

BRIGHTON DOLPHIN GALA

SATURDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2012

Worthing were invited back as winners from last year to this gala at the Prince Regent swimming pool in Brighton. A big thank you goes out to all helpers and officials and swimmers and parents who made the effort to get their children there on time not being the easiest pool to get to especially on a Saturday night.

The teams competing were Brighton, Mid Sussex Marlins, Brighton Dolphin, Lewes, Eastbourne and Worthing. The rules for this Gala was swimmers who had qualified for Counties could not swim in that event but could swim up and the relays could be mixed as some swimming clubs did not have enough swimmers to make a team.

Worthing were working hard to gain back the victory from 2011 and was not helped when event six came and Brighton had a winning time of 34 seconds This time told me how desperate Brighton were to win, as this was a Qualifying time for a 15 year old girl at this years county and this was a 12 year old event. This is like Worthing swimming Michelle Hepworth which was against the rules so she was not selected.

I knew we were not going to win however the team selected under the rules was strong enough to aim for second. Our young swimmers Isobel, Lily, Lucy, Oscar, Lucas and Ethan were doing Worthing proud in the lowest age group with all the usual contenders battling it out for points in the upper age groups. The top age group this year was 14 years and our oldest swimmer on the night was 13 years.

A big thank you goes to Chris and Justine for whipping as with the mixed relays of Boys and Girls made this more of a challenge than normal also in a 25m pool working out who goes which end for what stroke.

As the events progressed it was more often than not that the first three teams taking the top three places were Brighton, Eastbourne and Worthing .Every point was needed if we were going to get this second place. Some swimmers were up against it such as Annah Bowles who found herself finishing one event only to swim in another. I am very proud of Worthing as always and having 26 swimmers in the team we were well represented and supportive of each other.

Worthing secured 13 wins on the night compared to Eastbourne with 12 and Brighton at 14 shows how close this event was.

When the points were given out with the swimmers eager to know, we found ourselves in second ahead of Eastbourne by 6 points and behind Brighton by 5 points. Some Galas operate a speeding ticket so if a swimmer goes too fast then the time would not count. If this rule was applied Worthing would have won as the 6 points gained by event 6 would not have been allowed, however a suggestion for next year. On the night I feel Worthing were winners and I am very proud of all who made it on the night. GO GREEN ARMY.

Again thanks to all not to forget the Officials as well who were Sarah Coulson Katie Hazeldine and Mark Savill who made the evening flow smoothly as always when they are involved.

Next Gala is on the 3rd March. We have two Galas on the same night. Having two Galas on the same night is extremely difficult to organise. The reason for doing this is that two years ago we were invited to the Puffin Gala. Previously we never got an invite to this event as other teams took priority. That particular year another club was not able to make the Gala and Worthing were asked. Keen to keep the invite knowing that if we turn it down we will lose our place as this is a popular Gala I will make every effort to get our swimmers to experience Galas to back up all the hard work our Teachers and Coaches put in to give the children the ability to swim and swim very well. If your name is selected please make every effort to attend and every place will be demanding to fill.

Keep swimming well and I look forward to seeing you soon in training and representing Worthing.

Nic Piper
Head Coach
Worthing Swimming Club