



EDMONTON PHOENIX SUCCESS AT ERIC EADY **MEMEORIAL GALA**

Edmonton Phoenix hosted the Eric Eady Memorial Trophy Gala on Saturday 12th September, 2009 at Southbury Road Leisure Centre.

This was the first gala for the club following the summer break and also was a trial for the National Swimming League squad.

We were pitched against the very strong clubs of Hoddesdon and Anaconda as well as Cheshunt, Clissold, Ware and Fastfins.

The gala began well and we had a very steady start coming second in seven of the first ten races with the boys U12 relay squad of Tom Newman, Ben Howe, Josh Kirlaw and Ross McCarthy winning the 200m freestyle. This put us in the mix for the lead but behind early leaders Hoddesdon. The next ten races saw wins for Josh Kirlaw in the boys U12 50m backstroke and Amy Carson in the girls U12 50m fly, both swimmers winning their races by more than 3 seconds. With five second place finishes, our position amongst the leaders was maintained.

After this we really picked up the pace and we won thirteen of the remaining thirty races. Charlotte Newman won the girls U14 100m backstroke by more than five seconds, Ryan McCarthy won the boys U14 100m backstroke. Sarah Browne destroyed the field in the girls U16 100m fly winning by more than 11 seconds and Zach Kirlaw also came first in the boys U16 100m fly.

By event thirty we had pushed ourselves into the mix for first place and by winning five of the next ten races we moved into a clear lead. Sarah Browne and Zach Kirlew won their U16 freestyle races, Mia Hawkes came first in the girls U12 50m freestyle, Hannah Thomas was a comfortable winner in the girls U14 100m freestyle and Ryan McCarthy dominated the boys U14 100m freestyle, winning by more than six seconds.

Our win was confirmed when we won four of the final relay races and were second in three. Tom Newman, Ben Howe, Josh Kirlew and Ross McCarthy completed their domination of the boys U12 200m relays when they won the Medley by over thirteen seconds. Hannah Thomas, Amy Carson, Bethan Holder and Charlotte Newman won the girls U14 200m freestyle. Thomas Disney, Joe Glazebrook, Sam Fagg and an awesome final leg by Ryan McCarthy to touch out Hoddesdon by 3 hundredths of a second won the boys U14 200m freestyle. Sarah Browne, Megan Holder, Connie Hawkes and Nina McGarvey won the girls U16 200m Medley.

Winning sixteen and coming second in nineteen of the fifty races led to us winning the gala by 26 points from Hoddesdon with Anaconda a further twenty nine points behind in third place.

All the swimmers swam really well and there was a real cohesion and determination in the squad, hopefully this will translate to a good performance in the National Swimming League where the competition will be extremely tough. A special thanks to Sidney Harnett who came out of retirement at the last minute to complete the boys open team and put in some really decent swims.

THE TEAM

Rebecca Andreou, Amy Carson, Yasemin Erensoy, Mia Hawkes, Tom Newman, Ben Howe, Josh Kirlew, Ross McCarthy, Charlotte Newman, Hannah Thomas, Bethan Holder, Sam Fagg, Thomas Disney, Ryan McCarthy, Joe Glazebrook, Sarah Browne, Megan Holder, Connie Hawkes, Nina McGarvey, Reece Ballett, James Wallace, Michael Tunstall, Zach Kirlew, Rachel Harris, Charlotte Payne, Emma Tunstall, Alice Smyth, Daniel Fellows, Louis Kirlew, Ben Zuccolini and Sidney Harnett.

GO PHOENIX!