

## **City of Sunderland Short Course Qualifier**

As the name implies this was an event to give the swimmers the opportunity to achieve, where required, the qualifying times for the forthcoming ASANER short course championships in November. The short course championships are for swimmers aged 11 years and above (age 31st Dec. 2016) and as a consequence, a large majority of the swimmers were 11 years and above. However, some of the younger Middlesbrough swimmers were taking part to further their experience at such a competitive event as well as the opportunity to achieve, where required, qualifying times for the N&D championships held at the same venue (February 2017).

The competitive nature of the event was emphasised by swimmers competing from as far afield as Dumfries, Lincoln and Melton Mowbray. Middlesbrough had 44 swimmers competing and what great performances they achieved, 14 gold medals, 22 silver medals and 24 bronze medals together with 145 PBs. It was certainly a weekend to be proud of being a member of the Middlesbrough Swimming Club.

### **Highlights of the weekend.**

Firstly can I say that although your name may not be mentioned below, ALL Middlesbrough swimmers should be extremely proud of their performances. To take part and compete at such a high level throughout the weekend was commendable.

I am certain that all Middlesbrough swimmers together with all their supporters will have been thrilled by their performances. I am also sure that the achievements of Ellie Baister, Oliver Hall and Thomas McDermott merit special mention.

Ellie competed in seven events, had PBs in six of the events winning 2 gold (400m freestyle and 200m backstroke) and 2 bronze (400IM and 200m breaststroke) a great all round performance.

Oliver competed in eight events, had PBs in all of them, winning 2 gold (50m butterfly and 50m breast stroke), 2 silvers (1500m freestyle and 200m butterfly) and 1 bronze (100m IM) again, a great all round performance.

Thomas, although too young to compete in the short course championships in November, excelled, competing in nine events in the eleven year and under age group (he is only ten) won medals in all his

events (4 gold, 3 silver and 2 bronze) and will be a “force to reckon with” next year.

Other gold medallists were Cade Darby (200m backstroke), Chase Darby (200m butterfly), Daniel Andrews (100m butterfly), Evie Dilley (100m backstroke), Liam Bolland (100m breaststroke) and Rebecca Keetley (800m freestyle). Very well done.

As mentioned above, the competition was severe and it is a testament to the Middlesbrough swimmers how they rose to the challenge. To produce 145 PBs between them with some of the swimmers, Jack Cassell, James Wood, Millie Bozbayir, Oliver Hall, Pearl Lightwood, Rachel Bradley and William Morris having PBs in every race they competed, was exceptional.

I am sure that all the supporters, as well as those Middlesbrough swimmers not competing in the short course championships, would want to say to all those members swimming, **WEAR THE CAP PROUDLY AND BELIEVE IN YOURSELVES.**