

SEASON CLOSURES FOR DOVER LIFEGUARD CLUB'S DEVELOPMENT SQUAD AT FAVERSHAM OPEN AIR POOL

The youngsters of the Dover Lifeguard's development squad closed the season in great fashion last weekend at the Faversham open air gala. There were some fine swims and the team performed well in the cool conditions.

The gala opened with 3rd place for the breaststroke squadron relay team quickly followed by a determined performance from Katie Brown in the 18/u Backstroke to finish in 2nd. Gemma Lawson had a good gala with 2nd place in the 11/u breaststroke and 1st in the 11/u fly. Another of the club's young ladies-Shannon Smith, went one better than this with 2 first place finishes in the 9/u age group. Shannon finished well ahead of the field to romp home in first in the freestyle and the butterfly. There were fine individual performances from Callum Meadows (3rd in the 10/u back), Dan Latham (3rd 11/u breast), Kyle Kent (3rd 9/u free), Oliver Latham (3rd 12/u breast), Matt Austin (3rd 10/u breast) and Evan Waters (3rd 12/u back)

Sam Gibbs was outstanding with 2nd places in the 15/u Breast and Freestyle and he was supported with an excellent display of stroke from Callum Haywood who also finished with 2 second places in the 11/u back and freestyle. Mollie Allen seemed to be on fire as she stormed to a double of first place finishes in the 9/u breast and back. As if to underline the strength that the youngest members of the squad have over their peers from other local clubs, another of the 'guards youngest stars-Dominic Wild, then put in a determined pair of swims to come home in first place in the 9/u breaststroke and 2nd in the 9/u back. The more experienced swimmers were not to be out-done and there were some excellent demonstrations of class swimming from Laura Basford (1st 18/u fly), Steph Jordan (1st 15/u Fly), and Tasha Hyde (1st 15/u Freestyle).

The relay teams performed well too with first place finishes for the 9/u teams in the freestyle and medley relays-Shannon Smith, Mollie Allen, Chris Clarke and Dominic Wild all swimming well. The 11/u freestyle team finished ahead of the competition when the team of Grace Beer, Callum Haywood, Gemma Lawson and Jamie Woodard put in a great team performance. There was also a first place finish for the 15/u Medley team who led from start to finish when Adam Delo gained the lead on the backstroke, Ella Savage held the lead on the breaststroke leg, Tasha Hyde then extended the lead on the butterfly and Sam Gibbs romped home over half a length ahead on the freestyle leg.

The last race of the night was the squadron freestyle relay and again the Dover team led from start to finish. There was a nervous wait at the end for the points total, the lifeguard team were placed 4th with only a handful of points separating the first and fourth place this had been the closest gala of the season and a fitting close to the seasons competition.