

PRESS RELEASE

RUGBY ARTISTIC SWIMMING CLUB



COMBO CUP VICTORY FOR RUGBY'S ARTISTIC SWIMMERS

Rugby Artistic Swimming Club finished 2021 on a high after taking home the Swim England Artistic Swimming Combo Cup 2021, and four Combo Cup team medals - including two gold.

The Combo Cup is a unique and exciting annual competition in which teams of up to 10 of the finest young artistic swimmers from 18 clubs across the country showcased their own thrilling “free combination” performances - with no “required” elements.

The event was held virtually for the first time on 17 December 2021 having last been held “in person” in 2019. It is the culmination of Swim England’s series of “virtual” artistic swimming competitions in 2021 of which Rugby has entered all and been fortunate to medal at most.

Rugby entered four teams across the two Divisions (Division 1 and Division 2) in three of the five age group categories and was delighted to secure medals for all four of their routines – including one gold and one bronze medal in each Division.

In Division 1, the gold medal was won by Rugby’s 13-15 years team consisting of Rebecca Harper, Agata Sitko, Natalia Rodriguez, Evelyn Whisker, Lily Van Vleit, Freya Twiss, Jasmine Farr, Poppy Jenkins and Emilia Owen for their “Aladdin” themed routine.

Winning bronze in Division 1 was Rugby’s 12 years and under team consisting of Harriet Humphrey, Beatrice Banks, Laura Oddy, Alice Pavlova, Daisy Jenkins, Daisy Clark, Darcey Townsend, Isobel Byrne and Emily Minor winning bronze for their American medley routine.

In Division 2, the gold medal was won by Rugby’s 13-15 years team consisting of Tyra Watson, Sophie Henry, Amy Buckley, Imogen Ravenhall, Chloe Barrett-Leafe and Alexa Holland for their “Kung Fu Panda” themed routine, which scored an impressive 3.63 points more than the second-place team.

Completing the haul and winning bronze in Division 2 was Rugby’s 15-18 years team consisting of Edith John, Gabriella Ravenhall, Jagoda Czuplak, Ariane Sargent, Mia

Timothy, Sophie Lowe, Lola Marsay, Jessica Barrett-Leafe and Hattie McMillan for their "Dream Girls" medley routine.

Rugby's combined performance throughout the entire competition earned them the title of overall Combo Cup 2021 champions – one better than when the Club was runners up at the last Combo Cup competition, which was held in 2019 before coronavirus restrictions significantly disrupted training time in the pool.

Head Coach Hannah Secher is rightly "really proud" and says "to win the Combo Cup is testament to the whole Club and a really nice way for the Club to be recognised especially after such a difficult period".

After a well-deserved rest, it is straight back into the pool in January for the swimmers who are looking forward to defending their titles in 2022 and hopefully returning to face-to-face competition for this event since 2019!