

Simon Carey; Sports Editor: Hastings Observer: 20 Sept 09

On Sunday 13th September the competitive swimming season started with the Sussex County Relay Gala held at the Prince Regent Swimming Complex in Brighton. The relays in this Gala are 4x50m Medley and Freestyle events with heats and finals in each of the five Age Groups – under 11, under 13, under 15, under 17 and Open. Our swimmers got to eight Finals where they won one Gold and three Silver medals. As usual there was a big turnout with clubs from all over Sussex taking part.

In the Girls under 11 Age Group Tahlia Winn, Nicole Grass, Emily Williams and Shania Benton came 10th in the Medley and 11th in the Freestyle. In the under 13 Age Group Nadia Winn, Aimie Moran, Dorothy Wilson and Romy Bishop came 11th in the Medley and 12th in the Freestyle. In the girls under 15 Chloe Benton, Alycia Ridley, Jessica Fitzwarren and Joanna Fitzpatrick came 8th in the Medley.

In the girls under 17 Age Group Amy Masters, Rosie Reeve, Amber Thomas and Laura Bourne came 8th in the Medley and 9th in the Freestyle.

In the Boys under 11 Age Group Thomas Davis, Robbie Earl, Oliver Ward and Ben Horner came 5th in the Final of the Medley and 9th in the Freestyle. In the under 13 Age Group Dan Williams, Tom White, Luke Cooper and Josh Davis came 7th in the Medley and 5th in the Freestyle Final. In the under 15 Age Group Tom Creed, Jack Davidson, Sam Moon and Angus Siberry came 2nd in the Final of the Medley and won the Final of the Freestyle. In the under 17 Age Group Tom Penney, Steve Moran, Courtney Mattocks and Sam Small came 5th in the Final of the Medley and 6th in the Final of the Freestyle. In the Open Age Group Tom Heskett, Nathan Thomas, Kevin Pickard and Alex Berwick came 2nd in the Medley Final and 2nd in the Freestyle Final.

On Thursday 17th September at Summerfields the Club held the latest round of this year's Club Championships when 35 Girls and 29 Boys took part and between them they achieved 66 new Personal Best times. On the night there was only one double Champion – Jessica Fitzwarren who won the Girls under 16 100m Butterfly and the Girls Open 400m Freestyle. Other winning Girls were Shania Benton 25m Freestyle, Emily Williams 50m Breaststroke, Hannah Kefford 100m Backstroke, Grayling Clayton 100m IM, and Sophie White 100m Breaststroke.

In the Boys Oliver Ward won the 25m Freestyle, Luke Cooper won the 50m Breaststroke, Billy Brook won the 100m Backstroke, Courtney Mattocks won the 100m Butterfly, Tom Heskett won the 100m IM, Kevin Pickard won the 100m Breaststroke and Alex Berwick won the Open 400m Freestyle. Three of the senior swimmers Sophie, Kevin and Alex now go off to University to study Sports Development so it was appropriate that they bowed out with each of them winning a Championship.