

## South East Short Course Championships – Portsmouth

As the third biggest representative from our County at this year's Championships our senior team continues to grow in strength year on year.

The event kicked off with the men's 100 freestyle where Joe, celebrating his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday, was on PB to finish 15<sup>th</sup>. Later in the programme both Charlotte and Emily (swimming for her University Team) were just outside the 1-minute barrier to finish 40<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> respectively

In the 100 breaststroke Libby finished 16<sup>th</sup> in the Juniors whilst Charlotte and Sian were 30<sup>th</sup> and 43<sup>rd</sup> respectively in the Open age group. Joe was also just outside his best time to finish 30<sup>th</sup>

In the 100 fly Dan finished 27<sup>th</sup>, Libby on PB finished 21<sup>st</sup> and Sian was 41<sup>st</sup>

In the 100 backstroke Dan was 8<sup>th</sup>, which would normally have meant a spot in the final but, due to a perceived lack of officials, was restricted to 6 this year. Like Dan, Joe held back somewhat due to the event's proximity to the 100 IM, finished 39<sup>th</sup>. Libby, with another consistently strong swim and only a few one-hundredths outside her PB, finished 21<sup>st</sup>. Charlotte finished 38<sup>th</sup>.

In the 200 IM, Libby had a strong swim to finish 18<sup>th</sup>, Charlotte, still recovering from illness, finished 30<sup>th</sup>. Dan had a good solid swim to finish 10<sup>th</sup> and Joe finished 31<sup>st</sup>

In the 200 breaststroke, Libby was a fraction off her best time to finish 14<sup>th</sup> and Charlotte 22<sup>nd</sup>.

In the 200 backstroke, Lilly made her entrance with another solid performance to improve on her ranking and finish 31<sup>st</sup>.

In the 50 sprints, Tom joined the team. We would also have had Josh and Oli Kenton there too if I hadn't messed up Josh's entry and Oli hadn't had all his other entries rejected!

In the 50 fly Tom was right on PB to finish 30<sup>th</sup>, Joe broke the 27 second barrier for the first time to finish 23<sup>rd</sup> and Dan finished 39<sup>th</sup>. Libby was 33<sup>rd</sup> in the Juniors, Emily 30<sup>th</sup> in the Open, Sian 41<sup>st</sup> and Charlotte 50<sup>th</sup>.

In the 50 backstroke, Libby finished 24<sup>th</sup>, Sian 32<sup>nd</sup> and Charlotte, with a cheeky PB, 42<sup>nd</sup> overall. Dan again would have made the final in 8<sup>th</sup>, Joe was just outside his best to finish 18<sup>th</sup> and Tom, despite a wobbly start, took nearly a second off his best time to break 29 for the first time and finish 39<sup>th</sup>.

In the 50 freestyle, Emily, on the back of a hard period of training with her Surrey Uni. Team, finished 40<sup>th</sup>.

In the 50 breaststroke, Dan was 17<sup>th</sup>, Joe finished 21<sup>st</sup>, Libby 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sian, with her best swim of the weekend was 21<sup>st</sup>

Last but not least came the 100 IM, an event that as a club we are pretty good at! Libby set a PB and new club record to finish 12<sup>th</sup>, Charlotte 26<sup>th</sup> and Sian 33<sup>rd</sup>. In the men's event Joe broke the 60 second barrier to make the final where he improved it again to finish 4<sup>th</sup>. Dan broke the 59 second barrier to snatch bronze -less than two tenths of a second off gold.

Well done to all our swimmers who, once again, represented the club with great honour. Many thanks to Deb for her support poolside and Gary for officiating throughout the weekend (and yes he did get the biggest cheer as referee – nothing changes on that front!).

Andy