

Octopus 2013 Round 6: The Final by Paul Nicholls

We took a team of 24 swimmers to the final round of this year's Octopus League gala, many of which were competing in their first league gala of the calendar year. Once more the team spirit was excellent on pool side with plenty of cheering and with that came a staggering 25 PB's from individuals and lead-off relay legs as well as 11 wins, 5 of which were courtesy of our 10 and unders, including Ethan Kett, Mia Green, Luke Hazell, Madeleine Groves in their individuals and the freestyle relay comprising of Ethan, Mia, Luke and Kacey-May Smith. The older swimmers were not to be outdone with Kavan Zurita, Fran Emily Goff, Amelia Dimond and Elizabeth Hunt all securing maximum points for the team in their respective individual events.

We also had 2 time faults from our 10 year olds which proves just how well that age group performed often bettering their single length PB's by 2 seconds. On a slightly negative note, 4 DQ's were also recorded although one of these was purely down to your team managers for the night for not knowing there was a rule that the mixed freestyle relay order must comprise of girls at the starting end!

To win the league we had to rely on South Croydon finishing at least 4 positions behind us in this round and at one stage they were, but alas they ended up finishing right behind us, so we were not able to retain the Octopus shield for a third consecutive year. However, I believe the damage may have already been done in the very first round when we finished 4th.

Overall, I know both myself and Mike were incredibly impressed with the team performance (not for the first time this season!) with our youngsters showing huge promise! Well done to all! A special thanks to Dan Zurita for timekeeping, Alison Bonner for judging and our girls' club captain Sarah Shattock-Gomez for assisting on pool side.

Results are on TeamStats.

Final points and positions:

Edenbridge Piranhas 214
Erith 207
South Croydon 204
Bromley 191
Cheam Marcuda 187
Eltham Stingrays 170
Woodside and Thornton Heath 170
Streatham 86

Final league points and positions:

South Croydon 43
Erith 40.5
Bromley 34.5
Edenbridge Piranhas 32
Cheam Marcuda 26
Eltham Stingrays 17.5
Woodside and Thornton Heath 16.5
Streatham 6