

Simon Carey – Sports Editor – Hastings Observer – 16 November 09

On Saturday 14th November seventeen Girls and seventeen Boys from Hastings Seagull made the long Coach journey up to the Beckenham Spa Complex in South London for the second round of this year's Arena National Swimming League competition. They returned to winning ways beating the other five clubs on the night by scoring 191 points in the 50 event competition. Chelmsford who finished in second place were delayed in getting to the pool because the Queen Elizabeth Bridge crossing the River Thames was closed due to the gale force winds and their swimmers on the coach missed the first few events even though the start was delayed by 20 minutes while we waited for them.

Southend came third, Erith came fourth, Dartford came fifth and Redhill & Reigate who had beaten us in the previous round came sixth. We won five of the 16 relays including the Blue Riband event the Mens 6x50m which is always the final event of the night. We had six individual event winners – Dan Williams, Chloe Benton, Courtney Mattocks, Luke Cooper, Ben Horner and Tom Creed. Collectively our swimmers achieved 10PBs and 18 County QTs. The Final round will be held on 12th December against Southend, Elmbridge, Woking, Horsham and Erith, the venue has yet to be arranged.

On Sunday 15th November one Girl and three Boys travelled to Brighton's Prince Regent complex for the second of the Sussex County Development Gala even though our coach had not arrived back at Summerfields until after 11pm on the Saturday. Ben Horner swam in two events 100mIM and 200m Freestyle coming second in both with PBs and achieving CountyQTs in both. Luke Cooper swam in two events 200m Back and 200m IM coming second in the Back with a County QT and winning the IM with a PB and a County QT. Angus Siberry swam in three events – 100m IM where he came first with a County QT and the 200mIM where he came third and in the 200m Breaststroke which he won he recorded a PB. Amber Thomas swam in three events – 100m Fly coming 4th, 100m Back coming 5th and the 200m Back where she came 2nd. Overall in ten events our swimmers achieved two Firsts, 4 Seconds, 4 PBs and 5 County QTs.