

Hoddesdon rise to the Challenge

NINETEEN swimmers braved the weather to travel to the UK Challenge Level 2 licenced meet, held at University of Heterfordshire Herts Sports Village on de Havilland Campus, Hatfield.

Hoddesdon swimmers rose to the challenge with some excellent swims throughout the day, although as the snow arrived and gradually started to pile up we were all grateful that the event ran efficiently and we could get away on time.

Georgina Pryor, Georgina Fisher and Rebecca Freestone all achieved Regional Qualifying times in the 200 IM with pb's of 2.31.08, 2.37.00 and 2.41.04 respectively. Georgina Pryor was on dazzling form in the 100m backstroke and 100m freestyle, achieving first place in both events in her age group and personal best times of 1.07.64 and 1.01.65.

Sam Longden and Oliver Perry both swam PB's in the 50 backstroke, Sam achieved a time of 31.77 with Oliver coming second in his age group in a time of 32.54. Sam also competed in the 50 free (26.91), 50 breast (35.45) and 100 free, achieving good personal bests in the 50 metre sprints, coming 4th in his age group in the 50 back and 2nd in the 50 free.

Oliver was on excellent form as he went on to win the 100 back and 50 fly in his age group in times of 1.14.28 and 32.07 as well as gaining second places in the 50 breaststroke and 100 fly in times of 38.68 and 1.09.20, giving Ollie a regional qualifying time as well as more personal best times.

Charlotte Longden was also on good form in the 50 breaststroke with a time of 36.87 to take first place in her age group. She also took 3rd place in the 50 freestyle with a time of 29.12 and 4th place in the 50 fly in a time of 31.94.

Phoebe Spicer also swam brilliantly to take 2 seconds off her previous best time and achieve a new personal best of 1.10.67, getting close to the Regional qualifying Time for her age group. She also achieved a PB in the 50 fly of 37.25.

Chris Smith executed an excellent 100 breaststroke to shave another second off his previous time and achieve a new personal best of 1.11.27. This gave him 4th place in the open age group, with the top three all being 3 years or more older than Chris. He also came 5th in the 200 IM in a time of 2.28.73

David Kelleway, was home from Bath University and had an excellent evening's swimming with personal bests in all three swims and second places in the 100 freestyle (52.65) and 100 backstroke (1.00.51) and a third place in the 50 fly (26.46) Kane Hagley-King achieved a personal best in the 100 freestyle (58.41). Chloe Richards swam on her pb's and Sydney Crouch also swam well, showing good potential.

Of the younger swimmers Emma Longden also did an 8 sec personal best in the 200 IM with a time of 2.58.87. Emma went on to achieve new personal bests in the 50 fly with a time of 37.59 and 50 back (40.42) Jack Freestone achieved an excellent pb in his 50 fly to record a time of 37.19 Ryan Brewster achieved personal best times in the 100 breaststroke (1.40.87) and 200 freestyle (2.52.13) gaining much racing experience throughout the day. Eleanor Turpin obtained 6th places in both the 50 backstroke and 50 freestyle with new personal bests of 41.76 and 35.33, and newcomers to the sport Jessica Callaghan and Sam Richards also competed in the 50 free to record times of 39.37 and 40.09. Joel Crouch achieved a personal best in the 50 breaststroke (51.98) All these swimmers show great promise for the future.