

## **REPORT IN RECENT HYTHE AQUA MASTERS COMPETITIONS.**

Hythe Aqua Masters swimmers are at last back in competitive action after an 18 month gap! The first major event contested was the South East Region Short Course Championships in early October where masters swimmers from all over southern England competed. New member Nick Crew took part in his first masters competition with excellent results in the freestyle events for the 60 - 64 years age group – gaining silver medals in the 100m & 200m events and bronze in the 50m. Colleague Tom Richardson was also in action in the same age group gaining gold medals in the 400m freestyle and also in the 50m backstroke. Tom had also gained a silver in the 1500m freestyle event which had been held a few weeks earlier. In the 75 -79 year age group, David Staveley gained the full set of medals with gold in the 100m individual medley, silver in the 100m backstroke and bronze in the 50m backstroke.



Not to be outdone the Hythe Aqua ladies were also in medal winning ways with Maureen Fakley gaining gold in the 100m backstroke and silver in the 100m individual medley – both in the 80 – 84 yr age group. Daughter Donna Wickens in the 55 – 59 year age group gained bronzes in the 100m & 200m Individual medley events. Both Maureen & David move up into an older age group next year which should enhance their medal winning chances in 2022.



However, the very first competitive competition of the autumn had been the Barnet Cophall masters gala in north London a couple of weeks earlier. Hythe swimmer Graham Ling competed in 4 events in the 75 – 79 year age group - gaining gold in the 50m and 100m backstroke and also in the 100m freestyle. In an exciting race in the 50m freestyle, Graham had to be content with silver after a close finish with the eventual winner.