

The Perfect Sign off

Thursday July 21st saw the last Hastings Seagull Club Championships before the summer holidays.

The evening's outstanding performances demonstrated the depth of swimming talent at the Club. The polished, honed skills of the Seagull's National swimmers; Victoria Turner, Jodie Shoesmith, Tom Creed and Tom Parris were beautifully contrasted with the raw, explosive enthusiasm and very real promise of the Club's youngest competitors; Jade Bennett, Jemimah Berkeley, Maisy Adams and Louis Choron.

89 personal bests; many incredibly closely fought races; most winners achieving their victories by just the narrowest of margins were all contributory factors in what became a night to remember for all those lucky enough to be present.

The highlights included Charlotte Baker's superb performance in winning the girls 10 and 11 years 50m backstroke from Lauren Alff and Tahlia Winn.

Charlotte's older sister Chloe; was also a winner in a very exciting final of the girls aged 12 and 13 years 100m freestyle; managing to just edge ahead of Kathryn Clarke and Emily Williams.

The girls aged 14 and 15 years 4 x 25m IM event was won by Jodie Shoesmith by over three seconds from her nearest rivals; Charlotte Rouncivell and Hannah Kefford.

A special mention to 14 year old Romy Bishop, 12 year old Nicole Grass and 10 year old Amber Page; who all swam PBs in all of the three races in which they competed; including the Women's Open 4 x 50m IM event. They can all be very proud of their achievements.

Victoria Turner won both the Women's Open 4 x 50m IM and the 16 and 17 years 100m freestyle in her customary, powerful style and the 18 and over 100m breaststroke was won by Sarah Penney with another PB.

In the boys aged 10 and 11 50m Backstroke event; the ever consistent Oliver Ward edged to victory by less than half a second ahead of fast improving Harry Markfoot, who swam an excellent PB to finish ahead of third placed Henry Curties.

Another very close finish took place in the boys 12 and 13 years 100m freestyle. Ben Horner swam with impressive, smooth and assured style in defeating the formidable Dan Williams by a margin of less than a quarter of a second.

Darius Khaledi swam to a comfortable victory in the boys 14 and 15 years 4 x 25m IM; whilst the 16 and 17 years 100m Freestyle and the 18 and over 100m Breaststroke events; both saw close finishes. Adam Rouncivell put in a great performance to defeat Tom Parris by less than a second in the former and Tom Creed defeated Courtney Mattocks by a similar margin in the latter.

Tom Parris then responded with an awesome victory in the Men's Open 4 x 50m IM; finishing almost three seconds ahead of his nearest rival; Tom Creed.