

Devonport Royal sent a Boys 15/16 Yr team to the SW Region Relay Galas. Nat Chartres, Tom Mermagen, Chris Philpot, Ryan Moreno-Chamorro and Danny Banks headed up to Millfield determined to improve on last years 3rd place.

The first event was the 200M Freestyle Relay and our boys were the fastest seeds, although it was clear that the competition would be formidable, particularly from Stroud Swimming Club.

Danny Banks got Devonport Royal off to a cracking start, leading from the blocks to record a new personal best time of 25.74s. Next to swim was Tom Mermagen who swam another impressive time of 26.87s to keep Devonport Royal within 0.06s of Stroud.

Devonport Royal's third swimmer was Nat Chartres who, after swimming a good first 25M, really pushed hard in the second 25M to record a personal best time of 26.20s to give Devonport Royal a slender advantage. Devonport Royal's final leg swimmer was Chris Philpot who, despite swimming another personal best time of 26.39s, was unable to hold off a very strong finishing Stroud swimmer (25.27s). Devonport Royal finished a very close second in 1.45.19, only 0.2s behind Stroud.

Unfortunately, the Devonport Royal swimmers were soon to realize that a dubious (based on DRSA video of the race) judging decision on a take-over had led to a disqualification. Needless to say the four boys were distraught and it was left to Head Coach Terry to try and lift them for the upcoming Medley Relay.

With Ryan replacing Nat for the Medley relay the four Devonport Royal boys looked a little nervous at the start. However, determined not to leave Millfield empty handed they set about defending their second seed status.

First off on the backstroke was Chris Philpot. Chris' swim of 32.99s got Devonport Royal off to a fine start. Making very sure of the take-over Ryan Moreno-Chamorro entered the water in third position behind both Stroud and Bodmin. Following a very impressive personal best breaststroke leg of 33.07s, two seconds faster than any of the other breaststroke legs, Ryan had pulled Devonport Royal into second place and very close to Stroud.

Next in was Tom Mermagen on the butterfly leg. Tom swam a near personal best time of 30.58 to keep Devonport Royal within touch of second placed Bodmin. A 27s butterfly leg from the Stroud swimmer meant that first place was beyond Devonport Royal when Danny Banks started the final freestyle leg 0.5s behind the Bodmin swimmer. After the first 25M the two swimmers turned almost together. But a combination of ability and steely determination forged Danny ahead in the final 25M bringing home the team into second place. Danny swam another personal best of 25.66s for a team personal best time of 2:02.19s.

At the presentation of the medals it was good to see the Medley team invite Nat up onto the podium for the photographs, showing a good team spirit amongst the boys. Despite the unfortunate disqualification the days events went very well and our boys showed that Devonport Royal are very capable of competing at this level.

Thanks as always to Terry for his poolside advice on the day as well as the continued support to the swimmers throughout the year.



Finally, the club is committed to support its swimmers in all events at County and Regional level. The committee will endeavour to do all that it can to identify where we have competitive teams for these events earlier in the year to allow swimmers (and parents) to plan diaries well in advance. With Sinead Davies entered into the Regional Age Group Championships in June and several swimmers with or near to qualifying times for the full Regional Championships in November we should all take this opportunity to push the profile of our club into the Regional arena.

And maybe beyond to the Nationals!!! Come on swimmers/coaches/parents take up the challenge.....