

Stratford Sharks have recently competed in the Coventry & District Swimming Association Secondaries Swimming Championships at the Pingles Pool, Nuneaton.

The large amount of young talent coming through the club saw a total of 69 swimmers taking to the water over the weekend with a personal best rate of over 90% and 27 of the swimmers bringing home a superb total of 48 medals, 17 gold, 14 silver and 17 bronze.

The competition was decided on single year age groups for Girls up to 13yrs old and Boys 14yrs for events of 50m & 100m with the 200m & 400m events competed for on an Open age group basis so it was particularly pleasing to see the number of younger swimmers taking on the longer events.

The first medal of the competition was won by Alice Quinn taking gold in the 12yrs 50m Freestyle, just the first of a number of medals picked up by the rapidly improving Alice in the course of the weekend.

Aleksander Forysiak (13) was the top placed Shark in the Boys 200m Freestyle with 4<sup>th</sup> place, Jacob Humphreys (15) 8<sup>th</sup> with Oliver Quinn (11) and Robin Hughes (9) also competing.

In the Girls 200m Breaststroke, a number of the clubs younger swimmers competed, notably Hannah Bexson (10) and 9 year olds Charlotte & Alice Clements with Eve Morley (16) the Sharks top finisher in 6<sup>th</sup> place.

The Boys 50m Fly delivered the next two medals, both silver, to Robin Hughes in the 9yr age group and Joshua Martindale in the 11yrs. In the Girls event Kathryn Lythgo and Ysabelle Caswell took a fantastic 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 10yr age group.

After narrowly missing out in the 200m Freestyle, Aleksander Forysiak dominated the 13yr age group in the 100m Breaststroke to take the first of his five medals of the weekend, Matthew Newman just missing out in 4<sup>th</sup> and James Wimbury 5<sup>th</sup>. A further silver medal was delivered in the Girls 100m Breaststroke by another up and coming talent at this event, Annie Cox in the 11yr age group.

In the Boys Open 200m Breaststroke Aleksander Forysiak was back on form but this time had to settle for 3<sup>rd</sup> place only beaten by older opposition, once again another young Stratford Shark 9yr old Owen Lawton took on this demanding event.

The Girls Open 200m Backstroke saw a tight result, Ellen Price (13) taking a well earned 2<sup>nd</sup> with Alice Quinn (12) just 0.75 of a second behind in 4<sup>th</sup>, Andrew Morley (13) and Jacob Humphreys (15) finished 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> with James Wimbury (13) 8<sup>th</sup> in the equivalent Boys event.

Lucy Tame (14) competing in her first event of the competition took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the 14/over 50m Fly, the first medal of a good weekend for Lucy. More

medals were delivered in the 100m Freestyle by Ailsa Gavan-Mcharg 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 11yrs age group and Alice Quinn 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 12yrs with Alex Garstang 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Boys 13yrs age group.

The Girls Open 400m Freestyle saw a good entry from the Sharks with Lucy Tame (14) claiming a narrow victory and the gold medal, further top 10's saw 13yr olds Lucy Castle and Ellen Price 5<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> with Alice Quinn (12) 9<sup>th</sup>. Other Sharks swimmers taking on the longest event of the weekend were Caroline Furey (12), Seren Mahon (11) and Hannah Bexson (10).

In the Girls 10yrs 50m Backstroke, Kathryn Lythgo won the bronze medal with Sophie Wootton also finishing in the top ten. The club also had two of the youngest swimmers competing in this event in the 9yr age group, Kirsty Barnes and Emily Quinn.

Joshua Newman (16) claimed the title in the Boys 15/over 100m Breaststroke with Jacob Humphreys (15) 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the girls event, Eve Morley finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and Kara Malins close behind in 4<sup>th</sup>.

More medals were delivered in the 50m Fly with Aleksander Forysiak taking another gold medal in the 13yr age group. Ailsa Gavan-Mcharg and Lucy Castle both took 3<sup>rd</sup> places in the 11 and 12yr age groups with Ellen Price 4<sup>th</sup> in the 13yr age group.

The second day of competition saw the Sharks get off to another fantastic start in the Girls 50m Breaststroke with 10yr olds Lucy Griffiths and Ysabelle Caswell taking 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place. In the Boys event Robin Hughes took a fantastic gold in the 9yr age group, ably supported by Owen Lawton 3<sup>rd</sup> with Christian Clements delivering yet another medal with 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 11yr olds.

Alice Quinn continued her fantastic form with 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 12yr 50m Backstroke with Sophie Warden 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 13yr age group. In the Boys event, Aleksander Forysiak took another gold medal in the 13yr age group with Andrew Morley 2<sup>nd</sup> and James Wimbury 4<sup>th</sup>.

After winning the 400m Freestyle. Lucy Tame (14) took her second Freestyle title of the weekend in the 14/over 100m Freestyle with Sarah Peacop (15) 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Another young swimmer showing recent impressive form was Ysabelle Caswell 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 10yrs 100m Breaststroke, Lucy Griffiths just a second behind in 4<sup>th</sup> and Charlotte Cox 9<sup>th</sup>.

In the 11yr 100m Fly Ailsa Gavan-Mcharg added a gold medal to the bronze she won in the 50m event with another of the clubs excellent young Fly swimmers, Seren Mahon in 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Aleksander Forysiak was another double medallist in the Fly event, this time having to settle for 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 13yr 100m with clubmate James Wimbury 4<sup>th</sup>.

The final medals of the morning session were gold and silver in the Girls 14/over 50m Free taken by Sarah Peacop (15) and Lucy Tame (14).

It was not long before the first medals of the final session were delivered, Backstroke specialists Andrew Morley and James Wimbury separated by just half a second for 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 13yr 100m Backstroke. The girls were not to be outdone in their equivalent event, Hannah Willis 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 11yr olds and Alice Quinn adding to her impressive tally with gold in the 12yr age group.

Gold and silver medals were won in the Girls 50m Breaststroke, Grace Wright took 1st place in the 14/overs with Annie Cox taking her second Breaststroke medal this time taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 11yr age group.

Between the girls Breaststroke events, the boys took on their longest event of the weekend in the 400m Open Freestyle with 13yr olds Andrew Morley and Matthew Newman both claiming top 10 positions with 6<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>. Other young swimmers taking on this tough event were, Jack Leeson (11), Robin Hughes (9) and Kit Gallagher (10).

The boys delivered yet another excellent double medal collection in the 13yr 50m Breaststroke courtesy of Matthew Newman in 1<sup>st</sup> and James Wimbury 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The final medals of an excellent competition went to the girls with Ysabelle Caswell claiming another gold to add to her collection in the 10yr 50m Free and Grace Wright taking her second gold of the day in the 14/over 100m Fly.