



By Chris Keane

## **Derventio Impress at British Championships**

Swimmers from elite Derbyshire Swim Squad, Derventio eXcel, were in excellent form at the recent British Championships and Olympic Trials held at Ponds Forge, Sheffield. They were competing alongside the very best swimmers in the country, including Derbyshire's Ross Davenport and Dean Millwain and once again, proved themselves to be one of the most promising squads in the UK.

Dave Ellis, competing in the Para Olympic trials, came within half a second of the qualification time in the 200m Individual Medley, bagging a new British record in the process. He will have another opportunity next weekend when the final round of the trials take place. Dave is hoping to be the third Derbyshire swimmer to travel to Beijing in the summer.

Sixteen-year-old Livvie Sefton was also in top form, qualifying for the GB European Junior Championship team in both the 100m & 200m butterfly events. Livvie will travel to Serbia in August with the squad.

Ripley based swimmer, Emma Smithurst (17) also did a great job, swimming under pressure and making finals in a range of events. She took bronze in the 400m Individual Medley, getting very close to the Olympic qualifying time. Her performance has qualified her for the GB Olympic 'B' Team which will travel to Canada in August, which should also result in her selection for the Commonwealth Youth games in India in October.

Twelve-year-old Fiona Donnelly, was once again in blistering form, competing in eight events, producing numerous personal best times and was the best performer in her age group. She is too young for international selection at the moment, but is an exceptional talent, whose progress augurs extremely well for the 2012 Olympics.

Other swimmers also had some excellent swims:

- Ann Morris (14) came close to qualifying for the European Junior Championships, making the 'B' Final in the 400 individual medley
- Laura Jamieson (16), Evie Keane (13), Kane Haggert (15), Chris Steeples (15) and Richard Sellers (19) produced some very pleasing results, achieving personal best and National Championship qualifying times.

Head Coach, Mark Rose said: "Some of our swimmers are now progressing to international level, with Dave, Livvie & Emma being firmly in the spotlights. Also the talent emerging from the younger members of the squad is very promising for the years ahead. We expect Dave to go to the Olympics this year and I am in no doubt that there will be more than one Derventio swimmer at the 2012 games".

# DERVENTIO eXCEL SWIM SQUAD



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***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***