

**Berkhamsted Swimming Club**  
**Hoddesdon Novice Meet**

The first Open meet of the new 2017/18 season proved a fertile hunting ground for Berkhamsted SC's less experienced swimmers.

The Annual Hoddesdon Novice Gala was hosted at Harlow Leisure Zone and Berkhamsted had 31 swimmers swimming 155 times over the 2 sessions on Saturday.

The first session began with a bang when Victoria Ayles smashed out a huge 17 second pb in the 200 IM to win her heat by over half a length and claim the 14 years silver medal with 3:09.18. This swim heralded a fantastic meet for the youngster who won every heat she swam and setting pbs in most. She posted 35.81 in her 50 free & took bronze in her 100 Back knocking 12 seconds off her old time, followed this with a 3 second best of 47.55 for another bronze in the 50 Breast and finished her busy session with 1:18.96 for 5<sup>th</sup> in the 100 Free.

Club Captain, Charlotte Watson showed a very welcome return to form after 2 years marred by injury. Across the 2 sessions she took 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 200 IM & 50 Free along with Gold in the 100 Back in her first County qualifying time for the season in 1:10.60. Alongside this she pocketed silver in the 50 breast, 4<sup>th</sup> in the 100 Free, bronze in the 100 breast and two further golds in the 50 Fly & 50back with a County Consideration time.

Christina Soulsby began with silver in the first event, the 200 IM improving 2 seconds to 3:20.57 and backed it up with 2<sup>nd</sup> in heat, gold in the 10 years 50 Breast (47.64 pb), silver in the 100 Breast (1:42.15 pb) and bronze in both the 50 Back & 100 IM.

The boys also started fast with Ed Horsley winning gold in his first Open swim with 3:19.75 (2<sup>nd</sup> in heat) for the 11 years 200m Free. Michael Joyce claimed gold in the 13 years 200 Free slicing almost 50 seconds from his old best (2:45.79) to win his heat almost lapping the rest of the field. There were also bronze medals for George Thorne and Sam Newman in the 200 Free. Thorne improved over 4 seconds winning his heat in impressive fashion and his 2:19.66 gave him another County Consideration time. Eric Batt improved 16 seconds, as did Alex Kalverboer whilst 15 year old Harrison Bullock began with a 4 second pb, coming down to 2:18.52.

In the 50 Free twins Georgie and Lauren Farnham took 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> in the same heat and then Tilly Anderton dropped 2 seconds to post 42.61. There was a pb too for Emma Hockney and Alexandra Farnham took 2<sup>nd</sup> in her heat with a new best time of 35.47 in her first Open Meet as well.

In the 50 Fly, newcomers to the club, brothers Omar & Yazeed Swarray-Deen both began with pbs and then Ed Horsley lowered his time to 53.44. Tom Stoker went pb. Then, with 5 swimmers in the same heat, Callum Bullock came out fastest with a heat win in 31.64, brother, Harrison, took 3<sup>rd</sup> slicing nearly a second off with 32.63, George Thorne claimed 4<sup>th</sup> (silver in the 14 years age) ahead of Dan Chennells, 5<sup>th</sup> (improving every time out at the moment) with 33.75 for 3<sup>rd</sup> in age and Peter Lever. Harry Thorne and Sam Newman battled it out in the final heat with Newman taking the honours in a close race, spotting his finish well to win both heat and overall gold in a new pb of 28.50 (County Consideration time). Thorne was close to his best on his return after back injury with 30.76.

The girls' 100 back saw a 4 second best for Amelia Dewar (1:38.72). Lydia Wisely won her heat (3<sup>rd</sup> overall) in 1:28.96 (pb) as well.

Then, in the Boys' 100m breast Batt improved 8 seconds (2:05.98) Tom Stoker set new figures of 1:51.00 before Joyce won his second gold of the day in 1:38.73 (pb) and Kalverboer posted another CCT in 1:39.92. George Thorne set a second pb on the day with 1:26.87 to claim 14 years gold as well as he develops across all strokes.

Georgie Farnham won her heat of the 50 Breast with a new pb, 1:02.64, Dewar improved to 55.79 after a delayed start to her race. Anderton dropped 2 seconds as well to go 53.82 for 4<sup>th</sup> overall and Soulsby took a well-deserved gold lowering her pb to 47.64.

In the 50m Back Yazeed Swarray-Deen improved his pb to 46.38 and Omar went 41.70, also pb. Tom Stoker took 2<sup>nd</sup> in his heat as he set a new best of 44.06 followed by pb for Kalverboer (41.06) & Chennells (34.02 – bronze) and another bronze for Callum Bullock.

The 100m Free was another success for Anderton who dropped 8 seconds to post 1:46.58.

The final event of the first session was the Boys 100 IM and both Swarray-Deen brothers set new pbs with Omar winning his heat in 1:31.10. Horsley just missed out on a medal with 4<sup>th</sup> in a 5 second improvement. Stoker was within 3/100ths of his best before Chennells stormed his heat, winning in 1:14.09 to improve 7 seconds and take bronze 14 year old. Harrison Bullock with another heat win and Newman (2nd in the Open age group) also set new best times.

Evie Light had a heavy programme after a cross country victory in the morning, clocking up 4 swims in the first session

Into the evening and Anderton took the opportunity to complete her first ever 200m free in 3:55.85. Wisely cruised round ahead of her better events later in the evening but Briers claimed a CCT and the gold with a super 3<sup>rd</sup> place in her heat from slowest seeded lane hitting the pads in 2:42.19 and pick up gold in the 11 years age. Izzy Sansom managed her swim well to take 3<sup>rd</sup> in her Age Group as well. Andrew Corner and Rishy Morjaria were another pair of newcomers and started their campaign with the 50 Free, Corner clocking 43.41, improving by 3 seconds on his previous short course best. Kalverboer continued to busy just slipping inside his pb with 36.06. Chennells picked up another medal with silver and a pb of 29.05 for his 50m free winning the in house competition heat over George Thorne, also pb and Harrison Bullock, the Callum Bullock, Harry Thorne, Peter Lever & Jack Filer lined up alongside each other in the next heat. Filer came out on top with 27.13 and Thorne exactly equalled his best of 27.93.

Georgie Farnham took an 11 second best in her 50 Fly followed by Abbie Briers dropping to 40.49 and Alex Farnham went sub 40 for the first time with 39.57. Then Wisely and Watson both took Gold in their respective categories.

Morjaria completed the 100 back with some good turns for the first time, 1:56.40, Ben Filer in the next heat lowered his pb by 3 seconds to 1:44.06. Kalverboer accumulated a further CCT in 1:27.80 and then Lever took silver in the Open section with Callum Bullock taking Gold.

Anderton was under the 2 minute mark in her first 100 Breast for 4<sup>th</sup> overall and Alex Farnham won her heat with a perfect finish to take silver in 1:42.91 before Soulsby also picked up silver with 1:42.45. Corner and Morjaria were head to head in the 50 Breast with Corner just coming out on top as both set pb times. Batt went under the minute with 58.40, pb. Also in the 50 Breast, Chennells destroyed the opposition by improving 5 seconds in his 50 to go 39.80 and Kalverboer made yet another CCT with 46.05. George Thorne's 39.31 was good enough for silver and brother Harry took bronze in the Open category.

Despite all the racing the youngsters were still pushing out personal bests even at the end of the night. Hockney dropped a second in her 50 Back, 45.40. There were 2 more bronze medals for Briers and Soulsby, 42.45, pb.

The penultimate event was the boys' 100 Free with Corner going pb and one heat later Batt chopped off 8 seconds with Chennells posting 1:05.74, pb. In the same heat Harrison Bullock set a pb a fraction behind George Thorne's pb of 1:04.07 with Jack Filer leading from the gun and getting into the 61s with 1:01.76 to take the heat win.

The 100 IM was another first swim for Anderton and she showed no fear with 1:58.13, Lauren and Georgie Farnham posted legal times and then sister Alex clocked yet another heat win, blitzing the field with 1:32.23 to chop a huge 21 seconds from her best in 1:32.23. Briers just missed a medal as she improved 3 seconds to 1:30.79, Soulsby took bronze and Wisely ended the meet with pb and silver of 1:28.55.

It was the end of a super day for the club's youngsters and they look forward to the rest of the season eagerly. Geoff Wood, Head Coach, Berkhamsted SC, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017