



NATIONAL ARENA LEAGUE ROUND 2 Horsham Pavilions in the Park Saturday 10th
November 2018

A wet and windy brooding November night in deepest darkest Sussex, rain was sheeting across the rural country roads, the trees were rustling, almost whispering, long held secrets of a timeless rural bucolic English countryside.

Sounds like the first lines of an Edgar Allen Poe horror story about to unfold, however the bright lights of The Pavilions in the Park Leisure Centre soon appeared, a beacon of anticipation and hope for the small band of swimmers from Kent Weald SS who made the trip to Horsham.

The motivational team talk was held, based on putting a little pressure on, turning rocks in to diamonds and bringing a relay mentality to the individual races, the Pre pool was led by boys and girls Captains Brandon and Caitlin and the Green machine got in to gear starting with the 200im events. Both Caitlin and Brandon living up to expectations and both bagging personal best times. The next 8 events were the relays boys and girls 9-11 free relays consisting of Kahlen, Kara, Chenai, Sarah, Thomas, Ruben, Charlie and Max, both teams performed well. The girls and boys 13yrs Medley relays were next up with Caitlin, Holly, Erin, Maddy 29.67, Josh P, Fred, Evan and Jarred, leading to some outstanding splits. The next brace of relays were the girls and boys 15 yrs free relays, the girls team was Lily, Georgia, Nell, and anchored by Noemie Thompson who had made the trip after doing cross-country earlier in the day. Fantastic team spirit and commitment from Noemie. After a quick turnaround from the 13 yrs medley relay, Josh Prendergast 29.62 filled in for a no show on the night in the 15 yrs free relay alongside his team mates, Brandon 26.57 who led off Ollie 26.61 and Josh Baar going an amazing 26.71.

The last two relays were the open medley relays, Lois returning after a break from swimming on the bk leg, Millie, Georgia and Tilda made up the quartet. The men's medley had Brandon 28.82 back in the water after only 3 mins, Stew 31.75, Jacob smashing out a 26.09 fly leg and Ollie Durrant 26.58 back from injury anchoring the team home to a deserved 1st place and 2 seconds faster than the last round.

Next we had the individuals led out by Kahlen taking another 1st for KWSS in the girls 10/11 yrs 50 bk, in the reciprocal boys' event Thomas also took top honours both taking pbs. Erin 77.48 had a great tussle with the Atlantis girl in the girls 13 yrs 100 breaststroke, getting her hand on the wall for another 1st and a lovely pb. Fred took his expected points in the boys 13 yrs 100 brst, Maddy swam well to a good time in the girls 15 yrs bk only to be dq'd for turning over and adding an extra kick. Brandon in his third race the 15 yrs 100 bk took 5 points. Newbie Elle Waller swam a tough ladies 100 fly, followed by Jacob who swam a majestically paced men's 100 fly to take top points in a time of 59.02.

If the announcer's pa system was a bit louder, we might have heard the points check at this point.

Kahlen 36.77 and Ruben 35.59 were next in the 10-11 yrs girls and boys 50 fly. Caitlin was by now like Brandon on to her 3rd individual race of the night the 15 yrs 100 bk, swimming a tactical race, doing just enough to conserve energy and taking top spot.

KWSS third swimmer to 3 races in quick succession although not by design was Josh P beating his predicted 3rd place picking up an extra point to come second and amazingly picking up a pb. Georgia Mc Kean now became the 4th Athlete on her 3rd race in short order in the girls 15 yrs 100 bk, Brandon by now on his 4th race the gruelling 100 fly stoically fronted up as he always does. We had Caitlin up again after a very short turnaround in the ladies open bk, there was a bit of a delay for the Atlantis swimmer who looked a bit ill, but finally we got off and Caitlin delivered another perfectly paced 100 to maintain her top points record.

Jacob took one for the team swimming his least favourite stroke in the Men's 100 bk taking the points total to a close run with Atlantis.

Now, on the last half of the meet it must be said that there were some outstanding performances and some real grit displayed by KWSS swimmers who had stepped up for several events, after a no show swimmer's races had to be filled, but it was not over yet, there was still, more excitement to come.

Sarah Pascoe took her expected points on the girls 10-11 yrs 50 brst, Max got in to a titanic battle with the Atlantis boy in the boys' 50 brst just getting touched out on the wall but securing a nice pb, can't ask more than that.

Erin Nisbet was back for the girls' 13 yrs 100 fly getting involved with another exciting race with Atlantis getting her hand on the wall for her second win of the night, well done Erin.

Evan, newly promoted to the top squad swam well in the boys version taking 4th place, one place better than predicted, Lily swam a tough race in the girls 15 yrs 10 free Ollie Isaacs lowered his 100 pb on the boys 15 yrs 100 free to 57.95, taking 5 points in the process.

Millie Ray swam a very nice ladies open 100 brst taking her predicted points with a nice pb.

Stewart Grant the oldest member of the team at 1032 yrs old, yes I did say 1032 yrs old ha, ha, swam a brilliant gutsy men's 100 brst in a super tight race just getting touched out on the wall to second place by one hundredth of a second beating his predicted finish. The last tranche of individuals was now upon us, and in quick succession. The Team points scores were very tight, kicking off with Kara Mitchell & Thomas Long shaving a few tenths off his pb to go 30.93. Caitlin could not keep away, swimming her fifth race and fourth individual, again swimming an intelligent race keeping pace with the Atlantis girl for the first 75 m, then optimising the last turn and underwater phase to ease ahead for another 1st place. Josh P swam the boys 13 yrs getting another pb and getting his hand on the wall to finish in 2nd place in a blanket finish of 4 swimmers.

Nell Young took 4 points for the team in the girls 15 yrs 100 brst, Ollie Isaacs unfortunately picked up a dq on the boys 15 yrs 100 brst but did produce a fast time. Tilda produced her predicted points on the ladies 100 free.

The last individual race saw Jacob West playing with the opposition to take top points in the men's 100 free in a time of 54.57.

Finally we came to the second grouping of relays Kahlen Arundell Sarah Pascoe, Bethany Holland, Kara Mitchell came second in the 9-11 yrs med relay. Charlie Brice, Max Beavington, Thomas Long, Ruben Cowley got their predicted 1st place in the boys medley relay. Caitlin Ebbage, Holly Geake, Maddy Holland and Erin Nisbet took 2nd place in the girls

13 yrs free relay. Josh Prendergast, Jarred Adams , William Fitzpatrick and Evan Norris took a better than expected 4th place in the boys 13 yrs medley relay. Lily Durnford, Nell Young, Georgia Mc Kean swam well to take a 3rd place in the girls 15 yrs medley relay, Lily leading the team out with a super 33.68. The boys' medley relay made up from Brandon Harris 28.78, Ollie Isaacs 34.58, Josh Barr 30.08 Fly and anchored by Jarred Adams 32.01 stepping in for a no show took 3rd

The penultimate race of the evening was the ladies open squadron free relay led out by Elle Waller, followed by Millie Ray, Tilda Durrant, Lois Duchesne, Erin Nisbet and anchored by Caitlin completing her 7th race of the evening the girls swam well to finish in their predicted 4th place.

Last Race of the night saw a very tight race between KWSS and Atlantis both teams way out ahead of the other teams in a real head to head battle, the lead changed backwards and forwards as the race progressed, on the block to lead out was Jacob, then Stew Grant, Ollie Durrant 25.17 Brandon in his 7th race, Ollie Isaacs and anchored by Josh Baar back in the water 3 minutes after his 15 yrs fly leg coming down to the last stroke. Atlantis just nipping in ahead, but what a great race to watch and finish on, well done Boys.

Gutsy racing from all the team, we go into round 3 top gala full of anticipation

Pete and Richard

Final positions

ATLANTIS	236
KWSS	207
BLSC	180
MAIDSTONE	163
SOUTH CROYDON	153
EAST GRINSTEAD	104