

Development Squad, Februarys Newsletter

Welcome to Februarys newsletter. It has been another very good month for training and for competitions. We have put in some solid training and raced at the Cannock Open Meet and took part in time trials at Winsford. Sessions are proving popular and it is clear for me to see that the discipline amongst the squad is very good. It is pleasing to see how good it is, at some very young ages. Discipline, dedication, commitment are some of the most important traits to have to succeed in swimming and I believe they are also important in future life for our swimmers.

North Midlands Championships 2013

Unfortunately due to bad weather the second weekend at the NM was postponed. It has now been confirmed that this has now been cancelled. I am personally very disappointed because this was the goal for many of our swimmers. It was also a chance for our swimmers to use the Club Champs times and turn them into licensed times, which is now not possible for half of their events. However the dates have been confirmed for next year, so I hope we will have even more swimmers attending the NM champs. My goal is to have 100% of the swimmers in Comp B+, Gold, silver and bronze to get QTs and to attend (age permitting).

Cannock Open Meet Top Club

In mid Feb we took a sizeable group of 30 swimmers to Cannock Open Meet. It proved to be a very successful meet for Winsford SC. We managed to win top club at the meet against some very strong clubs from the midlands. It was very pleasing to see so many young swimmers attending who are in their first few years of competing. I thought all our young swimmers performed exceptionally well with a huge number of PBs, medals and marble trophies. This meet just shows what our young swimmers can do. Every swimmer can take away valuable experience of racing and that is what is so very important because these experiences will help our swimmers to become even better in the future. Well done to all who participated from Comp B + and Dev Squad the atmosphere amongst the group on pool side was first class.

Time Trials

In late Feb we had the Winsford SC time trials at the lifestyle centre. The time trials were so we could give the younger swimmers experience of racing and experience of a how a meet operates. It also gives the coaches a chance to see how our swimmers are developing and gives us an idea on who will be moving up in the future. It was fantastic to see so many swimmers entering the time trial. It was also very pleasing to see swimmers racing lots of events and getting on with the challenge of racing with very little rest. It just shows that we have some very tough swimmers in the squad. I thought every swimmer raced with great determination and drive. I like swimmers with guts and we have lots of them in the Dev Squad! Well Done to all participants but I have to say a special well done to Martha Townend, Kai Knowles, Nathan Byrne and Reece Hughes who competed in the 200 Fly! We will be looking at doing Time Trials 3-4 times a season so we can provide our swimmers with racing and for us to see the development of our group. Please try and attend all time trials in the future. Also a massive Thank you to Michael Secker who organised the event, I thought it was a huge success.

Meets coming up which are suitable for Dev Squad:

2nd, 3rd, 8th, 16th & 17th March, Cheshire Championships, Macclesfield. **Entries closed.**

13th April Wirral Metro L3 Meet, Birkenhead. Unfortunately this meet was full before we got our entries in, please accept my apologies as this meet was proving very popular amongst our squad to gain licensed times. However I managed to find another meet a month late which again is ideal for all swimmers in the Dev Squad, **Wigan**.

27th & 28th April Satellites Open Meet L2, Macclesfield. Every swimmer with QTs. **Closing date 13th March.**

4th & 5th May Wrexham Spring Meet, Wrexham Waterworld. Every swimmer with QTs. **Closing Date 13th March.**

19th May Wigan Starter Meet. Please enter as soon as possible. Meets like this are very popular and this meet will fill up fast! This is an ideal chance for all swimmers to compete over any stroke or distance. It is the best chance to gain licensed times for future meets. Please take this opportunity and enter this meet and enter as many races as possible. It would be great to see the majority of the Dev Squad racing at this meet. The facility in Wigan is fantastic! **Closing date 27th March.**

25th & 26th May Swim Conwy Open Meet. Every swimmer with QTs. **Closing date TBC.**

There is a lot of meets coming up so please if you have any queries come and speak to me. The more meets you can do the better, so we can gain valuable experience. All meets are very important and have a purpose so please try to take part. Cannock was fantastic because we had huge numbers there. I am sure we will have great numbers for the meets listed above. Good Luck to all swimmers for the month of March and keep up the good work in training. Thanks for your support, Dan Goodwin.