

Regatta Swim 2017, Deal Tri, Deal Carnival Association, The Alexa Trust

A few changes to keep us moving with the times such as an entry limit and a free for all race with wetsuits and non-wetsuits as equals; first to the finish wins.

Previous years prizes were only given to non-wetsuit participants...why? To be honest, I don't know.

It was how it was when I took over organising and if it's not broken don't fix it...

Well I've broken it and fixed it....

Please let's all remember it's a carnival fun swim. There are no scouts. There's no championships results. If you win you get yourself on page 7 of the local rag... (I'm not suggesting our local paper is not a worthy paper ...It has done both the club and the trust well in previous years.)

I'm just suggesting we enjoy a fun swim on what can be a busy day in our seaside town of Deal and in the process, raise money for a worthy cause.

The regatta swim has never I believe had 50 entries, so to add on entry forms that any entries after 50 would be declined, to be honest, I didn't really think it would come to declining swimmers.

I strongly believe 50 is a number that we can control regarding safety. There is a wide range of ability that enters and everyone needs to feel safe and assured that they can enter, enjoy and complete.

I am truly sorry for the 7 I had to decline, however if I'd allowed one, I'd have to let 2 and if there was 20, I'd have to let them too.

No chance, I stuck to the rules I wrote...lol

Firstly, I'd like to thank all safety kayaks and safety boat provided by the Sailing Club.

This relieved me of having to take Nurofen, knowing there was support out there.

Timekeepers Sue and Mark. I know it can be a frustrating job, however you were excellent, thank you.

Swimmers, thank you so much for supporting this year's event, maximising its entries to 50.

The wind was predicted to be into a force 4/5 most of the day. We were lucky this came in later and the wind was off shore, giving us shelter.

The Deal Tri Buoys were once again out for their second year looking right dapper, standing all proud. They are safely home and deflated from a day out on the water.

All swimmers entered the water in an orderly fashion, listening and following protocol. I am very thankful to you all. Everyone set off whilst remaining behind the starting groyne, this is usually unheard of. Thank you.

The rest I don't see as I'm shipping dirty pants and shoes down to the finish line so you can go home in decency and not with the "s" missing from your costumes.

A few names I'd like you to put your hands together for; Sian Neilson and Hilary Collins for supporting each other. Looking after each other is key.

Mauro and Antony have become regular swimmers at Kingsdown and it's great that they moved out of their comfort zone to enjoy this year's regatta.

Norman Oliver, what a happy chappy and it seems it's my job to give him a hand to escort him safely up the pebbles. If I remember rightly Norm, a couple of years ago you almost rolled back to the start. Great stuff and good to see you again.

Steve Payne over from Australia awaiting his tide for his English Channel crossing next week. Always a pleasure to see you here and from us all, good luck, go get it!

Lucy Marchant who came in first female non-wetsuit. Sorry no prize this year, but did exceptionally well chasing the club's very own Kris Twyman, who was first male non-wetsuit, sorry no prize this year.

Those of you who know Kris, know that he is addicted to swimming and improves constantly. There certainly is something big coming his way, I'm sure. Good luck in whatever challenge you choose to step up to.

Lily Jewell from Margate first female wetsuit and awarded the 'Alexa James Trophy'. Lily is off to Sheffield I believe next week to compete in the open water championships. I

wonder if she knows that she was on the toes of former world record holder, with the fastest time across the English Channel back in the day, however I forget his name...

Sophie Papougnot who this week is completing her challenge; 50k swim, 50k walk, 50k run, 50k cycle. Incorporating part of her daily swim regime in with the Regatta, Sophie started from Oldstairs in Kingsdown, hoping to join swimmers for the start at the sailing club. Probably due to my intervening, this fell out of sync of which I apologise for, however Sophie turned up at the pier with a welcome cheer. Well done Sophie and enjoy the rest of your challenge this week, helping raise funds and awareness for The Alexa Trust.

I sincerely would like to thank every one of you for supporting today's event and your continuous generosity to The Alexa Trust. A charity set up by both Esmari and myself in recognition of our daughter Alexa James. Please do continue to wear your swim caps to spread the word about the charity.

There are a few mistakes with results however it is quite hard to get these 100%. And that is probably down to my behalf. If they are slightly wrong, please don't get upset. This is something I will work on in future events.

Lily for your benefit only, Lyndon Dunsbee is the guy you were not far behind who was awarded the 'Alexa James Trophy', designed & made by Clare Hansell (Wakefield).