

Seagulls flying ahead

With the much larger squad available from the recently merged Seagulls and Torpedoes clubs, Seagulls were able to field two teams in Saturday's Adam Knight friendly gala at Rossmore.

Seagulls A finished in second place behind Bournemouth Dolphins and Seagulls B were a creditable sixth. Seagulls A achieved nine firsts and thirteen second places in the 48 events as well as recording 34 personal best (PB) times.

Seagulls' team manager Lee Druce said: "This event gave valuable experience to a lot of our less experienced competitive swimmers and so the final position of the team is less important than the fact that the swimmers achieved 63 pbs out of 96 swims and this speaks volumes for how well our swimmers are progressing."

Lee went on to praise Charne Randall and Alice Cook for the girls who achieved pbs in each of their four events and Alastair Rogers and Logan Holiday for the boys who achieved pbs in each of their five events.

Final results: 1, Dolphins, 236 points; 2, Seagulls A, 194 pts; 3, Ferndown, 187 pts; 4, Tornados, 185 pts; 5, Hamble, 119 pts; 6, Seagulls B, 77 pts.

National Masters

Two Seagulls senior swimmers also enjoyed success at last weekends National Masters' Championships in Sheffield. Charlotte Roberts won a bronze medal in the 19-24 year age group 1500m freestyle in a time of 20.42.43 and Seagulls' head coach Barry Aldrick gained a bronze in the 200m butterfly in the 24-29 year age group. Roberts also competed in the 200m butterfly taking three seconds

off her pb (2.56.26) and finished fifth and the 400m freestyle in 5.19.82. Aldrick was sixth in the 1500m in 19.56.65, seventh in the 100m breaststroke (1.15.07) and swam 29.97 in the 50m butterfly. It was a good weekend for Aldrick, as he enjoyed gaining best times in all of his events since retiring from full time swimming five years ago.

Western age group

Seagulls have also celebrated gaining their first Western age group qualifying time at the Rushmoor Royals Open Meet at the 50m Aldershot Garrison Pool. The club entered two 9-year-olds — Peter Griffiths and Peter Lawson — giving them the opportunity to swim 200m and 400m in the longer pool. Griffiths came away with a third in the 200m freestyle (2.47.83) gaining his first Western age group qualifying time. Peter also went on to celebrate a third in the 200m individual medley (3.20.96), narrowly missing out on achieving his second western time by less than a second. Griffiths best swim came in the 400 individual medley where he took first place by 19 seconds (7.04.02), the second place competitor being team-mate Peter Lawson (7.23.87).

Malta training

Eleven Seagulls swimmers have just returned from a week's training camp in Malta that included 25 hours of swim training. The camp gave swimmers a sneak preview as to what is involved in full time training and by the end of the week nearly all the Seagulls swimmers managed pbs.