

North East Region Age Group Championships (Short Course)

As I have written before, to compete at the regional finals is an achievement in itself, irrespective of where you finish, as it is proof of your swimming capabilities and a tribute to ALL your hard work. The age categories are 11years and under, 12years and 13years. Extremely demanding time qualifications are required and as such the competition is severe between swimmers who are the “cream of the North East”.

Middlesbrough had 15 swimmers competing over the weekend (in swim order), James Woods, Violet Hearfield, Hannah Redshaw, Bethan Palfreeman, Rebecca Keetley, Thomas McDermott, Chase Darby, Millie Bozbayir, Pearl Lightwood, Marissa Grieves, Evie Dilley, William Morris, Louise-Emma Williams, Emma Bell and Toma Saha. Congratulations to ALL of you for qualifying for the event and what an event.

Middlesbrough swimmers won twelve championship events together with nine runner up positions and four 3rds, an outstanding performance from the young swimmers.

Champions – Gold Medal (race order)

Evie, 200m freestyle, 200m backstroke, 100m freestyle and 100m backstroke.

Thomas, 200IM, 200m butterfly, 50m breaststroke, 400IM, 100m butterfly and 400m freestyle.

Violet 200m breaststroke (broke the psychological 3minute barrier).

Pearl 50m freestyle.

Runners-Up – Silver Medal (race order)

James Woods 1500m freestyle.

Evie, 50m backstroke, 400m freestyle and 50m freestyle.

Thomas, 100m breaststroke, 50m butterfly

William Morris, 400IM and 400m freestyle

Millie, 200IM

Bronze Medallists (race order)

Thomas, 200m breaststroke and 50m backstroke

Violet 50m breaststroke

Rebecca 50m breaststroke (in a new club record, 13 year old).

As I wrote at the outset you were all swimming against the best swimmers in the region and as a consequence to be taking part was testament to your abilities. To win a championship was OUTSTANDING as was a podium position. However, it has to be remembered that it was the hard work that you have ALL put in that achieved these position, but, it will require extra hard work to maintain these positions. Remember that in many cases there were 30+ swimmers/ heat vying for the top spot with split seconds between winning and in the pack. KEEP UP THE HARD WORK. Once again, congratulations to all of you for many outstanding personal triumphs and GREAT SWIMMING IN THE FUTURE.

