

Worthing Swimming Club Press Release 09/11/2013:

“Worthing's faces high competition in arena league”

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On Saturday 9th November 2013, Worthing Swimming Club participated in the 2nd round of the National Arena Swimming League at Portsmouth, where there is a 50 metre, 8 lane pool that has a boom, to allow for a 25 metre pool, ideal for training & competition.

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 Portsmouth B, 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 32 swimmers to this Gala with an aim of at least achieving our seeding for the Gala of 5th place. It would be great to finish in the top 8 in this division this year but not an easy challenge with such a high level of competition.

From the start of the competition, the standard of opposition was high and we were battling to stay in contention in 6th place after 10 events. Godalming were our nearest rivals on the night, just 2 points ahead at this stage. After 26 events, we were just 6 points ahead of Godalming in 5th place. Our 1st win didn't come until event 28 with Oscar Silk winning the Boys 50 metres Breaststroke in the Under 12 Age Group.

4 races later and Worthing secured 2nd place in the boys 15 and under 100 freestyle with Jacob Nash breaking the magic minute for the 1st time with a fantastic time of 58.66. Race 40 brought our 2nd race win of the evening with 1.12.94 from Ellis Bubb in the boys 15 and under 100 Breaststroke. With 34 events to go and with 42 to go, we were level with Godalming, so we knew it would be close with 8 races to go.

In the end Worthing finished 6th relinquishing 5th place to Godalming in the final race of the evening.

1st Portsmouth Northsea B 318, 2nd Didcot Barramundi 288, 3rd Windsor B 274, 4th Basingstoke Blufins B 239, 5th Godalming 177, 6th Worthing 175, 7th Wey Valley 161, 8th Andover 145

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