

Youngsters get Marine Futures lessons



THEY'RE OFF! Marine Futures recruits getting under way at Lee-on-the-Solent on Saturday



Teenagers learn on a Lee shore

AFTER the launch of the Gosport Marine Futures sail training bursary on April 21, the team of 10 aged 14 to 17 stuck straight into the programme.

The team received a sea safety briefing at Gosport & Fareham Inshore Rescue Station by GAFIRS chairman Keith Thomas and one from the Search and Rescue team at the Maritime Coastguard Helicopter Station, in Daedalus.

Lee-on-the-Solent Sailing Club will teach them how to sail dinghies and they will also spend a day on square-rigged boats which look like miniature pirate ships.

At Lee Sailing Club on Saturday, seven of the Marine Futures team had their 'Try a Sail' session which they all loved.

Stefan Bugg enjoyed the session so much he joined the Lee Sailing Club and

crewed for a club member later the same day.

And Megan Eddles said: "I had so much fun, I was allowed to take the helm and even bring the boat safely about. The Instructors were brilliant, I am looking forward to the next session on May 14."

One of Gosport's 2015-16 Youth Sailing Ambassadors, Sam Frost, 18, from Lee-on-the-Solent, manned the safety boat for the 'Try a Sail' session and said how much he enjoyed being involved in the programme.

Councillor John Beavis, supervising on behalf of Gosport Marine Scene, said: "The Lee Sailing Club team were brilliant! The Commodore briefed them on arrival and the RYA qualified instructors took such good care of the young people. They all had great fun."

Gosport Marine Scene Project Officer

Abby Thomson said: I am really excited about the way that so many organisations and volunteers have worked hard to bring this programme together.

"I was delighted to see the enthusiasm by our selected young crew for the programme."

Some of the team will join a yacht and have fun sailing in the Charity Pursuit — a family day raising money for local charities — around the Nab Tower on Saturday, May 21. The day will end with prize-giving and a BBQ at Hornet Services Sailing Centre.

For more information about Gosport Marine Futures visit www.gosportmarinefestival.org.uk. Readers can follow the progress of the Gosport Marine Futures crew and support their fundraising efforts via social media @GosportMarFest and the Gosport Marine Festival Facebook page.

**Fareham
Nomads**
SWIMMING CLUB

Memorial Cup gala packs leisure centre

FAREHAM Nomads Swimming Club have hosted the annual Jean Hillman Memorial Trophy Gala at Fareham Leisure Centre.

It is held in association with a former swimmer, Adrian Hillman, in memory of his mother, Mrs Jean Hillman.

Mrs Hillman sadly passed away while Adrian was young and still at the start of his competitive swimming career. She had so much enjoyment seeing the younger swimmers compete, that her husband approached the club and asked to sponsor a gala in his wife's memory.

Now in its 36th year, the Jean Hillman Memorial Trophy has become an established gala on the local swimming fixture list and is a fabulous way for younger swimmers to gain experience swimming in a highly competitive but enjoyable and safe environment.

This year's gala, did not disappoint, with solid competition among Wildern Waves, Southampton Dolphins, Locks Heath Swim School, Gosport Dolphins and Fareham Nomads.

The hosts got off to a flying start winning the opening relay event and the first two individual events courtesy of Ellen Jewell and Tom Dickson.

At the halfway point in the competition it was a close run competition with outstanding performances on the individual races and also relay events across the board. As the evening progressed it was clear it would remain close between Fareham Nomads and Southampton Dolphins who had an 11-point lead.

That was despite two wins from Charlie Holyer and one each, George Lambert and Joe Davies. It helped close the gap to only five points.

Despite a valiant effort from a young team and further wins from Charlie Holyer, Cillian Ross, Emily Blake, Ryan Ireland, Tom Dickson, Hannah Cooper, Ben King and Joe Davies, Fareham Nomads were pipped at the post into second place with 260 points against Southampton Dolphins in first place scoring 271 pts. Locks Heath were placed third, Wildern Waves fourth and Gosport Dolphins, fifth.

Adrian presented the Jean Hillman Trophy to the winning team in front of a full and supportive group of spectators from across the region.

Nomads Head Coach Stewart Crowe said: "The swimmers all put in a huge amount of effort and it is disappointing that we did not win. However I am sure our very young team will gain much from this experience."