RUGBY ARTISTIC SWIMMING CLUB



TRIPLE MEDAL SUCCESS FOR RUGBY'S ARTISTIC SWIMMERS

Rugby Artistic Swimming Club is celebrating triple medal success following the annual Swim England Artistic Swimming National Age Groups Championships (NAGS) 2021, which were held on 7 November. NAGS is the pinnacle of competition for artistic swimmers in their age groups across the country.

The Club was represented in 7 of the 8 categories by 14 swimmers across the two age groups - 12 and under; and 13-15 years going on to win gold in the Mixed Duet (12 and under) category represented by Aaron Lee and Kitty Tyers for their routine to "It Takes Two" and silver in the Duet (12 and under) category represented by Olivia Barry and Chloe Bartholomew for their High School Musical themed routine



Gold in 12U Mixed Duet for Aaron Lee & Kitty Tyers



Silver in 12U Duet for Olivia Barry & Chloe Bartholomew

In the team events, the Club secured silver in the Free Team (12 and under) category represented by Olivia Barry, Chloe Bartholomew, Saranne Black, Lola Huett, Jemma King, Agata Scerbakova and Kitty Tyers for their routine to "I'm Still Standing" - narrowly missing out on gold by just 0.1 of a mark.



Olivia Barry, Lola Huett and Chloe Bartholomew also represented Rugby in the Solo (12 and under) category all achieving places in the final 12 for their beautiful self-choreographed routines.

In the extremely competitive 13-15 years age group, which includes many England Age Squad representatives, there were two fantastic fourth place finishes for Rugby in the Duet category represented by Lola Dudkowsky and Olivia Tyers for their salsa inspired routine; and in the Free Team category represented by Lola Dudkowsky, Matilda John, Josephine Mozley, India Townsend, Olivia Tyers and Poppy Williams for their Kung Fu Panda themed routine. Josephine Mozley and Poppy Williams also represented Rugby in the Solo category with two great self-choreographed swims.



This is an excellent achievement with strong performances all round in what has been a far from usual 18 months for the Club with training time in the pool significantly affected by coronavirus restrictions.

Additionally, the event itself, which was postponed from March, was held virtually for the very first time, which posed its own challenges. The swimmers took all of this in their stride and did themselves and the Club proud thanks to their commitment and to the commitment and dedication of their team of coaches and volunteers.

It is straight back into the pool for the swimmers who have their sights firmly set on NAGS 2022 in March, which will hopefully provide a return to face-to-face competition for this event after a disrupted period.

Anyone feeling inspired to try artistic swimming in Rugby can contact Head Coach Hannah Secher at rugbysynchro.headcoach@gmail.com.

Certainly, Aaron Lee and Kitty Tyers hope their success at NAGS 2021 as Rugby's first ever Mixed Duet entry will encourage more boys in particular to try artistic swimming.