

Simon Carey – Sports Editor – Hastings Observer – 26 April 10

12 year old Jodie Shoemith of Hastings Seagull SC travelled to Portsmouth during Easter weekend to gain experience of swimming in a 50m pool in which part of this year's Regional Championships will be held. This brand new facility held a three day meet which attracted top swimmers from the South of England and Jodie competed in four events and managed to get to the Final of the 100m Breaststroke where she came fifth in her age group, in addition she recorded PBs in all her events.

Three Hastings Seagull swimmers entered a selection of events at the K2 Long Course (50m) Spring meet during the weekend 17/18 April, Victoria Turner swam in two events the 50m Backstroke and the 100m Backstroke and she came second in both events and her time of 1.07.58 in the 100m gave her a National Qualifying time to go to the Ponds Forge complex in Sheffield. Both her times were PBs. Tom Creed swam in one event where he came sixth in the 100m Backstroke with a PB time. Kevin Pickard swam in four events coming First in the 50m Freestyle and the 50m Backstroke, he also came third in the 50m Butterfly and second in the 100m Freestyle, all of his times were PBs but most importantly his time of 28.57 in the 50m Backstroke gave him a qualifying time to go to the Scottish National Championships which are being used as the second stage of trials for the Commonwealth Games being held in Dehli in October.

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April six Girls and eight Boys from Seagulls travelled up to Gillingham to what used to be the Black Lion sports complex which has had a Makeover and a Refurb and is now the Medway Park in readiness for being a site for London 2012. Two years ago the team drove through a blizzard to get to this meet and a snowball fight was held after the first session but this year it was beautiful sunshine all the way. As usual this meet attracts entries from clubs from Kent, Sussex, Essex and London which makes the team competition very competitive. Orpington "O" Jays the organiser produced a very strong team again and beat the other 31 teams competing – we scored a very creditable 142 points considering that we only 14 swimmers taking part. They achieved 19 PBs, claiming 5 First places, 9 Seconds and 6 Thirds. Our winners were Angus Siberry, Tom Creed and Chloe Benton and the following claimed Second Places Jodie Shoemith, Chloe Benton, Jessica Fitzwarren, Joanna Fitzpatrick, Hannah Kefford, Sam Moon and Tom Creed. Joanna Fitzpatrick, Hannah Kefford, Oliver Ward, Dan Williams and Chloe Benton all claimed Third places.