

Simon Carey – Sports Editor – Hastings Observer – 2 Nov 09

Five Girls and one Boy from Hastings Seagull SC travelled to Brighton's Prince Regent swimming complex on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November for the Sussex County Development Gala. They took part in eighteen individual events achieving twelve PBs and recording seven Qualifying Times for next year's County Championships which will be held in February and March. In addition they were placed First in two events, Second in three events and Third in four events.

Nine year old Jesse McGorrian who will be ten for the Counties swam in the 200m Breaststroke winning his Age Group in a PB and a County QT for a 10 year old. Kathryn Clarke who will be twelve for the Counties swam in four events, achieving four PBs recording two County QTs and winning her Age Group 200m Freestyle. Joanna Fitzpatrick who will be thirteen when the Counties take place swam in three events, achieved two PBs, recorded two County QTs and came Third in her Age Group in all three events. Dorothy Wilson who also will be thirteen for the Counties achieved one PB and missed a County QT in her 100m Freestyle by eight hundredths of a second. Hannah Kefford who is thirteen swam in four events achieving two PBs and recording two County QT as well as coming Second in three of her Age Group events. Amber Thomas who celebrates her fifteenth birthday this week swam in four events achieving two PBs and getting third place in her Age Group 100m IM. Five of the above swimmers will be swimming in Age Groups one year older than they currently are which makes it more difficult for them to achieve Qualifying times for the County Championships, so these young swimmers are doing particularly well in achieving times for a swimmer who is a year older than they are at present.