

Swimming

Nomads begin year with a bang after sparkling display

Fareham swimmers produce string of personal bests and bring home massive haul of medals

MORE than 160 personal bests were secured by Fareham Nomad swimmers in their highly successful Winter Open Meet on Sunday.

The club dominated the event at Waterlooville Leisure Centre, winning 58 gold medals, 46 silvers and 37 bronze medals.

Head coach Stewart Crowe was particularly delighted with the level of performances shown across the various age groups.

He said: 'As pleasing as the medal haul was, it was also the level of personal best performances that were achieved so early in the swimming year and the spread of medal winners, from the youngest Nomads competitors, aged 10, to the oldest aged 44.'

'The level of performance was as pleasing as the total number of medals won with 160 personal best times being achieved by the squad of 50.'

Teams from Eastleigh, Locks Heath, Havant & Waterlooville, Alton, Chichester, Southampton Dolphins and Portsmouth Northsea were all in attendance.

Five gold medal hauls were achieved by Ellen Jewell (10 years), Aiden Phillips (14 years) and Chris Finch (16 years and over) while Sam Cooper (15 years), Matthew Riley (15 years), Ryan Ireland (10 years) and a much-improved Matthew Sullivan (13 years) all claimed four golds each.

There were also two golds apiece from Rachel Matthews, Maddie Thompson, Sophie Hutin, Oliver Burton, Beatrice Hollands, Joe Davies and Laura Molyneaux – a member of the newly-formed masters squad.

First positions were also gained by Emily Blake, Lucy Moyse, Harriet Brocklebank, Edwards Hollands, Cillian Ross, Clive Marquis, George Lambert, Lucy Murdoch, Emma

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Davis, Hannah Cooper, Xanthe West, Alex Finch and Hillary Vulliamy.

Sophie Hutin, Matthew Sullivan, Clive Marquis, Dan Ross and Joshua Lees all won three silver medals apiece.

The medals kept flowing for Fareham with further successes by Oliver Jones, Evie Rowsell, Alice Moyse, Anna Ross, John Vulliamy, Ben King, Daisy Ireland, Lily Davies, Fiona Murdoch, Eleanor Curran, Olivia Busher, John Molyneaux, Joanna Corben, Arthur Morley, Michael Andrews, Ethan Childs and Jack Williams.

The competition was one of the last opportunities for swimmers to gain qualification and fine-tune their preparations for the Hampshire County Swimming Championships, which take place over the weekends of February 28, March 7 to 8 and March 14 to 15.



FIVE STAR Ellen Jewell won five gold medals at the Fareham Nomads Winter Open Meet on Sunday. Inset: Team-mate Rachel Matthews came home with two golds

Pictures: Allan Hutchings (150129-958, 147)



DOMINATION Alice Moyse was one of 141 Fareham medallists (150129-132)



POOL SIDE Lily Davies, above, swam in the 400m freestyle, as did Havant & Waterlooville's Kate Collins, left



SUPPORT Fareham Nomads swimmers cheer on their club-mates (150129-068)