

EVENTS AT BRIGHTON SEPTEMBER 2011

Hastings Seagull's 2011-2012 swimming season commenced with two major meetings held at the Prince Regent Complex in Brighton.

The first was what has become the traditional 'curtain-raiser'; the Sussex County ASA County Relays.

It must be said that for such a prestigious event; the organisation was not of an acceptable standard. Parking was, as is usual in Brighton, costly and scarce; many spectators were left in long queues at the venue before being charged full price for standing up, barely able to see the action and swimmers were rewarded for their punctuality with discomfort and crowding; as events were running almost two hours behind schedule.

However; despite all this; the swimmers responded with their customary style and exemplary attitude and the event commenced with a smile as Hastings Seagull swimmers were awarded the Sussex League Division Two Trophy; which they won last season in fine style.

Once the event got underway; there were many exciting races and of the 12 teams that Seagull entered; 7 reached Finals; ranking each of them in the top six relay teams, in their respective age groups in Sussex.

The best girls performance came from the 15 and over team of **Victoria Turner, Hannah Keen, Chloe Benton and Charlotte Rouncivell** who, after being disqualified on a technicality after finishing fastest in the freestyle final; bounced back to finish 2nd in a thrilling Medley Relay final

A special mention should also go to the aged 9 and 10 years team of **Amber Page, Lauren Alff, Lizzy Clarke and Tahlia Winn** who all swam personal best split times in reaching finals in both the events they competed in.

In the boys 9 and 10 years age group events; Seagull's team of **Harry Kilbane, Thomas Conte, William Saldana and Louis Choron** showed great potential in finishing 2nd in the freestyle and 3rd in the Medley whilst the aged 15 and over team of **Adam Rouncivell, Courtney Mattocks, Sam Moon and Tom Creed** mirrored the achievements of their younger team-mates in finishing 2nd in the Medley and 3rd in the freestyle.

All those who competed on the day can be proud of their achievements having overcome more than the usual challenges that competitive swimmers expect to face.

All the organisational problems of two weeks earlier were soon forgotten as one of the fastest events of the year 'The Ken Deeley Sprints' took place at the same venue last weekend. The event was well run and a thoroughly enjoyable experience for all present.

As with most of the Open Events held at this time of the year; swimmers are striving to achieve qualification times for the County, the Regional and ultimately the National Championships; all to be held in 2012.

The field was strong, the racing highly competitive and the ability demonstrated by all; of the highest quality. Seagull swimmers were responsible for an impressive 58 personal best times on the day; further demonstrating the forward momentum being experienced by all at the Club.

Of the boys; the start performer on the day was the remarkably confident and self assured 9 year old; **Louis Choron** who swam personal best times in all five of his events; grabbing four 2nd place medals and one third.

The promising and determined 11 year old **Thomas Conte**; achieved three PBs in his five events whilst earning one 5th and one 6th place medal.

Of the girls; the ever consistent 14 year old; **Jodie Shoemith** swam 3 personal best times; whilst winning both the 50m breaststroke and 4 x 25m Individual Medley and bagging two further 4th place medals in the 50m freestyle and the 50m backstroke.

9 year old **Charlotte Baker** also swam five personal best times and bagged a 2nd place medal with a forceful display in the 50m backstroke event.

PBs and Top 6 medals were also earned by; **Lauren Alff, Emily Williams, Nadia Winn, Andrew Paige, Ben Horner and Dan Williams.**

Although returning home without medals; **Maisy Adams, Tahlia Winn, Amelia Markfort, Chloe Baker, Jessica Fuller, Hannah Kefford, Anerley Cartlidge, Jack Parris, Callum Pearson, Matthew Kefford, Henri Choron and Harry Markfort** can all be proud of swimming personal best times on the day as doing so takes them all closer to their own personal objectives.