



Pike's perfect County Championships conclusion

The final weekend of the 2018 ASA Somerset County championships ended with golden boy Harvey Pike winning the final event. After four weekends of tough competition, the Championships came to a close this weekend with Harvey bagging an incredible hat-trick of golds, in the 50m butterfly, 50m freestyle and 200m medley, as well as a bronze in the 100m breaststroke. The girls began the weekend, with the 200m medley first up, and another star turn from Ruby Varney led to a fine bronze medal to add to her impressive haul. There were also PBs for Isabel Waller, Lois Engelbrecht, Annabel Drudge, Kayla Pike and Jess Hudson. Eve Chagger-Goode, Chloe Bott, Jess Edwards, Yasmin Mahey, Chloe Manser, Georgia Hill, Imogen Rogers and Joanna Black all featured in this test of all-round prowess. For the boys, there were PBs for Alfie Hawkins, Xander Hallett, Cole Rostron and a final spot for Fin Hunter-Clarke. Charlie Cook, Albert Tidball-Zapp and Sean Robinson also competed well in the multi-stroke event.

In the 100m breaststroke, Fin came a creditable 5th in his final, with Will Carr 7th in his age group. Just missing the final Ethan Difford was 9th and top 10 spots went to Xander and Charlie C. There were good swims from Charlie Hill, Jake Fouracres and Matt Chillingworth.

Tegan Lawton, Annabel, Chloe B, Emma White and Jess Hudson all posted PBs in the 100m backstroke, with top 10 finishes for Imogen and Ruby. Lois, Kaylee Nisbet, Kayla, Jess E, Xia Hooper-Ainsworth and Joanna also swam well. There were plenty of PBs for the lads in the 50m fly, Xander, James Carr, Cole, Jake and Albert all setting new bests. Fin, Will Bale, Ethan, Charlie H, Toby Webster, Charlie C, Robert White, Sam Bonds, Rob Hall and Matt all put in strong swims.

In a highly competitive 50m breaststroke, Georgia Hill bagged a fine bronze in the Open class, which was also matched by Annabel with a fine PB. 5th place went to Tegan just ahead of Eve in 7th as both girls made their age final. Finalists Katie Waters took 7th in a new PB, with Cora Lanham also 7th in her age group. Ruby made the top 10, and Isabel got a new PB. Niamh Robinson pipped team mate Lily Williams, and Yasmin, Chloe M, Jess E and Ellie Strudwick all went well.

In the medley relays it was 'oh so close' for Street as Toby, Ethan, Albert and Charlie C (15-U), Sam, Herbie Hallett, Rob W and Liam Williams (Open) and Erica Varney, Cora, Kayla and Yasmin (15-U) all came 4th.

On the final day the freestyle relays went the same way, with the 15-U teams boys (Charlie C, Albert, Toby and Jake) and girls (Cora, Jess H, Erica and Yasmin) and the ladies Open team (Georgia, Imogen, Joanna and Jess E) also all coming 4th and in the mens Open team (Rob W, Sean, Sam and Herbie) came 5th.

In the final event of the tournament, the 50m freestyle, Eve came 4th with a new PB and just missed out on a medal, a remarkable effort having entered as 11th seed. There were PBs for Martha MacPherson, Sophie Bott, Tegan, Ella Stadden, Ruby, Chloe B, Kayla and Katie. Isabel, Lois, Emma, Kaylee, Lily, Amy Lawton, Jess E, Jess H, Chloe M, Jess Gerrard, Joanna, Georgia, Imogen and Sophie Chillingworth all swam well. For the boys, Harvey led the way with PB and Gold, whilst in his last competitive swim for Street Liam Williams took the open class bronze. Ethan Difford also made the final with a new PB, and there were more PBs for Fin, Xander, James C, Fabian Edgar, Cole, Albert, a big PB from Sam Bonds, who just missed the final, and a PB equalling swim for Sean. Alfie, Will B, Jake, Toby, Charlie C, Will C, Rob W and Bobby Clark also competed well in the sprint event.

A club spokesperson said, "It has been a long competition, over the last four weekends, and the swimmers have performed superbly over all the events and conducted themselves with good humour, sportsmanship and great team spirit. Streets' boys finished 3rd in the team stakes, we've had some superb individual swimmers and our relays have been extremely unlucky with so many finishing in 4th. The swimmers can have a well-earned rest over half term before the Spring open meet season picks up in a couple of weeks. I'd also like to pass on our gratitude to all the parent volunteers, not only from our Club, but across the County, who give up their time to officiate, volunteer, support and encourage the swimmers and enable them to compete in these Championships. Finally, both Matthew Chillingworth and Liam Williams swam competitively for the last time, and we wish them both well in the future, they have both been stalwarts for the Club and will be greatly missed."

Photos: Ruby with her medal haul, and Liam signing off in style, bronze medal in the 50m freestyle.