



## **Davenport Dolphins Swimming Club**

Affiliated to:

East Midlands Region & Northamptonshire ASA

Swim at:

Davenport Leisure Centre

**President:** Mrs Lesley Sharp

18 The Dingle, Davenport NN11 4DJ

## **Gala Information**

The following is designed to help parents and swimmers understand about the differing types of gala. I am sure there will still be questions which are not questions. There is always parents and committee members which will be pleased to help if required.

### **Development Galas**

These galas are not competitive. They help swimmers achieve required times and or for swimmers to gain experience of strokes over differing distances. Davenport hold a three to four a year depending on how the calendar is panning out. Every member of DDSC is encouraged to enter these development galas as it is a secure environment to gain experience. The lengths of swims operating at these galas can be 25 metres through to 400metres. If you are unsure what to enter then it is wise to talk to the coach. There is also a lot of experienced parents sitting at the end of the pool who would be pleased to help.

There is a charge for each event swum in

Because it is a one off internal gala there is not lower age limit.

Swimming strokes, turns and starts will be judged under Fina Rules and swimmers may be disqualified for illegal actions. Disqualifications are often hard to take but offer good experience whilst there is little riding on a legal swim.

Entry forms will be sent out via email by the club Secretary and swimmers may be given out as hard copies. The closing date for entries will be specified on the form.

Davenport operate a data base system called Ranx. All times from these galas will be added to it and can be accessed on the Dolphins web site. Times recorded on Ranx will remain there for a maximum time period of twelve months. If they have not been exceeded in that time they will automatically be removed.

### **Club Championships**

Davenport hold two club championships each year. These are The Sprints which are often held in May of June, although the 2009 event could only be offered in September. The Club Champs are in November, although there is talk of moving these to September. Both events are operated in boys and girls age groups, Under 8s, 9/10, 11/12, 13/14 and over 15s. You will notice in galas that all sorts of ages are swimming against each other, this is because they are put in the pool with swimmers of similar ability. They are not necessarily competing against each other in the championship

Entry forms will be sent out via email by the club Secretary and swimmers may be given out as hard copies. The closing date for entries will be specified on the form. Every member of DDSC should try and attend these galas.

#### *Sprints*

Under 8s swim 25 metre races. All other age groups swim 50metres.

For each stroke a number of points are awarded 6 points for the fastest in the age group through to 1 point for 6<sup>th</sup> place. The swimmer with the most points after the four strokes is declared as the winner in their age group. It is therefore if you want to score the most possible points you should swim all four strokes.

There is also a 100 metre Individual Medley swum at the sprints. This does not count towards age group winners. It is known as an Open Event which means that all ages can enter although there is only one winner. It may mean that an 11 year old is not going to win the event but it is all good experience and times are awarded.



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After the championship there will be an award ceremony, sometimes on the night, sometimes at a later date. Each swimmer will be given a certificate with the time swum.

Times recorded will be added to Ranx which can be viewed on the web site.

### *Club Championships*

Under 8s swim 25 metres

9/10 and 11/12s swim 50 metres

13/14 and over 15s will swim 100 metre races.

There is an overall winner in each boy and girl age group, which is worked out in the same way as The Sprints. There are also trophies presented for each stroke in each boy and girl age group.

An individual Medley is swum over 200 metres, this again is an open event and does not count to the overall age group winner.

Presentations will be at a later date. All swimmers will be provided with a certificate with their times swum recorded.

Times will be recorded on Ranx which can be viewed on the web site

### **County One off Galas**

The following are hosted by the Northants Amateur Swimming Association (NASA). These are all team gala and swimmers need to be selected to attend. You could be asked to swim in just one event, whatever is beneficial to the team.

There is no charge to enter these although you will normally have to get yourself to the pool.

These galas are run against the other clubs in Northamptonshire. Corby, Kettering, Wellingborough, Northampton, Spinney Hill and Rushden.

Team sheets will be emailed out and put on the club notice board. Please indicate to either the coach or team manager whether you are available or not. Please let them know as soon as possible, if you cannot swim then replacements need to be found.

### *Wilkinson Sword*

This is known as a Diddy gala and is for ages 9 -11. Ages are as of the day of the gala

There will be races over 50 metres and there are relays. Races are swum in age groups.

The result of the gala is published at the end and a trophy awarded to the winning team

### *Sadie Murray*

This is known as a graded gala. This means that swimmers should not go faster than set lower limits. If they do go faster then no points are awarded however the swimmer is provided with a time.

This gala is for ages 9 and above. Ages are as of the day of the gala

The result of the gala is published at the end and a trophy awarded to the winning team



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### *County Presentation Gala*

This is for ages 9 and over. Ages are as of the day of the gala

Younger swimmers swim over 50 metres and older ones 100 metres

The result of the gala is published at the end and a trophy awarded to the winning team

Times from these county one off galas will be added to Ranx and published on Dolphins website.

### **Other One off Galas**

Occasionally the club are invited to one off team galas.

These will be on the calendar page of the web site. Team sheets will be emailed and displayed as and when appropriate. As before please respond in regards to your availability.

### **Leicester Diddy League**

These are team gala and swimmers are selected to swim. It is for ages 9-12 years. Ages are as of the date of the final round. There is no charge to swim but you will normally need to get your self to the pool. The competing clubs come from Northants, Leicestershire and Derbyshire. It is swum over three rounds during the May, June and July. There is a league published by the organisers and a league winner declared on completion of the competition

9-11 year old swim over 25 metres and 12 year old swim 50 metres.

All times are added to Ranx and published on the web site

### **National Swimming League**

These are team galas and swimmers are selected to swim. It is for ages 9 years and over. Ages are as of 31<sup>st</sup> December. There is no charge to swim but you will normally need to get your self to the pool, which can be anywhere in the Eastern region!

You will hear this called any one of the following, National Swimming League, Speedo League or Arena League. For many years Speedo have sponsored the event however they pulled out two years ago. Old habits die hard and people still refer to it as this. Last year it did not have a sponsor and was just called The National Swimming League. This year Arena have sponsored it and it is now known as The Arena National Swimming League. This is very new and people are getting used to calling it this and mostly still called Speedo League!

As the name would suggest it is a national competition. It is firstly swum in regions with the region winners going forward to the finals held in Sheffield. We swim in East Midlands Region and compete over three rounds in October, November and December.

9-11 year olds swim 50 metres

12 and over swim 100 metres

All times are added to Ranx and published on the web site.



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### **Open Meets**

These competitions are hosted by different clubs around the country. They generally go on for the whole weekend with all sorts of events taking place. Depending upon the promoters there will be trophies awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> place through to 6<sup>th</sup>. Entry price will vary from £4.00 through to £6.00 or more per event

The club normally go as a club however swimmers enter as individuals and enter which events they want. The club Secretary will send out an email to relevant squads several months prior to any event. This will include entry forms and entry requirements. If you are going to enter a meet then do it sooner rather than later, entries will get rejected when it is fully subscribed.

Advice can be sought from the coach as to which events may be appropriate. Some meets will have heats with the top swimmers going forward to a final. Others will be described as HDW (Heat Declared Winner). HDW means the fastest swimmer will win without the need for a final.

There differing types of Open Meets, Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, A/B/C grade open and non regulated.

Levels 1,2 and 3 will have entry criteria which will have to be met to enter. Level 1 being the highest grade gala. If you compete in one of these galas you will be able to find your times on the ASA ranking database and compare yourself with all other swimmers in the country.

The non Regulated meet will not normally have qualifying times although they may do dependant upon the promoters.

A graded meet will have upper times which swimmers should not exceed. If they do they will be given time but not included in the competition. They will often be given a Speeding Ticket!

More information relating to open meets can be found on our website under frequently asked questions.

### **County Championship**

This is what most Davenport Swimmers should be trying to achieve. They are held in March every year. There are qualifying times which have to be achieved to enter. All of the above galas should be helping swimmers maximise their chances of achieving these times. They can be found on Dolphins website in the calendar section.

Attached you will see a bagcat table which tries to explain which events count towards the overall championship. A swimmer may swim in 10 events however it is only the best scoring events as per the table which are counted. In each event BagCat (British Age Group Categories) points are awarded, you will see BagCat points on our Ranx data base. This is what they are used for. Hence it is not first second third etc which count only the number of points achieved. It is a little confusing so if you would like to know more please ask.

The club will let swimmers know if they have qualified for the Counties. However please look on the website to see what you need to achieve to gain county times.

As with all galas all times achieved will be put on Ranx and published on the website

In 2009 we had twenty three swimmers who qualified for counties

### **Midlands and Nationals**

These are operated the same as Counties however the qualifying time are much more stringent. Last year we had two swimmers swimming at Midland level.