate but special mention must go to Kieron Menniss(12 sec pb), Dominic Wild(22 sec pb) and Tom Latham(11 sec pb).

The 11/12 year old breaststroke saw 9 personal bests from 11 swims with Sam Gibbs (6th overall), Callum Basford (4th Overall) and Sam Woodard (3rd Overall).

Ella Savage and Katie Brown both swam well in the 100m backstroke with personal bests for both of them and Bradley Harvey, Luke Menniss and Matt Farran all put in new best times with Matthew reaching the final and finishing 4th.

Tom Russell and Charlotte Hyde again improved on their entry times in the 100m butterfly in the 15 and over age group which was a great finish to the morning session.

Opening the afternoon session, the 9/10 year olds again produced a fine set of results in the 100m backstroke with all improving on entry times and Ben Evans, Gemma Lawson and Katie Latham all reaching the finals to finish 3rd, 6th and 4th respectively. In the 11/12 year old butterfly, there were 8 personal bests from 9 swims; Tasha Hyde was 3rd in the final, Sam Gibbs (5th) and Sam Woodard (2nd). In the 13/14 year old freestyle again produced some great results with personal bests for all who swam.

In the 100m backstroke for the 15 and over saw personal bests for Charlotte Hyde and Tom Russell but Matt Basford slightly off form still reaching the final to finish 5th overall.

The 9/10 year olds then stepped up for the 100m breaststroke and this group of young stars again produced the goods with nearly a 100% personal best rate; Shannon Smith (20 secs),

Grace Beer (13 secs), Alice Latham (10 secs), Kieron Menniss (17 secs), Dominic Wild (36 secs), Ben Evans (16 secs) and Tom Latham (10 secs).

In the 11/12 100m freestyle Megan Curtis swam a 6 sec pb in 1.17.37 and in the boys event Callum Haywood swam a 24 sec pb in 1.29.95, Sacha Wild a 7 sec pb in 1.26.11, Lewis Young a 7 sec pb of 1.20.63, Sam Gibbs a 6 sec pb of 1.10.03 but most impressive of all was Sam Woodard who racked up a 4 sec pb in the heats and improved this by a further second to finish 3rd in the final in 1.04.87.

To finish the afternoon Matthew Farran produced a Pb in the 100m fly and Tom Russell in the 100m breast. Charlotte Hyde swam well in the heats of the 100m breast to reach the final and finished 6th overall.

Acting coach Tim Hyde was full of praise for the young squad "Almost every swimmer improved on their entry times today which shows the positive approach they took to today's gala. This attitude has been shown in training recently and if they continue in this manner they will see their efforts rewarded at all levels of competition."

When the points were totalled up at the end of the gala, Dover had finished a close 3rd which was a major achievement as the squad was depleted in the older age group. Reflecting on this result, Tim said "Our youngsters carried us through today and have shown what a great future this club has."