

Godalming win Rother League for the second year running

Godalming Swimming Club made a storming start to the Autumn swimming galas at the Spectrum on Saturday night by beating teams from Chichester, Sutton, Wey Valley, Alton and Cheam to win the last round of the Rother League competition and take the overall Division 4 East League title for the second year running. Team manager Paul Nash said afterwards “This is a fantastic night for Godalming as it’s the first time in our history we have won the league two years in a row. We were third going into tonight’s gala and were up against some strong clubs so I wasn’t expecting us to win on the night let alone take the overall league title”.

A steady start meant that Godalming were in third place at the half way stage behind Wey Valley and Cheam Marcuda before moving into 2nd place after the 36th race with back to back wins in the under 12s butterfly by Charlotte Turner who won the girls race in a personal best swim of 38.97 seconds and Alex Williams winning the boys race in a personal best time of 43.18 seconds. Godalming then took the lead from Cheam for the first time after the 41st race with a win in the open 50m freestyle by Ed Pepper setting a club record of 26.28 seconds.

Godalming’s lead was then successfully defended with some strong swims in the relays and after narrowly beating Cheam in the final squadron relay involving boys and girls from each age group Godalming finished the night 1st on 203 points with Cheam and Wey Valley close behind on 199 and 198 points. As well as winning on the night the double points available for the last round of the competition meant that Godalming jumped into 1st place to win the Division 4 East League title closely followed by Wey Valley and Cheam.

Top boy and top girl awards were presented to Adam Bagley and Megan White who were nominated by their club in recognition of their performances over the three rounds of the Rother League competition. In total the Godalming swimmers achieved 20 personal best times including a club record time of 34.70 seconds for James Andrews in the 50m breaststroke. Head coach Martin Young said “A win like this shows the strength in depth and team spirit at the club. We practised the relays in the last session on Friday night because I knew it would be important in tonight’s gala and I am pleased that as well as some great individual swims it was the overall team performance that carried us through and won it on the night ”.