

Hitchin swimmers finish 3rd in first 2017 Peanuts event

Hitchin Swimming Club hosted Round One of the Peanuts League Division 2 for the 2017 season on Saturday May 6.

Drawn against teams from Broxbourne, Buntingford, Cheshunt, Stevenage and Watford, Hitchin's younger swimmers, aged from 9 to 12, got the chance to experience competing in a team event.

The noise from the enthusiastic spectating group of parents, added to the cheering from the swimmers for their team-mates, made it a challenging event for the officials and especially the starter, who could not always make himself heard!

Initially the home team struggled against the visiting teams until the 9-year-old girls' relay squad of Charlotte Brakenbury, Jemima Cross, Hannah Lovelock and Isabel Matfield gave Hitchin their first win in the 4x25m freestyle relay.

The girls then made it a double by winning the 4x25m special relay.

Jemima also comfortably added a 2nd in her 25m breaststroke individual event.

The 9-year-old boys were not far behind with their relay squad of Robin Kausar, Joseph Lee, Luca Menon and Michael Teobold managing 2nd in both of their relay events.

Robin impressed with his additional individual win in the 25m breaststroke. Hitchin's strong Under 13 girls' squad of Ashleigh Cooper, Freya Harwood, Olivia Matfield and Lucy Storey formed a solid foundation for the team with their impressive double freestyle and medley relay wins by significant distances.

This was supported by first places for Ashleigh (50m freestyle), Freya (50m butterfly) and a strong swim by Lucy to gain herself an individual runner-up spot (50m breaststroke).

Other notable performances included a win for Emily Cairncross (Under 12 25m butterfly), as well as 2nd positions being achieved by Rosie Smith (Under 11 25m freestyle) and Isabel Bygrave (Under 11 25m backstroke), before Rosie and Isabel then teamed up with Jessica Drury and Erica Peter to finish runners-up in their Under 11s 4x25m freestyle relay.

The event was ultimately won by Stevenage Swimming Club, with Hitchin finishing a very respectable third.

Hitchin's swimmers now look forward to returning to compete in Round Two of the Peanuts League on June 10.

Picture 1: HSC's winning under 13s girls' relay squad, *from left*, Olivia Matfield, Freya Harwood, Ashleigh Cooper and Lucy Storey

Picture 2: HSC's winning 9-year-old girls' relay squad, from left, Charlotte Brakenbury, Hannah Lovelock, Isabel Matfield and Jemima Cross