



By Chris Keane

Derventio Put on Outstanding Show at National Championships

Four years after its inception, Derventio eXcel Swim Squad have once again shown what can be achieved in terms of producing some of the best swimming talent in the country. The Derbyshire based squad can now claim numerous national champions and are without doubt, recognised as one of the best swimming teams' within the UK. The amazing results achieved at this year's National Age Group, Youth & Senior Championships are unprecedented within Derbyshire swimming and are the result of unrelenting hard work and dedication by the squad's swimmers, coaching staff and parents.

Derventio can now boast a number of individual and relay team National Champions.

Individual Champions:

- **Olivia Sefton (15)** – Double Champion in 100 & 200m Butterfly
- **Fiona Donnelly (12)** - Double Champion in 100m Butterfly & 100m Backstroke
- **Emma Smithurst (16)** – 400m Individual Medley
- **Jamie Broom (17)** – 400m Freestyle

Relay Team National Champions:

- **Female 12-13 years 4x100m Freestyle:** Ainsley Cross, Fiona Donnelly, Evie Keane & Ann Morris.
- **Male Open 4x200m Freestyle:** Jamie Broom, Richard Sellars, James Lovatt & Joe Keane.

Other medal winners were:

Silver:

- **Dave Ellis** - 100m Butterfly, Backstroke & Breastroke (which included 2 British disability records (S13 class) in the backstroke & Breastroke events)
- **Fiona Donnelly** – 400m Individual Medley & 200m Backstroke
- **Ann Morris**- 400m Freestyle
- **Emma Smithurst** – 200m Butterfly
- **Joe Keane** – 400m Freestyle



Bronze:

- **Fiona Donnelly:** 200m Butterfly, 200M Individual Medley
- **Ann Morris:** 400m Individual Medley
- **Emma Smithurst:** 100m Butterfly
- **Dave Ellis:** 50m Freestyle
- **Female 12-13 4x200m Freestyle Relay Team** (Beth Moore, Ann Morris, Fiona Donnelly & Evie Keane)
- **Female 12-13 4x100m Individual Medley Relay Team** (Evie Keane, Ella Graham, Fiona Donnelly & Ann Morris)
- **Male Open 4 x100m Freestyle Relay Team** (Jamie Broom, Richard Sellers, James Lovatt & Joe Keane)

Other Finalists were:

- **Kevin Wallbank** – 100 & 200m Backstroke, 100, 200 & 400m Freestyle, 200m IM & 100m Butterfly
- **Catherine Williams** – 100 & 200m Backstroke
- **Evie Keane** – 100m Backstroke
- **Ella Graham** – 200m Breastroke
- **Olivia Sefton** – Senior final in 100m Butterfly
- **Emma Smithurst** – Senior Final in 400 & 200m Individual Medley, 100 & 200m Butterfly &, Age group final 200m Backstroke.
- **Jamie Broom** – 100m Freestyle & 200m Butterfly
- **Dave Ellis** – 100m Freestyle, 200m Individual Medley & 400m Freestyle.
- **Laura Jamison** – 100m Backstroke
- **Female Relay Finalists** – Rebecca Harrison, Katy Lockey, Grace Morris, Beth Moore, Ainsley Cross, Sasha Wisdish & Ellie Taylor.
- **Male Relay Finalists** – John Davey, James Lovatt, Jamie Broom, Richard Sellers, Robert Guest, Alex Thirkell, James Shand, Scott Tovell-Coleman & Matthew Smithurst.

Only the very best swimmers in the country achieve the times to enable them to compete at these championships. To make a national final is an outstanding achievement in itself. To medal – let alone become national champion; is beyond the wildest dreams of 99% of the country's competitive swimmers and cannot be understated. The results above are phenomenal for such a small squad. Twenty-six members of the squad have swum in a national final, which means that nearly 50% of Derventio swimmers are national finalists. It also means that, on current membership, 18% of the swimmers in the squad are National Champions (including relay winners).

DERVENTIO eXCEL SWIM SQUAD



Head Coach Mark Rose said: "We Now can proudly boast being the best-prepared age & youth team in Britain! Now it's time to be the best in the world!!"

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