

KENT MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018



Hythe Aqua Masters travelled to the Kent Masters Swimming Championships recently with a slightly larger team than in 2017 and were able to improve on their 8th place last year - moving up to 7th overall. The team remained the dominant East Kent team of the championships but were always going to find it hard to beat the much larger clubs from the west of the county.

However, they did achieve 3rd place in the contest for the 'most improved club' in Kent. In all 274 swimmers from all over the county took part in the Championships competing in 5 year age groups with ages ranging 18 to 81 years

The Hythe team returned with 25 medals in total – 12 of them gold. First place winners were Maureen Fakley with 4 wins (of which 3 were Event Best Performances), David Staveley - 4 wins, Fred Parker – 2 wins (1 was an EBP), and Helen Oakes and Graham Ling with 1 win each.

A feature of the Championships in recent years has been the introduction of 'Age Related Performance Results' which allocates points based on both age and actual finish times. This provides an excellent measure of performance across the age groups and two Hythe swimmers who missed out on golds in their very competitive age groups did remarkably well to achieve top 10 points scores. Donna Wickens achieved a 'top 10' in the 50m Butterfly, Breaststroke & Freestyle and Ben Walker in the 50m Breaststroke & 100m Individual Medley events. Other Top 10's among Hythe's gold medal winners were Fred Parker in the 50 & 100m Breaststroke and David Staveley in the 50 & 100m Backstroke and in the 50m Freestyle.