

Haul of 40 medals for Erith and District Swimming Club

Erith and District Swimming Club travelled to the German town of Neheim Hüsten, twin town to Bexley to take part in the 36th International Swimming Competition hosted by SV Neptun Swimming Club over the May Bank Holiday weekend. This is the fifth time that the club has taken part in the competition and the team of 47 swimmers aged from 11 upwards made this the most successful year ever.

The competition took place in a 50m outdoor pool set in the forest and with Erith and District Swimming Club the only club representatives from Great Britain, the team flew the flag with pride finishing 7th overall out of 34 teams. There were teams representing France, Holland, Belgium, Romania and Nigeria in addition to several teams from Germany. After two days of competition, Erith and District Swimming Club finished with 13 Gold, 11 Silver and 16 Bronze medals which was outstanding considering the team spent the Friday travelling while other teams were already competing.

With a haul of 40 medals, there was much to celebrate for the team. There were numerous excellent performances with many swimmers producing personal best times in what were often very difficult conditions. Callum Pearson and Laura Porritt topped the medal haul table with 3 gold and 1 silver each, with Rosie Gardner and Emily White bringing home 2 golds each. Other top performances included Emma Coppen with a gold, silver and bronze, and Naomi Ross with 2 silver and 1 bronze. Other individual medal winners included Alex Wilkes, Chloe Hobbs, Daisie Hutchinson, Matt Kirkup, Sam Gardiner, Bethan Austin, Casey Porritt, Conor Middleton, Francesca Williams, Luke Forrest, Michael Redpath, Rebecca Gravell and Ria Surridge. In addition to the medals, individual trophies were collected by Callum Pearson and Emily White for best performance in the 12 year old boys and girls 50m sprints. The girls junior relay teams consisting of Rebecca Gravell, Casey Porritt, Bethan Austin, Chloe Hobbs and Elizabeth Kennedy won 2 golds while the senior girls team of Laura Porritt, Rosie Gardner, Emma Coppen and Naomi Ross won silver. The senior boys won bronze with excellent swims from Shane Hume, Michael Redpath, Matt Kirkup and Barry Cuselle.