

BANBRIDGE SWIMMERS EXCEL AT IRISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Banbridge swimmers headed for Dublin for the annual Irish Open swimming championships, this is the most important meet of the season so far as it is also used as trials for the selection of junior and senior teams travelling to various European and World competitions over the summer. The seven Banbridge swimmers who met the tight qualifying times included: William Pinkerton (100m and 200m Breast stroke), Kate Allenby (100m Butterfly and 200m Individual medley), Ruby McNiff (200m Breaststroke and 800m Freestyle) and in addition Jack Bingham, Rachel Blemmings and Jodie McMullen all qualified for the 200m Breast stroke event. However only Maeve Cleland and Julia Knox travelled to Dublin's National Aquatic Centre to compete at this four day event.

The opening morning saw both girls compete in the woman's 200m butterfly, Maeve swam a five second pb 2:35.92 to book her place in the youth final, Julia qualified in 6th place for the A final in a time of 2:25.83. In the evening Julia managed to better her morning swim with a time of 2:22.70, Maeve too was able to better her morning swim and was placed 2nd in the youth final with a time of 2:33.56. Julia's swim was well inside the consideration time for this summer's European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF) in Gyor, Hungary.

Friday saw Maeve swim 100 front crawl in the heats with a new best time of 1:01.64, just missing out on a place in the youth final. Julia was entered in the 400 individual medley event and swam a five second pb to qualify in 5th place for the A final in a time of 5:04.92. That evening she lowered her time again swimming a 5:01.70, once again she was inside the consideration time for EYOF and this performance also gained her a consideration time for this summer's European Junior Championships in Herzliya, Israel.

On Saturday morning Julia was in the first event 400 front crawl, she swam a three second personal best time of 4:37.04 and qualified in 10th place for the A final. Maeve was entered for the 100m butterfly and once again swam a best ever time 1:09.71 to qualify for the evening youth final. In the 400m FC A final Julia swam another best ever time of 4:31.36 which was also inside the consideration time for EYOF, she was placed 4th overall. Maeve managed another best time in the evening final and finished 7th in the youth final with a new best time of 1:08.93.

The final day saw Julia entered in two events, the 200 individual medley and the 200 breaststroke. The first event of the day was 200 IM, Julia swam a time of 2:24.81 a new best time and another consideration time for EYOF. This swim saw her well placed for the evening A Final. Her last heat swim of the meet was 200 Breaststroke, and she managed to swim 2:46.53 a new best time which qualified her for the youth final in the evening. After a short rest period the final session got underway with the 200 IM, Julia managed 4th place in the A Final with a new best time of 2:24.54, in her last swim in the 200 breaststroke youth final she finished 3rd in a time of 2:46.59 just 6 hundredths of a second outside her morning swim.

Julia finished the meet with four EYOF consideration times and a consideration time for the European Junior Championships, she now awaits for the outcome of the Irish Team selection process. Coach, David Wilson was delighted with both swimmers performance at this senior event. He added we continue to develop swimmers from a very young age and hope to be attending these events for years to come. We will be running trials for new members on Sunday 7th May at 9am. For further details of the upcoming trials check out Banbridge ASC facebook page, BASC website or contact [Club Secretary](#).



BANBRIDGE
AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB

EST 1968

TFK CONTAINERS
www.tfkcontainers.com Tel - 028 3835 0022

GVH Gifford Van Hire Ltd
TRUCK & VAN RENTALS www.gvhire.com

Swim Ireland Clubmark FORWARD

Club of the Year Swim Ireland 2015

Swim Ulster Club of the Year 2015-2016