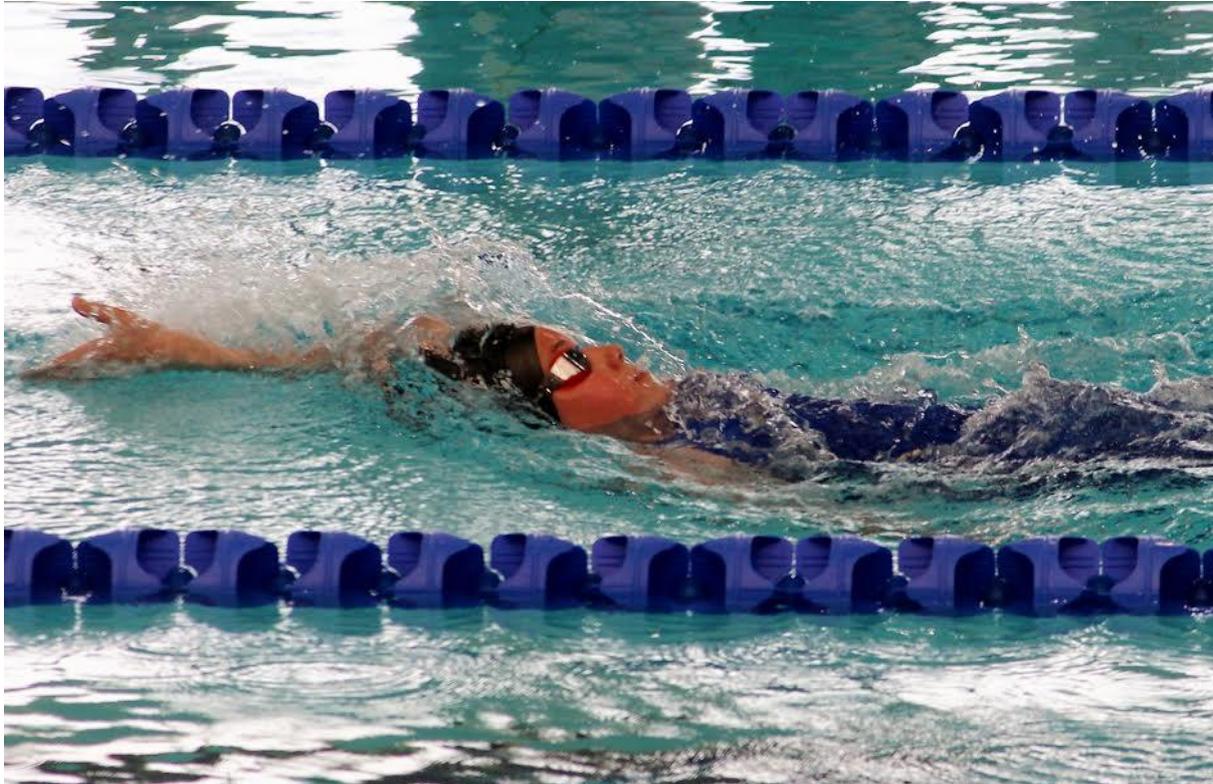


Street Young Guns take on the Regions finest

The South West Regional Age Championships took place over two weekends and Street and District SC sent a group of talented young swimmers to compete. The Championships are a big step up from the County tournament, with much tougher qualifying times required.



Taking on the best in the region, Ruby Varney showcased her great versatility across distances and strokes, gaining PBs in the 50m & 400m Freestyle, 200m medley, 50m & 100m breaststroke, 50m fly, 50m, 100m & 200m backstroke, the latter event providing her best finish, 6th place in the final. Big sister Erica also showed her quality over a range of strokes, with a superb 800m swim leaving her just outside the medals in 5th place. The elder of the Varney sisters also took 13th place in the 400m free, then posting quick times in the 200m medley and 200m backstroke.

Not to be outdone, Maisie Banwell once again showed she is a force to be reckoned with, competing across the backstroke and medley events and getting two 7th place finishes in the 100m fly & 200m fly, posting PBs in each final, and just missed out on a hat-trick of finals, finishing in 11th in the 50m fly.

Fast improving Jessica Hudson also took on the 400m freestyle and not only posted a fine PB but also bagged a superb 9th place in a high-quality line up. Just behind her in the 100m free was Jessica Edwards (11th), who also swam a PB in the 200m freestyle.

Also in the girls team was a fine battle between club mates Katie Waters and Yasmin Mahey in the 50m breaststroke, with Waters just edging it this time. Other regional debutants were Tegan Lawton (100m breast & 50m and 100m fly), Annabel Drudge (100m & 200m breast) and Kayla Pike (50m back). Lawton in particular showing her potential as she was one of the youngest participants in the championships.

The boys were led by Jake Fouracres, who swam a great PB in the 400m free, and took on the 50m,100m, 200m free and 50m fly in a busy schedule. Ethan Difford also swam well, again showing his range of strokes by competing in the 200m medley, 50m breast, 200m back and a great PB in the 100m fly. Also in the 200m medley was team mate Toby Webster who also swam a fine race in the 200m back to get a PB on his regional debut.

Showing the clubs prowess in the breaststroke, three more boys competed in the 50m event, with Charlie Hill, William Carr and James White posting strong swims. Hill also swam the 100m breaststroke and was just off his PB. Charlie Cook took on the lung busting 1500m freestyle and just missed breaking the 19 minute barrier in a fine swim.

A club spokesperson said, "I'd like to congratulate these young swimmers on making the Regional finals and a few of the squad were unlucky not to pick up medals here. This is a great level to reach at this young age and bodes well not only for them individually but also for the future of the Club."