

DASC at Newburn Summer Meet, Stanley, 10 & 11 July 2010

DASC attended their final gala of the swimming year, competing in the 4th Newburn Summer Meet aimed at non-National Qualifiers. 10 boys and 16 girls from a variety of our competitive squads swam a total of 113 times with well over half of their swims being Personal Best times. It was a great end to the season.

There was some keen, but friendly rivalry in several sprint events amongst the older boys from Top Squad – **Michael Patan, Alex Park and Joe Walsh** - which produced some super swims from each of them. Joe Walsh, who only started training seriously less than six months ago, took the honours in the 50m Freestyle and 50m Butterfly, recording PBs in all his 5 swims. The ever consistent and hard-working Michael Patan beat the other two in the 100m Freestyle, producing PBs in 5 of his 6 swims, and made a significant breakthrough in 100m Backstroke with a great swim in 1.09.81. Alex Park will be out for the top spot at the next gala but should be very pleased with his 3 PBs especially on the 2 sprint freestyle events. **Alex Field** consolidated on his recent good 100m Freestyle swims and swam well for a bronze medal in 50m Backstroke.

Jonathan Teague picked up a gold, a silver and 2 bronzes and 4 PBs in his 4 swims, showing his competitive instinct for racing. **Aaron Morton** won gold in 100m Freestyle in an excellent 1.13.56 and silver in 50m Butterfly with another PB. **Jonathan Abbott** knocked 15 seconds off his 200m Freestyle time and won silver in 50m Breaststroke and deserves to be pleased with these performances. **John van Mourik** finished the season well with 3 PBs, being just outside the Top 3 on 50m Breaststroke. **Danny Walker**, who is also quite new to competing in galas, rose to the occasion well with PBs on all but one of his swims knocking 11 seconds off his 100m Freestyle time. **Richard Murray**, arguably the busiest DASC swimmer for the 09/10 season, competed in 9 events still managing to produce 3 PBs. Two of these were in 200m Freestyle and 200m IM indicating his improving endurance fitness.

9-year old **Sally Abbott** thoroughly enjoyed her first taste of swimming in an open gala and celebrated her debut with 2 great PB swims. It is hard to believe that **Alice Eynon** is still only 9 and she made the most of it to win a bronze on 50m Freestyle in an excellent time and knocked 25 seconds off her 200m Freestyle best to just break the 3-minute mark. Our strong trio of 10 year olds – **Hannah Briggs, Jade Cook and Alana Prior** – each had busy weekends. Alana won bronze medals in 50m Backstroke and 100m Breaststroke and clocked up 6 PB swims. Jade lowered her 100m Freestyle time by an enormous 9 seconds and was just outside the medals on 100m

Breaststroke. Hannah is developing into a super Butterfly and Freestyle swimmer, just missing out on medals in several events but going home with 4 PBs she can be proud of. **Samantha Hawkes** swam gamely in 3 events, gaining more valuable gala experience.

In the 11-year agegroup **Mikayla Jordens** swam her fastest ever times on Freestyle, Backstroke and Breaststroke events. **Emily Waterworth**, returning to competitive swimming after being out of the club for 15 months, swam much faster than she used to, also breaking the 1.20 barrier on 100m Freestyle. In both her races **Lauren Allinson** swam PB times, despite having missed training recently while on holiday. **Anna Troy** smashed her 200m Freestyle best by 36 seconds and did her second PB of the week in 200m IM.

It was good to see **Bridget Upton** making great strides forward especially in her Freestyle events with a 5th place swim in the 50m sprint. **Victoria Pinner** competed in 4 events in the 12-year agegroup perhaps being a little disappointed with her times, but looking forward to next season. **Charlotte Kilcran**, another relative newcomer to open gala competition, lowered her PB times in both her events. **Abby Hawkes** had a good weekend with her third consecutive 100m Freestyle PB time in the space of 3 weeks. **Rebecca Kell's** sprinting produced a fast 50m Butterfly and she was close to her best in 3 other events. **Helen Murray** swam in 8 races over the weekend, picking up a bronze in 100m Breaststroke and setting best times in 200m Freestyle and 200m IM.

'A' Squad coach Emma Hughes was kept very busy all weekend, but had plenty to be pleased about. The swimmers' noisy and encouraging support for each other throughout the weekend was great to see. One DASC parent who hadn't attended a gala for well over a year commented on what a great team spirit there was amongst the Darlington swimmers.

WELL DONE TO ALL