

Berkhamsted SC
Weekend 2 – Herts County Championships 2022
The Venue Borehamwood

The second weekend of Herts County Champs was capped off by Amy Pemberton gaining the club's first Open medal of the series.

In the 100m Free she qualified 4th fastest for the final with a time of 1:00.03, she swam a different race pattern in the final itself and although a fraction slower (1:00.16) she came away with the silver medal to add to her haul.

Earlier, in the heats, Caitie Walters knocked a second off her best to post 1:07.71, Josie Reid knocked in a 1:07.82 from Lane 1 whilst alongside her in Lane 2 Kate Hopper showed her new found strength taking 2nd in the heat with over a 1 second pb to post 1:04.08 (8th 15 years) just faster than team mate Tamsin Moren, 1:04.71.

In the 200m Back, Josie Reid shaved her pb down to 2:44.64 with a consistent swim and Tamsin Moren took over two and half seconds from her best, attacking the race from the off to come away with 2:39.24 and bronze in the 17 years age group.

The evening session just had the 50m fly and the club had 8 swimmers down to swim but, sadly Lara Coster had to pull out after the warm up, suffering from an injury incurred in a football match earlier in the day. Seren Diehl smashed her way to 2nd in her heat with good underwater skills and touched in 35.15, pb. Caitie Walters clocked 35.40 after an inordinately long wait for her heat to be sent off. Nell Coster took 9th 14 years in 34.74, just misjudging her finish to add an extra stroke. Tamsin Moren made yet another improvement to go 33.44 having led the heat at 25m. Two lanes inside her in the heat, Kate Hopper astonished everybody, not least herself, to finish with the heat win and lower her time to 33.02 with a super final 25m to come home 8th 15 years. Lydia Wisely returned to competition with 34.59 before Josie Reid claimed her first medal of the meet. In the last heat of the night, she claimed 6th from Lane 1, 31.68 and came away happy with the bronze medal in the 15 years category.

Sunday morning saw Caitie Walters start by continuing her good weekend of Fly swims dropping her best to 3:03.93 with a lovely, even paced swim.

Kate Hopper was a fraction off her best in the 50 Breast, 38.54 but showing how consistent she has become and then Tamsin Moren was also slightly (0.09 seconds) away from equalling her own best with 37.20 but it was more than enough to take the 17 years Gold.

Fergus Reid and Eric Batt took on the 50m Back posting 30.97, pb and 32.49 respectively.

In the 100 Individual Medley, Counties first timer Jemma McEwen was delighted to chop nearly 5 seconds from her best time, lowering it to 1:34.64 and 4th in her age. Not to be outdone Seren Diehl went more than 6 seconds faster than her previous best to finish with 1:22.69. Mia Maslen-Wollington recorded 1:24.80 before Kate Hopper was, again, just outside the 15 years medals with a 5th place time in 1:14.27, pb. Josie Reid touched home in 1:15.55 and Tamsin Moren picked up another age group silver with 1:13.62. Yet again Amy Pemberton showed her class clocking a 6 second best since her return qualifying for the final in 2nd spot with 1:08.72. In the final itself, she claimed a further Open Silver to add to her free from Saturday going faster still to go 1:08.36.

For the Men, Fergus Reid led his heat after the Fly and came home in 4th with 1:10.17.

This just left the 200m Breast for the Club's women.

Mai Maslen-Wollington finished her weekend with 3:35.43 before, once again in adjacent lanes Kate Hopper took on Tamsin Moren with the older swimmer just having strength to come out on top in a new pb of 2:56.74 but dragging Kate Hopper to a sub-3-minute swim for the first time, closing with 2:59.60. Tamsin's time was quick enough to provide her and the Club's first Age Group Gold of the meet so far with one week left to run.

Geoff Wood
Coach
Berkhamsted SC
16th January 2022