



By Chris Keane

Emma realises potential at British Championships

Emma Smithurst of Derwentio eXcel Swim Squad once again displayed her exceptional talent at the prestigious British Swimming Championships, which took place in Manchester last week. The 16-year-old Ripley based swimmer put on an impressive display against some of the country's best swimmers, qualifying for selection for the European Junior Championships, which are to take place in Antwerp, Belgium in the summer.

She smashed no less than five county records, swimming in four ladies' Open Final events and one Junior. For a junior swimmer to make so many open finals is an outstanding achievement, regardless of results. She bagged bronze in the 200m Butterfly in time of 2.14.90 (this time would have won the junior category!), 4th place in the 400m Individual Medley (4.52.83), 7th in the 200m event (2.22.07) and 8th 100m Butterfly (1.03.04). She also took 5th place in the Junior 200m Freestyle final in a time of 2.05.75.

David Ellis competing in the mixed disability events also had a very successful championship. Competing in the S13 category for the visually impaired, he took bronze in the 50m Breaststroke (33.55), breaking his own British Record! and 200m Individual Medley (2.30.56). He also achieved 4th place in the 100m Breaststroke (1.15.14), 6th in the 100m freestyle final and 7th in the 50m event.

Oliver Sefton (15) was also back in form in the Butterfly events where she had to compete in a swim off against world championship open water silver medallist, Cassie Pattern to gain a place in the Open Semi-Final. Livvie beat Pattern and achieved a European Junior Championship qualifying time in the process. Unfortunately she narrowly missed this time in the semi-final; only times achieved in finals or semi-finals are considered. She also went on to compete in the Open 200m Semi-Final where she achieved a time of 2.19.20.

Eighteen-year-old Joe Keane also achieved a bronze medal in an extremely closely fought final of the Junior Men's 400m Freestyle in a personal best time of 4.00.74. Derwentio team-mate Jamie Broom finished 4th (4.03.54). Keane went on to compete in the Junior Men's 200m Final where he finished 5th. Jamie also finished 6th in the men's open 800m freestyle event

James Lovatt (17) made the semi-finals of the Open 50m and 100m Backstroke. In the 100m event, he achieved a time of 59.03, not quite matching the personal best time of 58.88 that he achieved in the heat. He did however break the county records for both events. Richard Sellars (18) also qualified for the semi-final of the 200m Butterfly in a time of 2.07.27, also breaking the county record in the process.

DERVENTIO eXCEL SWIM SQUAD



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This is the most important domestic event in the British Swimming calendar and to have so many Derbyshire swimmers participating, from what is a relatively small squad, is an outstanding achievement in itself.

Many squad members had their first experience of this level of competition, having achieved the extremely tough qualifying times. These were:

Evie Keane (12) 50m Freestyle & 200m backstroke
Ann Morris (13) 400m Freestyle & Individual Medley
Bethany Moore (13) 100 & 200m backstroke
Ellie Taylor (13) 100m Butterfly
Chris Steeples (14) 100m Breaststroke
Jo Reeks (15) 5000m

John Davey (17) also took part in a time trial in order to participate in the 100m Breaststroke event, unbelievably only missing the time by 1/100th of a second!!

Derventio Head Coach Mark Rose said: "We have had some excellent results at these championships, with Emma, Joe & David making finals and coming away with medals and Livvie, James and Richard making Open Semi-Finals. What was equally pleasing however, is the increasing number of Derventio Swimmers qualifying to compete. These championships are for the very best swimmers in the country, to have 14 Derventio swimmers participating is a fantastic achievement for such a small squad and should not be understated".

Swimmers from all over the country take part in Derventio's 1st ever Open Meet this weekend in Sheffield, where further Derventio successes are anticipated.

Derventio eXcel is a partnership between all Derbyshire Swimming Clubs, Derby City Council, South Derbyshire District Council, North East Derbyshire Council, Amber Valley Borough Council, Chesterfield Borough Council, Derbyshire Amateur Swimming Association, British Swimming, Derbyshire Sport, the University of Derby and Derby College. It is one of a select number of squads that are endorsed and supported by British Swimming.

Swimmers at Derventio eXcel train for up to 27 hours per week, with six sessions starting at 5 30am. They train in a wide range of facilities over the county including: John Port School, Manor College, Middlecroft, Moorways, Queens, Queens Park, Ripley, Eckington & Sharley Park Clay Cross Leisure Centres

For further comment regarding this press release or to discuss any aspect of the Derventio eXcel programme, please contact Mark Rose – Head Coach on: 07956 516618