

JUNIOR KENT LEAGUE 2009 ROUND UP

The Junior Kent League is for swimmers aged 9-13 years. The majority of swimming clubs in Kent compete in this competition and there are currently five divisions. There are three rounds and teams are awarded league points in each round, six points for first place down to one point for sixth place. The top team in divisions two to five is promoted with the bottom team in divisions one to four being relegated each year. DDSC currently swim in Division Two.

Round One was held at Crook Log in June. With a number of our swimmers unavailable on this occasion we were unable to field a complete team, resulting in us being unable to compete in five events. However, what we lacked in numbers we certainly made up for in effort. Andrey Brightwell, won the 'Boys U/11yrs 50m Breaststroke' in a new personal best time. There were also individual personal bests for Alice Gleeson (50m Breast), Druanne Brown (50m Free), Luke Saheed (100m Breast), Matthew Earle (100m Fly), Charlotte Poultney (100m Breast), Ben Grove (50m Back) & Harriet Pugsley (100m Back). Andrey also achieved PB's in 100m Breast & 50m Fly. Some great relay swimming on the night left us finishing in 5th place. A tremendous effort and a result to build on in rounds two & three to hopefully secure our position in this division. A special thank you to Maxine Thomas (lane end), Sue Farthing (time keeper), Paul Farthing (relay splits) and Matthew Parris (competitor steward) for helping out on poolside for the first time.

Round Two took place on 12th September at Trinity School in Croydon. We were fortunate enough to field a full team and whilst still only managing to finish in 5th place we were much closer to the teams above us. Swimmer of the evening was Maya Willis who won both the girls 10 years 50m freestyle and butterfly events and helped secure first place in the girls 9/10 years freestyle relay along with Alice Goodwin, Grace Ladley and Druanne Brown. A number of creditable second places were also achieved. Andrey Brightwell was runner up in the boys 10 years and boys 11 years 50m breaststroke aswell as the boys 12 years 100m breaststroke. Charlie Knight finished second in the boys 11 years 50m freestyle and Amy Farthing second in the girls 11 years 50m freestyle. The victorious girls 9/10 years freestyle team narrowly missed out in the medley relay finishing a close second.

The final round was held in November at Dover. Once again we were unable to field a full team, in fact, this was probably the smallest number of swimmers I have taken to an event in my three years as Team Manager. What we lacked in numbers we certainly made up for in effort and team spirit. Individual wins were achieved by Maya Willis in the girls 10 years 50m freestyle and 50m butterfly, Andrey Brightwell in the boys 10 years and 11 years 50m breaststroke and Charlie Knight in the boys 10 years 50m freestyle. Good second places were swum by Sophie Pembroke (50m butterfly), Amy Farthing (50m backstroke in new PB), Bethany Halsey (100m butterfly), the mixed 11/u medley team, girls 11/u freestyle

team and the boys 11/u 50m freestyle team. There were also Individual personal bests for Luke Saheed (100m individual medley), Hannah Knight (100m breaststroke) Charlotte Poultney (100m freestyle) and Mia Biscoe (50m Breaststroke). Thank you to Mia Biscoe and Ciara Murphy for agreeing to swim at such short notice enabling us to field younger relay teams and a special mention to Luke Saheed who swam in seven events securing valuable points for the team. We finished the evening in 5th place securing our position in this division for another year.

WELL DONE AND A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE SWIMMERS WHO HAVE COMPETED FOR DDSC IN THE LEAGUE THIS YEAR.

Andrea Knight is taking up the responsibility of Team Manager for this season. This is an important league and your support in the coming year to swim at each of the three galas, if selected, would be greatly appreciated. So please, if you are aged 13 and under at the end of 2010, please make a note of the dates on the fixture list.

Full results are available on the website and noticeboard.

Nick Pembroke

Team Manager