

### **RESOUNDING VICTORY!**

On Saturday, our Premier local swimming club; Hastings Seagull, hosted the latest Sussex League event at Summerfields Leisure Centre.

Seagull were up against strong opposition from local rivals Eastbourne and Worthing; the latter proving to be Seagulls closest competitors on an exciting evening.

A great deal was at stake; as the winners of the event would become 2011 Divisional champions. Seagull were attempting to regain their status amongst the top six clubs in Sussex

The gallery was packed; the noise levels were deafening and the atmosphere electric throughout; as Seagull achieved their objective by winning the event in considerable style and by a considerable margin.

Although there were some outstanding individual performances; from a number of Seagull swimmers; it was in the team relay events where Seagull dominance reigned supreme.

Seagull won 10 of the 16 Team Relay events; including the pulsating, spectacular, eight stage, final event of the night, known as the Squadron.

What made the results even more impressive was the fact that many of the Seagull swimmers were competing against older swimmers in many events.

The girls under 14s team of; Kathryn Clarke, Jessica Fuller, Chloe Baker, Emily Williams, Liliana Winn, and Amelia Markfoot; the boys under 16s team of; Darius Khalesi, Callum Pearson, Jack Parris, Harry Turner and Dan Williams; the Ladies Open team of; Victoria Turner, Hannah Keen, Jessica Fitzwarren, Sarah Penney and Grayling Clayton and the Mens Open team of; Courtney Mattocks, Tom Creed, Adam Rouncivell, Kevin Pickard and Angus Siberry; each achieved clean sweeps by winning both their age category Relay Team Events.

Arguably, the most outstanding Relay Team performance of the night was that of the girls under 14s 4 x 25m Freestyle Relay Team who thrilled the crowd; winning in just 59.92 and thus averaging split times of under 15 seconds per length.

In addition to the stunning Relays; there were 37 individual personal best times achieved at the Event by Seagull swimmers.

In the girls under 12s; the highly promising Lauren Alff achieved a PB of 45.54 in winning the 50m breaststroke; whilst Lizzy Clarke, Charlotte Baker, Tahlia Winn and Katherine Turner all swam at least one PB on the night.

In the boys under 12s; fast-improving Harry Markfoot achieved 2 PBs and although not quite achieving a personal best time; Oliver Ward can feel justly proud after winning the 50m Butterfly.

In the girls under 14s; the smooth and powerful duo of Liliana Winn and Amelia Markfoot both bagged PBs in achieving a first and second placed clean sweep in the 100m backstroke and Jessica Fuller, Kathryn Clarke and Nicole Grass all achieved at least one PB. Furthermore, Jessica, Kathryn and Chloe Baker each secured impressive victories in at least one event.

In the boys under 14s; there were personal best times achieved by Dan Williams, Thatchal Yotming, Matt Kefford and Ben Horner.

In the girls under 16s; First placed Hannah Kefford and fourth placed Romy Bishop achieved PBs in the 100m Butterfly. Hannah also achieved a PB in the 100m Freestyle. There were also first places for the inspirational Jodie Shoesmith in the 100m Breaststroke and for the ever-consistent Charlotte Rouncivell in the 100m Freestyle. Jodie also achieved a PB whilst finishing second in the 4 x 25m IM and Zoe Masters can also be proud of her performance in achieving a PB whilst finishing narrowly behind second placed Nadia Winn in the 100m Backstroke.

In the boys under 16s; Callum Pearson, Darius Khalesi, Jack Parris, Harry Turner and Dan Williams all swam PBs; and Darius had further success in winning the 100m Breaststroke.

All but one of the Mens individual Open Events were won by Seagull swimmers. Kevin Pickard and Tom Creed both demonstrated their technique and power in winning two events each; and Sam Moon impressed with a PB whilst finishing third in the 100m Butterfly.

In the Ladies Individual Open Competition; the majestic duo of Hannah Keen and Victoria Turner won two events each. In one of these, the 100m Backstroke, Victoria and her team-mate Chloe Benton; both produced awesome displays in achieving another first and second placed clean sweep for Seagull.

13 year old Jodie Shoesmith, on a night which saw her also compete in the girls under 16s category; won the Ladies Open 100m Breaststroke in a Personal Best time; thus further demonstrating her remarkable progress and promise.

Laura Bourne and Amy Masters; can also have reason to be pleased as they too, each achieved at least one Personal Best time on the night in this age category.