

Busy Weekend for Hoddesdon Swimmers

HODDESDON swimmers had a busy weekend racing trying to be selected for the East Herts Schools gala or achieving important qualifying times for County or Regional events.

On Saturday, 21st January 2012 there were two events; the Edmonton Phoenix Open Meet during the day at Southbury Road, Enfield and in the evening the East Herts time trials held at Hartham Pool, Hertford, for pupils who are in year 5 and 6 schools in East Herts where the fastest swimmers are selected for the East Herts Team.

Seven swimmers attended the Edmonton Phoenix Open Meet at Southbury Road: Amy Millard, Phoebe Spicer, Jess Dunford, Grace Harvey, Ben Hunt, Albert Johnston and Becky Freestone. The swimmers enjoyed this friendly meet and medals were won by Becky Freestone who won the gold medal in the 100 Breaststroke in a pb time of 1.25.51 and came 2nd in the 100 Freestyle. Ben Hunt came 3rd in the 50 Breaststroke in a pb time of 42.37 and 50 Backstroke pb time of 36.96 and 3rd in the 100 Backstroke in with another pb time 1.19.53. Phoebe Spicer 3rd in the 50 Backstroke in a pb time of 38.52 and the 100 Backstroke in a pb time of 1.23.60 and was also 3rd in the 50 Freestyle. Ben Hunt improved his placing in the 100 Breaststroke coming 2nd in a 4 second pb time of 1.32.00.

At the East Herts Time Trials there were eight Hoddesdon year 5's: Chloe Cheng, Jessica Callaghan, Ellen Woodger, Eleanor Turpin, Sebastian Schofield-Bezer, Joel Crouch, Ralph Davies, Dominic McCarthy, and three year 6's: Naomi Harvey, Connor Whyton, Daniel Cole. The East Herts selection committee will now select their team based on these performances, and some were truly outstanding. Well done everyone and good luck on selection.

Over the weekend there was also the Maxwell Open Meet which was held in Aylesbury and on the Sunday there was the Bishop's Stortford Open Meet held at the Braintree pool.

Four swimmers travelled to Aylesbury to compete at the Level 2 Maxwell Open Meet: Oliver Perry, Kane Hagley-King, Kaitlyn Walsh and James Narengian. It was a very busy and very successful weekend for Oliver Perry who swam in nine events and achieved pb's in all nine, winning gold in the 100 Breast and 50 Breaststroke; silver in the 50 butterfly, 100 backstroke, 100 Butterfly, and 200 Individual Medley. The remaining events winning the bronze medal: 100 Freestyle, 200 backstroke and 50 freestyle. Kane Hagley-King swam personal best times in the two races he took part in the 200 Backstroke and the 50 Freestyle, Kaitlyn Walsh also achieved personal best times all three of her events 200 Backstroke 2.41.34, 100 Individual Medley 1.18.90 and the 50 fFreestyle 30.49. James achieved a personal best time in his 100 Breaststroke 1.20.63.

Five swimmers travelled to Bishop's Stortford Open Meet at Braintree Pool on the Sunday: Max and Elise McCusker, Eleanor Turpin, Ellie and Amy Godsave. Between them they won eight golds, 2 silvers and 2 bronze medals and all achieving personal best times.

Max McCusker 12yr won the 100 IM 1.18.54, 200 Butterfly 2.49.92 and 200 Breaststroke 2.44.14. Amy Godsave 12yr won the 200 Freestyle 2.19.54 and the 50 Freestyle 29.78. Younger sister Ellie Godsave 9yr won the 200 Freestyle 2.53.90 and came 2nd in the 50 Freestyle 39.00. Eleanor Turpin 10yr won the 100 Freestyle 2.53.90, 3rd place in the 100 Individual Medley and 4th place in the 200 Backstroke. Elise McCusker 14yr came 2nd in the 200 Breaststroke 3.23.14, 3rd in the 50 Freestyle 30.49, 4th in the 100 Freestyle 1.09.49 and 7th in the 200 Freestyle 2.32.94.

Janet Warrington Head Coach told the **Mercury** "The swimmers are racing well, achieving personal bests and winning. The swimmers preparation leading up to the Herts ASA County Championships is going well and we are really looking forward to the three weekends of racing at The Venue, at Borehamwood in March."