

Witney All Round County Championships Report 2011

Long Distance Events

The championships started off with the boys 1500m and girls 800m FC where we had 4 swimmers qualifying to compete. Harry Blackford swam in the 1500m achieving 3rd place in the 15yrs age group. For the girls Abigail Patrick (4th 11 years), Skye Tanner and Ellie Nutt all competed in the 800m FC all achieving personal best times. The following weekend 14 swimmers competed in the 400m IM and FC. Liam Hatton, Luke Wilby, Harry Hall and Sam Bark all achieved top 8 placing's in the 400m FC, all with personal best times. For the 400m IM Liam and Sam again achieved top 8 placing's along with Rupert Walker, Callum Jones and Guy Walker. For the girls Lauren Leese, Chloe Morris, Imogen Pitson, Abigail Patrick, Skye Tanner, Yolanda Speare competed in the 400m IM, with Lauren and Yolanda both winning their age groups. For 400m FC Abigail Patrick, Imogen Pitson, Ellie Nutt and Skye Tanner competed, with Abigail achieving top 8 place. Out of the 23 long distance Witney swims, 20 were personal best times.

Main Championships - Weekend 1

Saturday morning started off with the girls 100m Breaststroke and 50m Butterfly, and boys 100m Backstroke and 50m Frontcrawl. In the 10 yrs age group Lauren Leese came 3rd in the heat declared 100m Brs. After many personal best times 12 swimmers qualified for 16 finals. In the heat declared events Aimee Felstead, Lauren Leese, Imogen Pitson and Yolanda Speare achieved top 8th places in the 100m IM, Dan Harkin, Nathan Harkin, Liam Hatton, Luke Wilby top 8 in 200m IM and Abigail Patrick top 8 in 200m FC. Dan achieved a club record in the 200m IM beating his previous record and Abigail also achieved a club record in the 11 years 200m Frontcrawl by 2 seconds! Congratulations to Bailey Hatton who competed in the County Championships for the first time. At the end of the morning session the Junior Witney A (Nathan, Adam, Harry H and Callum) and B (Sam, Jack, Finn and Harry B) teams competed in the 4 x 100m FC relay coming a respectable 4th and 6th place.

The finals session gave an exciting evening of races with plenty of swimmers representing Witney. Imogen Pitson won Witney's first victory of the main championships winning the girls 11 years 100m Brs and Anneliese Whiteley shortly followed with a 3rd place in the 17 yrs and over age group. In the boys 100m Backstroke Harry Hall, Dan Harkin, Nathan Harkin and Callum McLean all achieved top 8 placing's. Aimee Felstead got Witney's second victory of the night in the girls 14 years 50m Butterfly, while Lauren Leese and Yolanda Speare both achieved 3rd place – Lauren's first County final! Imogen Pitson and Abigail Patrick both achieved top 8 placing's in same event in 11 years age group. For the boys 50m Frontcrawl finals both Nathan Harkin and Callum McLean achieved 2nd place, while Tom Mclean, Luke Wilby and Harry Hall all came 7th in their age group finals – Luke's first ever County Final! The Junior boys 4 x 50m Medley Relay teams and girls 4 x 50m FC relay teams finished off the evening with some exciting races. With the boys teams both the A (Callum, Adam, Nathan and Harry H) and B (Sam, Jake K, Jack and Harry B) competed, with the A team finding a place of the podium in 3rd place and the B team 8th. In the girls team Witney A (Heidi, Ellen, Ottilie and Aimee) came 6th and Witney B (Ellie, Megan, Skye and Daisy) came 14th. For those who stayed to the bitter end would have seen Dan Harkin competing in the Boys Medley skins event that he qualified for after his overall top 8 placing in the 200m IM. The first stroke drawn was 50m FC which Dan did a storming swim in actually achieving personal best time! The second draw was FC again in which didn't have quite enough left to stay in. Well done Dan for representing Witney in a tough event.

Sunday morning gave us boys 100m Fly and 50m Breaststroke, and girls 100m FC and 50m Back, plus more relay's but with the senior swimmers. James Bark, Sam Bark, Nathan Harkin and Callum McLean all competed in the 100m Fly and achieved final spots. For the girls 100m FC both Abigail Patrick and Imogen Pitson qualified for finals in the evening. 13 Boys competed in the 50m Brs with 10 of which achieving final placing's (Mike Adair, Graham Cable, Adam Colling, Marc Colling, Matt Floyd, Dan Harkin, Nathan Harkin, Liam Hatton, Elliot Jozwin and Jack Kendall). Bailey Hatton came 3rd in the heat declared 9 yrs 50m Brs event. For the girls 50m Back Yolanda Speare was the only swimmer who qualified for a final, with personal best swims achieved by the other girls. Congratulations to Rhiannon Saunders who swam in her first County Championship and achieved a personal best time. The senior Witney A (Tom, Graham, Dan H and Nathan) and B (Dan P, Harry H, Adam and James) teams both competed in the 4 x 100m FC relays, with the A team just being piped to 4th place and Witney B coming 8th.

The afternoon session gave a near clean sweep on personal best times for those who competed. Yolanda Speare came 3rd in the 17 years 200m Back and Bailey Hatton also came 3rd but in the 9 years 200m Brs. Rhiannon Saunders, Dan Harkin, Liam Hatton, Callum Jones, Jack Kendall all came in top 8 for their 200m age group events.

The evening session again brought Witney swimmers more finals and personal best times. Nathan Harkin received 2nd place in the boys 16yrs 100m Butterfly with personal best times for Sam Bark, James Bark as well as Nathan. Imogen Pitson and Abigail Patrick came 6th and 7th in girls 11 yrs 100m FC both with PB's. In the boys 50m Brs Witney swimmers were well represented in finals, with 2 finals having 3 Witney swimmers competing in. Nathan Harkin got his second 2nd of the evening and Adam Colling came 3rd both in 16 years age group. Yolanda Speare came 3rd in the girls 17yrs 50m Back with a PB. The senior relay teams finished off the first weekend with the girls (Aimee, Anneliese, Heidi and Yolanda) 4 x 50 FC relay coming 7th and the boys 4 x 50m Medley Relay come 5th and 6th with A (Dan H, Graham, Nathan and Tom) and B (Callum, Mike, James and Dan P) teams. This evening was also a memorable night for those spectators as Alex Murphy of Didcot SC broke the British Junior Record for 50m Breaststroke in an amazing achievement of 28.96!!!

Weekend 1 overall achievements:

- 1st Place – Aimee Flestead (14 yrs 50m Fly)
Imogen Pitson (11 yrs 100m Brs)
- 2nd Place – Nathan Harkin (16yrs 100m Fly, 50m Brs, 50m F/C) + Junior Championship
Callum McLean (15yrs 50m F/C)
- 3rd Place – Yolanda Speare (17+O 200m Bk, 50m Bk, 50m Fly)
Bailey Hatton (9yrs 200m Brs)
Adam Colling (16yrs 50m Brs)
Anneliese Whiteley (17+O 100m Brs)
Lauren Leese (10yrs 50m Fly)

Top 8 placing's:

Rhiannon Saunders, Liam Hatton, Jack Kendall, Dan Harkin, Callum McLean, Sam Bark, James Bark, Imogen Pitson, Abigail Patrick, Marc Colling, Elliot Jozwin, Graham Cable, Mike Adair, Lauren Leese, Aimee Felstead, Yolanda Speare, Luke Wilby, Nathan Harkin, Harry Hall, Tom McLean

Main Championships - Weekend 2

Everyone arrived on Saturday morning again raring to go, maybe just a bit tired! The first event of the morning the boys 100m Breastroke gave the club a good start with all 6 boys qualifying for finals (Graham Cable, Adam Colling, Dan Harkin, Nathan Harkin, Elliot Jozwin and Jack Kendall). Yolanda Speare was the only girl competing in the 100m Back and achieved a final. Again the boys showed their strength in the 50m Fly with 8 of them making finals (James Bark, Adam Colling, Nathan Harkin, Liam Hatton, Ben Kinahan, Callum McLean, Tom McLean and Guy Walker). All the senior boys broke the 30 sec mark and the younger boys all achieved personal best times. Lauren Leese, Abigail Patrick, Imogen Pitson and Yolanda Speare all qualified for the girls 50m FC final. Well done to Aimee Felstead for breaking the 30 second mark for the first time not in a relay. The heat declared boys 100m IM gave Nathan Harkin his first victory in the 16yrs age group, while Adam Colling, Harry Hall, Dan Harkin and Callum McLean all achieved top 8 placing's. The boys junior 4 x 100m Medley relay closed the morning session with Witney A (Callum, Adam, Nathan and Harry H) coming 4th and Witney B (Jack, Elliot, Sam and Harry B) 8th.

The afternoon session saw the HDW girls 200m IM and boys 200m FC. Yolanda Speare achieved a 2nd place in the 17 yrs age group and Lauren Leese achieved a top 8 place. For the boys it was a clean sweep in achieving personal best times with Harry Hall, Dan Harkin, Nathan Harkin and Tom McLean all achieving top 8 placing's. Well done to Nathan and Dan for breaking the 2 minute mark for the first time!

The finals sessions brought the boys 100m Brs where both Graham and Nathan achieved 3rd places in their age groups. Yolanda held her 2nd place in the girls 100m Back with a new personal best time. The boys 16 years 50m Fly gave Nathan his second 1st of the day and Championships, and Callum a 3rd place. Ben Kinahan swam in his first ever County final and came 7th with a PB. In the girls 50m FC Imogen Pitson came 3rd with a PB. The Junior girls 4 x 50m Medley and boys 4 x 50m FC Relay teams finished off the evening with some exciting races. In the girls team Witney A (Heidi, Ellen, Otilie and Aimee) came 7th and Witney B (Larissa, Megan, Skye and Daisy) came 15th. With the boys teams the A (Callum, Adam, Nathan and Harry H) found another place of the podium in 2nd place and B (Sam, Elliot, Jack and Harry B) team 8th again.

Sunday morning saw the start of the last day of the Championships, and most were happy to have the end in sight of a very long and tiring (but successful) couple of weekends! Aimee Felstead started the morning off by qualifying for the girls 14 years 100m Fly final. In the boys 100m FC heats there was a near clear sweep in all boys breaking the 1 min mark – Sam and Jack were very unlucky going 1.00.04 and 1.00.03! Harry Hall, Dan Harkin, Nathan Harkin and Tom Mclean all qualified for finals. Cathy Naus swam her first County Championships in the 50m Brs, alongside to Lauren Leese, Ellie Nutt, Megan Sulley and Imogen Pitson who all qualified for finals in the same event. In the boys 50m Back Dan Harkin, Nathan Harkin, Liam Hatton, Callum McLean and Luke Wilby all qualified for finals. Well done to Dan and Callum who both broke the 30 second mark for the first time not in a relay. The senior boys closed the morning session with the 4 x 100m Medley relay, with the Witney A team (Dan H, Graham, James and Tom) achieving 3rd place podium place and the Witney B team (Callum, Adam, Nathan and Dan P) coming a very respectable 5th place.

The afternoon session had a clean sweep of personal best times for all Witney swimmers. In the boys 200m Back Sam Bark, Liam Hatton and Luke Wilby all top 8 places. Jack Shalyer swam in his first County Championships event – well done. All 5 of the girls achieved top 8 places (Ellie Nutt, Ellen Pitson) in the 200m Brs with congratulations to Ellen Pitson for also swimming in her first County Championships. Lauren Leese and Cathy Naus received 3rd place medals and Imogen Pitson received her second 1st of the championships.

The final session of the Championships..... Aimee Felstead came 5th in the 100m Fly with a personal best time. Nathan Harking came 2nd place in the boys 100m FC final with Nathan, Tom McLean and Dan Harkin all going under the 55 second mark. Imogen Pitson final got her Breastroke set of medals in winning the 50m Brs, giving her a clean sweep plus a new club record– well done Imogen! Ellie Nutt also came 3rd in the 50m Brs. In the boys 50m Back Nathan Harkin came 3rd and all 5 boys achieved personal best times, swimming faster than their heat times. The last set of relays were the senior boys 4 x 50m FC relay were the A (Graham, Nathan, Dan H and Tom) and B (James, Adam, Dan P and Callum) teams were a very close 5th and 6th place. The last race of the evening and the senior girls team (Me, Heidi, Aimee and Ellen) and although was a very good swim they got D/Q'd.

Weekend 2 overall achievements:

- 1st Place – Nathan Harkin (16 yrs 50m Fly, 100m IM) + Junior Championship
Imogen Pitson (11 yrs 50m and 200m Breast)
- 2nd Place – Nathan Harkin (100m FC)
Yolanda Spear (17yrs + 100m Back, 200m IM)
- 3rd Place – Graham Cable (17yrs + 100m Breast)
Nathan Harkin (16 yrs 100m Breast, 50m Back)
Callum Mclean (15 yrs 50m Fly)
Imogen Pitson (11yrs 50m FC)
Ellie Nutt (12 yrs 50m Breast)
Lauren Leese (10 yrs 200m Breast)
Cathy Naus (9yrs 200m Breast)

And I think that is everything and everyone! Overall the Witney swimmers, parents and coaches should be very proud of how the Witney team swam and displayed themselves over the whole Championships. Well done to all swimmers, there were lot's of PB's, medals and fantastic races. You all behaved very well on poolside and supported each other through the highs and lows. A special thank you to the swimmers (and parents who brought them), who only attended the Championships to compete in relay races. Your efforts were much appreciated. My second thanks is to all the Witney officials who helped in the running of the Championships – without your help the Championships would not have been able to take place. Thanks to the coaching team that helped out on poolside making sure swimmers were present, sent up to be marshalled and that we didn't lose any one! Especially to Elaine to come on both Saturday's to support the team even though she had no swimmers competing. The new 'cardless' system worked well and any Witney withdrawals that took place happened smoothly and with enough time, so thanks to those parents and swimmers. I think that is everything for the 2011 Championships, it was always going to be a bit tough one as the first Championship without John and I think all the swimmers did him (and the club) extremely proud and I know he would have been very pleased with the clubs results. On that note I would like to say a personal thank you to all the swimmers, coaches and parents who were very supportive on and off poolside with it being my first County Championships coaching rather than swimming – I did eventually get used to the heat and not jumping in the pool!!!

Well done again and let's look forward to the 2012 Championships!

Chantal Clavaud

P.S I am sorry if I have missed anyone out or made any mistakes, there were a lot of fantastic swims but I think I got everyone!

Random Witney Facts:

- 22 relay swims
- 66 Final swims
- Over 150 personal best times
- 28 top 3 individual medals
- 102 top 8 individual medals
- 3 top 3 relay medals
- 19 top 8 relay places
- Imogen Pitson only Witney swimmer to have clean sweep in winning 50m, 100m and 200m Breaststroke in 11 years age group
- 6th Top Club ranking
- 7th Junior Club ranking
- 3 club records broken (Abigail Patrick, Imogen Pitson and Dan Harkin)
- 2 Top 8 Bagcat placing (Liam and Imogen)
- 7 Age Group Regional times achieved (Imogen, Ellie, Lauren and Abigail)
- 34 Youth Regional Times achieved (Yolanda, Aimee, Dan H, Nathan, Tom, Callum, James, Adam, Graham, Mike)
- First time County Championships swims: Rhiannon Saunders, Cathy Naus, Bailey Hatton, Jack Shayler and Ellen Pitson