

The Seagulls Return Home.....

Thursday March 24th saw the first Hastings Seagull Club Championships of 2011.

There was a somewhat celebratory atmosphere throughout what was a highly entertaining evening of racing at Summerfields.

Many Seagull swimmers were competing in 'home waters' for the first time since achieving outstanding success at the recent Sussex County Swimming Championships.

Once again; there were many outstanding performances but this night was a special one which saw a Club record 75 personal best times; including a further two new All-time, Club Championship Records.

Courtney Mattocks set a new all-time Club Championship Record in the Boys aged 16 and 17 years 100m Backstroke Heats; with a personal best time of 1.02.43. The previous record had stood for more than ten years.

Although the Heats also saw **Sam Moon, Luke Day, Tom Penney, Chris Shoesmith, Tom Creed** and **Harry Turner** all swim personal best times, only **Harry Turner** managed to improve on his Heat time in the Final with another PB.

Courtney swam another outstanding time in the final; but he was just beaten into second place by the powerful **Tom Creed**.

The awesome **Jodie Shoesmith**; who of all the Seagull swimmers had earlier in the month bagged the highest number of Sussex County Championship Medals; set a new all-time Club Championship Record of 1.19.55 in the Girls aged 14 and 15 years 100m Breaststroke. **Tasmin Paige** can be proud of her PB swim in the same event.

In the boy's aged 10 and 11 years 4 x 25m Individual Medley; **Oliver Ward** was outstanding in finishing six seconds ahead of his nearest rivals **Thomas Conte** and **Harry Markfoot**. All three boys swam personal best times in a race of the highest quality and promise for the future.

The 12 and 13 year old boys 100m Butterfly saw **Thatchai Yotming** record a PB in overcoming second placed **Dan Williams**. Third placed **Ben Horner** and fifth placed **Simon Paige** also swam personal best times.

The ever impressive **Darius Khaledi** won the Boys aged 14 and 15 years 100m Breaststroke event by seven seconds. Third placed **Jack Parris** can be justly satisfied having swum a personal best time.

Adam Rouncivell won the aged 18 years and over 100m Butterfly event in a race which also saw **Tom Baker** swim a personal best time.

There were two men's open events; the 200m Butterfly and 200m Breaststroke. The 'Fly' was won by a margin of more than seven seconds by **Sam Small**. Second placed **Callum Pearson** and fellow competitors **Harry Turner**, **Jack Parris** and **Simon Paige** all swam personal best times.

The 200m Breaststroke was won in fine style by the outstanding **Tom Creed**. An event which also saw; **Darius Khaledi**, **Angus Siberry**, **Tom Penney**, **Chris Shoesmith**, **Andy Paige**, **Fraser Beaton**, **Matthew Kefford**, **Thatchai Yotming**, **Tom Baker**, **Ben Horner**, **Luke Day**, **Oliver Ward**, **Thomas Conte**, **Simon Paige** and **Ryan Southgate**; all swim personal best times.

In the girls events; **Jessica Fitzwarren** maintained her status as the Club's premier distance Butterfly swimmer in winning the Women's Open 200m event.

Once again the youngest of the girls produced a magnificent race of the highest quality. The aged 9 years 25m Butterfly was won by **Jade Bennett** in a PB time of 22.48. **Leah Williams** and **Crystal Swain** can also feel proud of their achievements having both swum PBs in the same race.

There was a clear demonstration of the strength in depth of the Seagull squad in the Girls aged 10 and 11 years 4 x 25 Individual Medley event.

There was a 'magnificent eleven' swimmers who entered the highly competitive Heats.

Lizzie Clarke, Charlotte Baker, Daisy Earl, Tahlia Winn, Leah Hamblin, Hannah Sheridan, Harmony Cooper, Leanne Botting and Courtney Swain all swam PBs in the Heats.

The highly promising *Lizzie Clarke* swam another PB in winning the final by a clear four seconds from her nearest rival.

Another high quality group of swimmers competed in the Girls aged 12 and 13 years 100m Butterfly event.

Kathryn Clarke won the event; demonstrating her fitness, strength and determination in overcoming a tough challenge from *Emily Williams*.

Kathryn, Emily, third-placed *Liliana Winn, Chloe Baker, Amelia Markfoot and Katherine Turner* all swam PBs in the Heats and Kathryn went on to achieve another PB in the final.

The Girls aged 16 and 17 years 100m Backstroke was won by the stylish *Victoria Turner*. Although finishing in fourth place due to the quality of the competitors, *Charlotte Mortimer* can feel satisfied with her Personal Best time of 1.19.62.

The 18 and over Girls 100m Butterfly was won by the ever consistent and inspirational *Hannah Keen* from *Laura Bourne*; who set a PB in the event with a determined effort.

And finally; another performance of extraordinary note.

13 year old *Jodie Shoesmith* won the Ladies Open 200m Breaststroke event and in doing so overcame all her fellow female Seagulls; many of which possess greater experience and awesome quality.

Indeed, to put Jodie's performance into context; of those she overcame in order to win the event; *Hannah Keen, Victoria Turner, Jessica Fuller, Liliana Winn, Kathryn Clarke, Chloe Baker, Nicole Grass, Amelia Markfoot, Daisy Earl, Lauren Alff, Lizzie Clarke, Tasmin Paige, Jade Bennett and Charlotte Baker* all swam PBs.