Barnet Copthall’s impressive and state of the art new leisure facility played host on 17 November to the Middlesex County Championship qualifying gala. In these events, budding Rebecca Adlingtons and Adam Peatys race in an attempt to secure qualifying times for the Middlesex County Championships. Some 225 swimmers from 7 different swimming clubs competed in a huge number of races which saw competition begin at approximately 9am and not finish until 7.30 in the evening. There were some fabulous swims by many of the competitors and all of the competitors should be proud of themselves for the quality of racing on show.

Six clubs, in addition to Barnet Copthall Swimming Club, were represented at the gala. These were Barking & Dagenham, Borough of Harrow, Camden Swiss Cottage, Sea-Byrd, Hounslow Jets and London Borough of Hounslow.

Many Barnet Copthall swimmers achieved personal bests and many medals were awarded to the home swimmers. In particular, four gold medals were won by Malaika Onobrauche, Zac Baughan Withington, Toluwani Adelaje and Ellie Chadwick. In addition there was some excellent swims from some of the more junior members of the Barnet Copthall swimming squads including Freya Longhurst, Amar Selmani and Layla Fakhredin. Rhys Gormley (Barnet’s head coach) indicated that he was very happy with the quality of performances on show right the way through the many Barnet Copthall swim squads who were in competition.

The performances of the Barnet Copthall squad cemented their place as one of if not the pre-eminent club in the London region. The swimming club is always on the lookout for new talent and for people who want to take advantage of the excellent, international level coaching available. Anyone interested should contact Head Coach, Rhys Gormley at Rhys.gormley@gll.org.