

Durham City ASC Medley Challenge

This gala was a great opportunity, particularly for the younger swimmers to experience gala conditions. For many of the 9 years age group this was their first gala. Entries are restricted and not accepted from swimmers who have swum faster than a particular "cut off time" for their respective IM (Individual Medley). The times are quite high and as a consequence the younger swimmers, particularly, are not overawed by competitors who could be significantly quicker – a great introduction to swimming at a gala.

In the 9 and 10 year old categories 50m heats of fly, back, breast and free are swum. Points are allotted to each swimmer with respect to their position for each stroke and the top 8 overall points scorers qualify for a 100m IM Final.

In the 11,12,13,14 and 15 years and over competitions 100m heats are swum and the top 8 points scorers in each age category qualify for a 200m IM Final.

Middlesbrough had 12 swimmers competing:

Angie Zhu, Harry Bell, Isaac Buchan and Jessica Scott all nine year olds.

Hannah Redshaw, James Heward, Maximus Potter, Millie Bozbayir, Pearl Lightwood and William Morris all ten year old.

Toma Saha eleven years old and Isabella Montague 12 years old.

AND DIDN'T THEY ALL DO WELL.

In the 9 year old section, Angie, Harry, Isaac and Jessica all qualified for the 100m IM finals with Angie finishing in the silver medal position and Jessica just pipped for third place, two fine swims by the girls. In the boys final Isaac did very well and won the bronze medal with Harry a very creditable sixth position, well done boys.

In the 10 year old section, Hannah, Millie and Pearl qualified for the final with Millie winning gold, Pearl silver and Hannah, like Jessica, just pipped for a clean Middlesbrough sweep. Very well done. In the boys final William had a great race to finish in silver medal position. James and Maximus, for their first gala, did very well in the heats and with the experience gained will definitely improve.

In the 11 year old boys section Toma qualified for the final and did very well to win silver and in a very competitive 12 year old girls section Isabella, with some consistent heat performances qualified for the final.

Overall, the results for Middlesbrough augur very well for the future, with ALL the swimmers doing extremely well.

Lastly, can I apologise for missing two significant events from the last gala, the Sunderland Short Course Qualifier. Congratulations go to two club record breakers, Violet Hearfield and Molly Dorsi, for breaking the 50m breaststroke (Age 10) and 50m freestyle (Age 12) respectively. Very well done.