

Worthing Swimming Club Press Release 12/10/2013:

“Worthing's arena league campaign off to a rocky start”

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On Saturday 12th October 2013, Worthing Swimming Club hosted the 1st round of the National Arena Swimming League at Waterloo's 8 lane pool. A fair distance to go for a home gala.

We are in South, Division 2 West following our 9th place in last year's competition, out of 13 teams. This year there are 15 teams in our division and competition is increased with Didcot Barramundi and Guildford C new in to the league.

The Age Groups in National League are Under 12, Under 14, Under 16 and Open with ages as at 31st December. 9 Year olds are only eligible to swim in relays, not individuals.

We took a small team of 31 swimmers to this Gala with an aim of at least achieving our seeding for the Gala of 6th place. It would be great to finish in the top 8 in this division this year but not an easy challenge.

From the start of the competition, the standard of opposition was high and we were battling to stay in contention not coming higher than 4th in our 1st 7 races. Despite a number of swimmers achieving personal bests, our 1st win didn't come until event 21 with Michelle Hepworth winning the Girls 100 metres Backstroke in the Under 14 Age Group.

7 races later and Worthing secured another race win, with Oscar Silk in the boys under 12 50 metres breaststroke. 4 more races passed and yet another win, this time from Jacob Nash in the boys under 16 100 freestyle. Our final race win on the night was by Michelle Hepworth in Girls Under 14 100 freestyle.

In the end Worthing secured as many race wins as the team that came 3rd, but were unable to back it up with 2nd and 3rd placed finishes, to finish 6th on the evening with 191 points. Guildford C team were clear winners, with Didcot Barramundi and Alton in the chasing pack.

1st Guildford C 322, 2nd Didcot Barramundi 273, 3rd Alton & District 262, 4th Basingstoke Blufins B 240, 5th West Wight 224, 6th Worthing 191, 7th Chichester Cormorants 157, 8th Andover 127

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