



NATIONAL ARENA LEAGUE ROUND 3 AT BECKENHAM SPA 9/12/17

Kent Weald Swim Squad made the trip down the M20 to Beckenham spa on a cold December Saturday evening. There was an air of expectation in the air or was it the flu virus going around which always seems to hit at this time of year and had affected several KWSS swimmers unexpectedly in the last week leading up to the last round of the National Arena league round 3 top gala. However, those team members suffering from the malaise feeling pretty rough, sick and some even on anti-biotics, stepped up to the plate and swam, all knowing that this was a moment to be savoured by both TSC and BSS, on the verge of promotion to division 1 for the first time in their respective histories as Kent Weald Swim Squad. After a short team building speech, the warm up got underway and before you could say Jack Frost we were off with the Ladies 200 IM and one of the team's flu casualties Caitlin Ebbage getting the team off to a great start taking a 3rd from a predicted 4th place. Brandon was up next absolutely crushing the Men's 200IM taking the full 7 points from a predicted 5th place.

The first tranche of relays followed, beginning with the girls 9/11 fs team consisting of Daisy, Phoebe, Kayla and Alice Brown making her debut, racing to their expected 3rd place. The boys' 9/11 Fr team took a strong lead from Josh Prendergast and was improved upon by Evan, Ruben with Charlie B anchoring the team home in first place. The girls 13 u 4x50 medley team were next up with Caitlin leading off on the Bk leg, Mia made her debut on brst, Erin took the fly leg by the scruff of the neck, with Maddie bringing the girls home in second place. The boys' 13 u medley was an exciting race going right down to the wire, William Fitzpatrick led off, Ollie Isaacs scorched the brst, Dan Brice made the fly look deceptively easy with his long stroke, and Toby Henbest fighting all the way and getting his hand on the wall before the Hailsham team to take the max points. Event 7 we saw the girls 15/u Fr team take a hard fought 2nd - place well done Noemie, Tilda, Amelie, and Lois. Brandon, Charlie Curtis, Isaac with Ollie swimming up an age group, took 4th in the boys 15 Fr relay. The two open events were the Ladies in the 4x50 medley team taking 4th, Sarah led off well on the backstroke followed by Ellis on the brst, Tilda on the fly and Tierney on the freestyle leg picking up the predicted 4th place; then the last relay was the Men's medley team taking 2nd Well done Dave, Stew, Rob and Ed.

Cicily took third in the girls 10-11 yrs 50 bk despite the slippery wall. We next had a series of 3 wins from Josh in the boys 50 bk, Erin swimming up a year in the girls 13 yrs easily took the 100 brst, and Ollie in the boys 13 yrs 100 brst. Lois took to the water swimming up a year in the girls 15 yrs 100 bk taking a hard fought 2nd place replicated by Brandon in the boys 15 yrs 100 bk. A great swim by 13 year old Leonie Hopper swimming up 2 age groups in the ladies 100 fly taking home a nice pb. Rob Winch outperformed his predicted 3rd place to collect a 2nd place. KWSS had another grouping of 4 premier positions starting with Kayla in the girls 50 fly, Evan in the boys' event, Caitlin in the 13 yrs 100 bk and Dan again delivering the goods in the boys 13 yrs 100 bk. After 20 events it was Hailsham 169, KWSS 161 and Herne Bay on 103.

Elle N stood up well picking up an expected 4th place in the girls 15 yrs 100 fly despite being ill. Sam Dickinson again fronted up in a hard 15 yrs 100 fly, Lois was back in the water for the Ladies 100 bk backing up her 2nd place in the 15 yrs age with a 3rd in the ladies. Dave Carr took expected 4th place in the men's event.

KWSS had three second places in a row by Daisy Richards in the girls 10-11 yrs 50 brst, Josh Prendergast in the boys' event and Erin Nisbet in the girls 13 /u 100 fly. Dan Brice looked classy, taking top honours in the boys 13 yrs 100 fly. Tilda Durrant took an extra point than was predicted in the girls 15 /u 100 free picking up 4th with Isaac putting in a strong performance in the boys' event. Noemie Thomson outperformed her predicted 6th place to take 4th in the Ladies open 100 brst, which left Stew Grant to take second in the men's 100 brst adding an unexpected extra 3 points to the teams tally.

Daisy took 3rd in the girls 10-11 yrs 50 free. Ruben Cowley Antelo placed 2nd, Caitlin cruised to an easy victory in the girls 13 yrs 100 free and Ollie Isaacs just got pipped in the boys' version. Ellis Kottas brought 3 points to the team in the girls 15 yrs 100 brst with Brandon taking an expected 1st in the boys 15 yrs 100 brst. The last two individual events were Sarah Brown and Ollie Durrant, who was suffering from a virus, in the Ladies and Mens 100 free, both taking 4th place, Sarah taking an extra point from her predicted position. After 40 events the scores stood at Hailsham on 286 and KWSS on 264.

Then we came to the last bunch of relays, Cicily Thomas –Green led off in the girls' medley relay Daisy Richards on the brst' Kayla Mooerman on fly' with Phoebe Kirkby anchoring the team to finish 2nd. The boys' 9-11 medley team maintained their 100% win rate taking first again - well done Charlie Brice, Josh Prendergast, Evan Norris and Ruben Cowley Antelo. The girls 13 u Fr relay narrowly missed first place to Hailsham. Caitlin, Erin, Maddie (31.82) and Lily Durnford (30.69) with very fast splits. The boys 13 /u Fr relay took top honours great splits from Dan Brice, Ollie Isaacs, Toby Henbest and Sam Dickinson. Lois Duchesne, Noemie Thomson, Elle Nik and Tilda Durrant brought second place and 6 points to the table with the boys repeating the same with team Dan, Ollie, Brandon Harris and Isaac. By this time Dan Brice and Ollie Isaacs had amassed 11 swims between them- well done boys, great team spirit. The last two relays were the Ladies' and Men's 6x50 squadron free relay. The ladies took the expected 5 points and 3rd place, the Ladies team were Sarah Brown, Tilda Durrant, Ladies team Captain Tierney Sharp, Amelie Thomas –Green, Lois Duchesne and Caitlin Ebbage who, along with Ollie isaacs swam 6 races. The Men's team came second consisting of Team Captain Ben Fitzsimons, Ed Dickinson, Ollie Durrant, Rob Winch, Dave Carr and anchored by Stew Grant.

A great performance from all team members who took part in the 3 rounds including Tom Allen, Holly Geake & Jodie, Leigha and Kara Mitchell.

After gaining promotion to Division 1 for the first time in both clubs' history, KWSS will return in 2018.

The final scores were

Hailsham	297
KWSS	274
Herne Bay	181

Beckenham B	178
Beacon	164
Edenbridge	154
Redhill & Reigate	151

Pete Withey

Head Coach Kent Weald Swim Squad, consisting of Tonbridge SC and Beachfield SS