

N&D Championships – Weekend 1

As the name implies this is the Championships where the best from Northumberland and Durham compete. The event is also the “stepping stone” for qualification to both the ASANER and the British Age Group Championships. To compete at these championships is already proof that you are on the ladder to success and you should all take pride in the feats that you have currently attained and REMEMBER if you have swum to the best of your ability YOU HAVE SUCCEEDED. The competition is based on heat qualifying (top ten) followed by, at the end of the session, a finals section. However, for the 11 year old age group, finals are only in the 50m and 100m events with the 200m and 400m events having heat declared winners.

42 members of the Middlesbrough Swimming Club competed in the first weekend AND WHAT A WEEKEND IT WAS. While watching the events unfold in front of my eyes I was already beginning to think that I would run out of superlatives to describe the performances and as a consequence I have digested a Thesaurus and instead of giving each performance a new superlative the following apply to all the swims, super, wonderful, fantastic, great, marvellous, fabulous, tremendous, excellent, splendid, terrific, superb, brilliant, outstanding and breath taking.

The event started with the 200m freestyle for girls and our 11 year olds got off to a great start with Evie Dilley winning gold, Pearl Lightwood 5th, Violet Hearfield 8th and Hannah Redshaw 16th. In the 14 year age group Rachel Bradley qualified for the final where she won bronze.

Event 2, the boys 100m breaststroke resulted in both Thomas McDermott and Lewis Horner qualifying for the final, in which Thomas, in a new club record, won gold and Lewis was 10th. In the boys 15 year old age group Joseph Micklewright and Cade Darby qualified for the final where they finished 7th and 10TH respectively.

Event 3 the 50m backstroke for girls saw, in the 11 year old age group, Evie and Millie Bozbayir qualify for the final, where they finished 2nd and 3rd respectively, both with club records and in the 12 year old age group Bethan Palfreeman qualified for the final where she finished 9th. In the 14 year old age group Danielle Horner and Rachel Bradley qualified for the final where Danielle was just pipped for the gold and Rachel finished 6th.

Danielle's time (32.38sec.) resulted in a host of, long course, club records, 14yrs, 15yrs, 16yrs and open records – breath taking.

The final event of the morning, the gruelling 1500m for boys, Toma finished 4th (12 year age group), James Woods won silver (13 year age group), Oliver Hall gold (14 year age group), Cade Darby silver (15 year age group and Adam Williams 5th (16 years and over).

Not a bad mornings haul, 3 gold medals, 4 silver medals and 2 bronze medal together with seven club records.

The afternoon started with the boys 200m butterfly and Middlesbrough supporters were not going to be disappointed. In the 11 year age group Thomas won gold (with a new club record) with William Morris a bronze and in the 12 year age group Toma qualified for the final finishing 6th and in the 13 year age group Chase Darby finished 7th in the final with Oliver winning bronze in the 14 year age final. Joseph finished 8th in the 15 year age final with Daniel Andrews winning bronze in the 16 years and over and Adam 10th.

The next event the girls 100m backstroke resulted in Evie, Millie (with a new club record) and Pearl qualifying for the 11 year old final where they won gold, silver and finished 9th respectively. In the 14 year age group Danielle finished 4th in the final.

In the very competitive 50m freestyle for boys (156 entries) Thomas won silver.

In the final event of the first day, 400 IM for girls, Louise Emma Williams finished 8th in the 12 year age group, Rebecca Keetley won bronze, 13 year age group, with Ellie Baister 10th and Emma Bell 14th. Rachel B and Rachel Maguire were 6th and 7th respectively in the 14 year age group.

End of the first day, which had seen every Middlesbrough swimmer “give their all” resulted in a total of 16 medals (5 gold, 5 silver and 6 bronze).

Sunday morning started with the boys 200m freestyle with Thomas winning gold and William and Lewis finishing 8th and 10th respectively. In the 13 year age group James qualified for the final finishing 7th.

The next event was the girls 100m breaststroke and in the 11 year age group Violet, in another club record (1.26.39), won gold with Millie 3rd and Hannah 5th. In the 13 year age group Rebecca K won bronze and

Ellie finished 8th. In the 14 year old age group Sadie Dickinson finished 6th in the final and in the 15 year age group Robyn Dickinson finished 9th.

The penultimate event of the morning was an extremely competitive 50m boys backstroke (159 entries). Thomas, in a long course club record (34.46sec.), won gold. In the 14 year age group final Oliver was 4th and Jack Turnbull 8th.

The final event of the morning was the girls long distant event, the 800m freestyle. In the 13 year age group Ellie won bronze and Rebecca K finished 4th and in the 14 year age group Rachel B won silver.

The morning had produced 3 gold medals, 1 silver medal and 3 bronze medals.

The afternoon started well with Millie winning gold in the 200m butterfly in another club record (2.57.14) and Elisha Rhodes finishing 6th and in the 16 years and over Georgia Stockdale won gold with Lucy Turnbull finishing 9th.

The second event of the afternoon was the men's 100m backstroke. Thomas and Isaac Buchan qualified for the 11 year old final with Thomas winning yet another gold with Isaac finishing 8th (must augur well for next year when he will be 11 years old). In the 12 year age group Toma finished 6th in the final and in the 14 year age group Oliver won bronze and Jack T finished 8th. Cade finished 7th in the 15 year age group final.

Again, another competitive event was the girls 50m freestyle. In the 11 year age group final Evie won bronze with Pearl finishing 5th and in the 12 year age group final Bethan finished 5th (in the heat qualification, Bethan broke the club record (31.16sec.)). In the 13 year age final Emma Bell finished 6th and in the 14 year age group final Rachel B won silver with Molly Dorsi winning bronze. In the 15 and 16years and over finals Robyn finished 8th and Rebekah Worthy 8th.

The final event of the weekend was the 400m boys IM and I am sure there were many tired competitors. In the boys 12 year old age group Toma finished 4th and in the 13 year age group James and Chase finished 6th and 10th respectively. In a very competitive 15 year age group Cade won silver and Joseph finished 7th.

Overall, the weekend had produced 11 gold medals, 8 silver medals and

12 bronze medals, a great result.

As a spectator the performances and determination shown by the 42 members of the Middlesbrough Swimming Club who competed at this first weekend were a credit to themselves and the club. I realise that to be crowned N&D Champion is a great achievement, particularly when you consider that in many of the events there are some 30 swimmers in an age group. However, to have a PB is success in itself, as this confirms your progress and as a consequence I am certain that the Middlesbrough coaches were extremely thrilled that all their swimmers achieved multiple PBs and gave "their all". Keep up the hard work and I am sure you will be successful in 3 weeks time.