

North East Regional Open Championships

Skipton Swimming Club had another great weekend of swimming at this year's North eastern Long Course Open Swimming Championships held at Sheffield's Ponds Forge. Open Championships are designed for qualifiers age 15 upwards, where they compete at their age at the end of the year. Younger swimmers who have their own age group championships are able to enter events if they meet the qualifying times.

Fresh from the British Swimming Championships in Glasgow last month, Ned Sharp (15) of Settle College qualified for 12 events and yet again performed brilliantly, gaining 1st Place GOLD in the 100m fly and finalling in the 50m and 100m free and 50 fly. An amazing race in the 100m fly with a time of 57.23!

Archie Minto (16), of Ilkley Grammar School had his most successful championships to date, his performances were outstanding which has been down to hard work in training since joining the club from City of Bradford at the beginning of the year. Qualifying for a staggering 16 events (50, 100,200,400,800 and 1500m free, 50,100,200m fly, 50,100,200m back, 50 and 100m breast, 200IM and 400m IM). Archie chose not to enter some events and concentrate on events he wanted to look to gain British and English National times in. He achieved finals in the 100m and 200m back, 100 &200m fly and personal bests in majority of his events.

Archie Dunne, (16) of Bingley Grammar School, qualified for 10 individual events over the weekend, being the 50, 100 and 200m free, 50 and 100m breast, 50 and 100m fly, 50 and 100m back and the 200IM, achieving many personal bests.

Madison Turner (14) of West Craven High School, excelled at the championships, qualifying for 12, but competing in 9 events and competing in the 50, 100 and 200m back, 50, 100, 200m and 400m free, 50m fly, 200IM and 400IM, making finals in 50m, 100m and 200m back and personal bests in majority of other events.

Paige Fenton (15) a year 10 pupil at South Craven School, qualified and raced in 8 events, 50m free, 50 and 100m back, 200IM and her favoured 50, 100 and 200m breast. Paige finalled in all 3 breaststroke events.

Charlotte Leigh (15) of Skipton Girls High School swam in the 50 and 200m breast events, although qualifying too for the 100m breast, school commitments meant she couldn't compete on the Saturday of the championships.

Maisie Dunne (14) of Bingley Grammar School, qualified and competed in 2 events, the 50m breast and 50m back.

Four swimmers, Harvey Pennington, Sophia Basaraba, Charlotte Kenneth and Lily Pratt who will all swim at the Age group championships later this month, all qualified for events at the open, a sign of dedication and talent. Pennington (14) of Park High School, Colne, qualified for 2 events, the 50m and 400m free, Basaraba (14) of South Craven High School, swam in the 50m, 100m, 200m back and the 1500m free, Charlotte Kenneth (14) of ???? raced the 100m breast and Lily Pratt (12) of Skipton Girls High School, competed in the 50m free.

Major success over the weekend was watching the Men's 14-16years relay teams (400m medley and 400m free) achieve Bronze medals in both events, an amazing achievement as competing against the big city clubs like Leeds, Sheffield and Newcastle is no easy task! The team was Archie Minto (16), Archie Dunne (16), Ned Sharp (15) and Harvey Pennington (14), of Park High School, Colne. We await news of whether this Men's team has qualified for National teams In Glasgow at the end of July!

With just 4 weeks to go of the qualifying window, Skipton SC elite swimmers will continue to race at events through May to gain entry to this summer's British Championships and English nationals.