

Early form on show at Middlesex Winter Development Meet

The season opener for many of our swimmers this September and October was Middlesex Winter Development meet, held over a series of weekends at Southbury Road, Enfield. At this point in the programme the focus was on skills, technique and race practice, however there were also some solid early season Personal Best (PB) times as an added bonus.

Special mentions go firstly to those swimmers who swam at least one event faster than this year's qualifying time limits – they are Amelia Dowell (11), Ella McEver (11), Ella Podurgiel (11), Helena Utermann (11), Brandon Biss (11), Antoine Divet (11), Leo He (11), Annelise O'Connell (12), Alex Chen (12), William Chen (12), Theo Pliner (12), Nathalie Lustig (13) and Shaun Abbas (15). Well done to you all.

Theo Pliner (12) achieved PBs across the board to take six golds – in the 400m freestyle, 100m and 200m IM, 100m and 200m butterfly and 100m breaststroke. Theo also finished in silver medal position in the 50m and 100m freestyle adding a bronze medal in the 200m freestyle.

The Chen family had a successful meet. William (12) won four golds in the 50m butterfly, 100 IM, 200m backstroke and 200m breaststroke, as well as a silver in the 200m freestyle. Brother Alex (12) claimed double gold in the 200m and 1500m freestyle, also sprinting to silver in the 50m butterfly and 100m IM. Older sister Belle (14) took gold in the 50m butterfly alongside silvers in the 200m freestyle and 200m breaststroke.

Ennis Barnett (15) raced to four gold medals, winning the 200m and 1500m freestyle, 100m IM and 50m backstroke. He also added a bronze in the 100m butterfly.

Tucker Moran swam a busy programme to amass a tally of 8 medals. He took golds in the 100m freestyle, 100m butterfly and 400m IM, silvers in the 200m freestyle, 1500m freestyle and 200m backstroke and bronzes in the 50m freestyle and 50m butterfly.

Shaun Abbas (15) won a clean sweep in the backstroke events clinching gold in the 50m, 100m and 200m events, also adding silvers in the 50m and 100m butterfly, 100m freestyle and 100m IM. Younger sister Sharlize (12) added to the family medal haul with two golds in the 50m butterfly and 200m freestyle, a silver in the 100m IM and bronze in the 400m freestyle.

Amelia Dowell (11) grabbed three gold medals in the 200m IM, 100m breaststroke and 100m butterfly, as did Edie McGrath (11) in the 400m freestyle, 50m butterfly and 200m butterfly. Edie added two bronze medals in the 800m freestyle and 200m IM. Also achieving three first places was Helena Utermann (11) who won all three breaststroke titles in the same age group – the 50m, 100m and 200m.

Antoine Divet (11) claimed two wins in the 50m and 400m freestyle, also collecting two bronze medals. Nick Finch (10) sprinted to gold in the 50m butterfly and 100m IM, adding silver in the 100m butterfly.

Leo He (11) raced to two gold medals in the 100m freestyle and 100m backstroke, also claiming silver in the 200m IM and bronze in the 200m freestyle. Robert Kozmaq (11) showed strong versatility to take gold in the 200m IM, silver in the 100m freestyle and bronze medals in both the 100m butterfly and 100m IM.

Brandon Biss (11) powered through a tough 1500m to take gold, racing to a further gold in the 100m butterfly and a silver in the 50m butterfly. Annelise O'Connell (12) claimed victories in the 100m and 200m breaststroke, adding silver in the 50m freestyle.

Lottie Liddell (13) took a total of five medals home – gold in the 50m freestyle, silvers in the 50m backstroke, 50m butterfly and 100m butterfly and bronze in the 100m breaststroke. Juan Garcia Rodenas (15) claimed four medals – gold in the 50m freestyle, silver in the 100m backstroke and 100m breaststroke and bronze in the 100m freestyle.

Our other gold medal winners were Matthias Alvarado (11), Sian Tilbury (11), Lyelle Kahaner (12), Yasmin Biss (13), Nathalie Lustig (13), Caroline Utermann (13), Ally Dill (14) and Drew Dill (14).

Silver medallists were Maddy Liddell (10), Haziq Kyril (10), Ella McEver (11), Alice Wood (11), Matthias Alvarado (11), Oscar Hogben (11), Scarlet Bureau (12), Yasmin Biss (13), Marlie Rittenhouse (13), Caroline Utermann (13), Dylan Moran (14), Luca Pirie (14) and Enzo Silvestre (14).

Taking bronze medals were Ella Podurgiel (11), Matthias Alvarado (11), Antoine Divet (11), Louis Levison (11), Sian Tilbury (11), Kaya Bayley-Hay (12) and Dylan Moran (14).

Our swimmers made a hugely promising start to the season – keep it up!