

## **Kent Junior League Final Round Produces Excellent Results for Lifeguards' Young Squad**

Dover Lifeguards hosted the final round of this years Kent Junior League and were looking to consolidate their position within the league by using home pool advantage.

The gala opened with the 13/u 100 IM with both Natasha Hyde and Sam Woodard swimming well producing a 4<sup>th</sup> place for Tasha in 1.19.24 and a second place in a new personal best of 1.12.71. The first of the night's relays was the 9/10 year old 4 x 25 medley. The team of Jamie Woodard (back), Alice Latham (breast), Katie Latham (fly) and Kyle Kent (free) lead from start to finish with solid performances from the youngest members of the guards' squad. The 13/u freestyle relay also produced a first placing for the lifeguard team with Matthew Farran building a great lead over the first leg which was extended by Oliver Latham, Sam Woodard and Bradley Harvey brought the team home well ahead of the opposition. The 12/u medley team were not to be outdone and thanks to some determined swimming from Megan Basford, Sam Gibbs, Callum Basford and Gemma Lawson they too romped home in first place.

Going into the main block of individual events, the team were looking for some good results to follow on from the success in the relays. In the 10/u freestyle Gemma Lawson delivered the goods with a superb first place in 33.88. In the boys event Jamie Woodard produced a personal best of 36.09 to finish 3<sup>rd</sup>. Megan Basford was to have a successful night with a new personal best of 1.28.27 and second place in the 12/u breaststroke followed later in the evening by first place in the 12/u back (1.16.75). In the 11/u freestyle Evan Waters (33.69) finished first in a new personal best time and Megan Curtis also produced a personal best of 33.11 to come home in second place. Possibly the best performance of the night was delivered by Matthew Farran with a first place in the 13/u back and freestyle in times of 1.09.43 (back) and 1.01.25 (free). In the 12/u fly Grace Beer swam up two age groups to gain the club valuable points with a determined swim in 1.44. 31. Another of the guards' swimmers who was on form was Katie Latham with first place in the 10/u back (38.46) and second place in the 10/u fly (42.64). Squad newcomer Abby Taylor-Baptie produced a fine swim to record a new personal best of 1.38.29 in the 13/u breaststroke.

The next block of relays saw a second place for the 11/u medley team of Katie Latham, Sacha Wild, Megan Curtis and Evan Waters. Also recording a second place were the boys 12/u freestyle team of Sam Gibbs, Jamie Woodard, Evan Waters and Callum Basford. The 9/10 year old girls continued their domination of the relays when Katie Latham, Grace Beer, Shannon Smith and Gemma Lawson finished a comfortable first.

The final set of individual races had more great performances from the young squad. Callum Basford, 12/u back, produced a fine display of stroke technique to finish ahead of the field in first place. Alice Latham swam a solid performance in the 10/u breaststroke to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> and Jamie Woodard produced a new personal best of 42.89 to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 10/u fly. Dovers' Bradley Harvey put up a strong fight in the 13/u fly with three swimmers touching almost simultaneously it was left to the placing judges to sort out who had won. Bradley had produced a time of 1.10.78 but unfortunately was placed 3<sup>rd</sup> despite the close finish. This was an excellent performance from the youngster who represents Kent in water polo.

The final set of relays produced yet more fine swims with second places for the 11/u free team, the 13/u medley team (Matt Farran, Tasha Hyde, Flo Papougnot and Sam Woodard) leaving the points totals for the evening finely balanced going into the final squadron relay. The noise from the supporters was deafening as the Dover team fought hard for first place. The lead changed hands a number of times over the eight legs and the Dover team were forced to settle for second place.

When the gala points totals were added together with those previously earned the lifeguard team had secured themselves a good third place finish in the league.