



### BANBRIDGE AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB

### ULSTER AGE GROUP CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018

This weekend saw the chance for the 11-14 age group swimmers compete in Bangor Aurora, the Youth and Senior Championships were held earlier in May, so this weekend was all about the younger swimmers. Following the outstanding successes achieved at the Youth and Senior Championship by the Banbridge, the younger swimmers were just as keen to achieve personal bests (PB), win medals and more importantly achieve some more qualification times for the major Swim Ireland Division 1 and 2 competitions in the summer.

From the Banbridge Club 18 swimmers competed in the 2-day event which ran on Saturday 2nd June and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Swimming kicked off early on Saturday morning with the Male 200IM, swimmers were Finlay Wright, Matthew Comiskey, Bailey Breen and Carter Bell. Each of the boys swam well and made the finals in their age groups with Bailey Breen picking up a bronze medal.

Next to compete was Ellie Bingham in the girls 200M Backstroke. Ellie swam well in the prelims taking 3 seconds of her entry time and made the finals, where she came 4<sup>th</sup> overall.

Niall McGeown, Matthew Comiskey, Lawson Morrow, Bailey Breen and Ronan Quinn all competed in the 200M Breaststroke. Niall, Matthew, Lawson and Ronan all took time of their entry times and made finals, with Niall McGeown finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> picking up a silver medal.

Jodie McMullen, Rachel Blemmings and Katie McFarlane swam the girls 100M Breaststroke, each made the finals and Jodie picking up silver medal in the 13-year-old age group. Katie also took silver in the 11-year-old age group, Rachel swam well taking 4<sup>th</sup> overall.

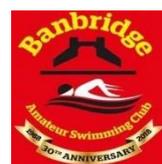
The swimming continued for the boys - Finlay Wright, Matthew McKee, Daniel Crowe and Carter Bell in the 100M backstroke, each of them PB in the prelims and all the finals.

Rachel Blemmings and Ellie Bingham were in the water again swimming the girls heat declared 400M freestyle. Overall Rachel finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place, and Ellie picked up her first medal of the weekend coming 3<sup>rd</sup> in a PB time of 4.57.31.

Matthew McKee finished the morning session swimming the fast 50M free, he PB on his entry time and finished 4<sup>th</sup> overall in the finals. This completed the mornings swimming.

Saturday afternoon saw more great swimming, kicking things off in the afternoon session was the boys 400M medley relay. The team included Finlay Wright, Niall McGeown, Matthew McKee and Tom King, the boys swam well finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. The girls 400M medley relay team included Ellie Bingham, Jodie McMullen, Katie MacFarlane and Rachel Blemmings and following on from the boy's success the girls also finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

The session then returned to the individual events, first to compete was Bailey Breen and Pearse Rice swimming the 200M free. Both boys made the 12-year-old finals, where Bailey finished 1<sup>st</sup> and Pearse finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and each swimmer put in great times.





Ellie Bingham and Alana Burns-Atkin then swam the gruelling 200M butterfly where in the finals Ellie came 3<sup>rd</sup> in her age group and Alana finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in her age group, taking an impressive 8 seconds off her entry time.

Matthew McKee, Ronan Quinn, Daniel Crowe, Pearse Rice and Matthew Comiskey were back in the water swimming the 100m butterfly, all of the boys made the finals.

100M girls freestyle swimmers included Jodie McMullen, Ellie Bingham and Katie MacFarlane. They all swam well in the prelims and the finals, with Jodie picking up a silver medal finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

Niall McGeown, Finlay Wright, and Carter Bell swam the 400IM, it's a heat declared swim and over all Niall finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with an 8 second PB and Finlay finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place also making a new PB.

The swimming then returned to the relays; with Ellie Bingham, Jodie McMullen, Matthew McKee and Matthew Comiskey swimming the 400M Mixed Medley relay, this team went on to finish in 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall – adding to the days medal count.

The final swim for Saturday afternoon was the heat declared mixed 800M freestyle. Swimmers included Niall McGeown, Rachel Blemmings, Matthew Comiskey, Tom King, Lawson Morrow, Carter Bell and Pearse Rice. Pearse finished in 1<sup>st</sup> place, Carter and Niall finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in their age groups, and Rachel Blemmings finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the girls aged 14. The other swimmers put in good solid performances overall.

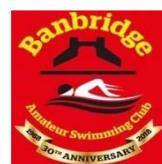
On day 2 of the competition, things kicked off with the girls in the water Ellie Bingham, Katie MacFarlane and Alana Burns-Atkin all swimming the 200IM. Ellie and Katie made the finals with Ellie coming 3<sup>rd</sup> overall, Alana put in a good swim taking a new PB.

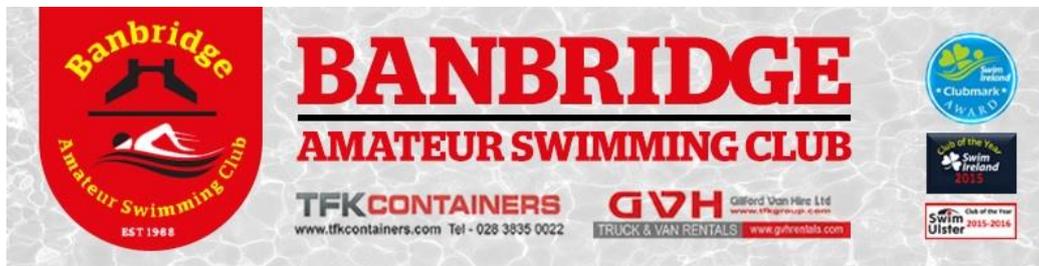
The boys next swim was the 200M Backstroke; swimmers included Matthew McKee, Finlay Wright, Carter Bell, Daniel Crowe, Matthew Comiskey and Lawson Morrow. Matthew McKee, Finlay, Carter and Daniel all made the finals and overall the boys put in good solid performances.

Jodie McMullen and Rachel Blemmings swam the 200M breaststroke next, both swam the prelims well and made the finals with Jodie placing 3<sup>rd</sup> overall.

Returning to the boys in the 100M breaststroke; Niall McGeown, Matthew Comiskey, Bailey Breen, Lawson Morrow and Ronan Quinn competed. All of the boys made the finals, with Niall picking up 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Bailey finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in their age group.

Ellie Bingham, Rachel Blemmings, Jodie McMullen, Katie MacFarlane and Alana Burns-Atkin all swam the 100M backstroke. Alana had a great swim in the prelims achieving a new PB. The rest of the girls made the finals.





Then was another heat declared swim – 400M freestyle. Swimming were Niall McGeown, Finlay Wright, Bailey Breen, Jack Lennon and Carter Bell. Bailey come 1<sup>st</sup> in his group, Niall finished 2<sup>nd</sup> with a 5 second PB, Finlay came 5<sup>th</sup> and he also took 6 second of his enter time. Jack came 4<sup>th</sup> taking a massive 19 seconds of his entry time and Carter finished 8<sup>th</sup> overall.

The final swim for Sunday mornings session was the girls 50M freestyle swimmers included Jodie McMullen and Edie McCusker. Edie gave a good performance in her first age group gala. Jodie made the finals finishing 1<sup>st</sup> overall.

The final session on Sunday afternoon began with the relays were the girls 400M freestyle; the team included Rachel Blemmings, Katie MacFarlane, Ellie Bingham and Jodie McMullen where they swam well coming in 5<sup>th</sup> place overall. The boys 400M freestyle relay included Tom King, Niall McGeown, Finlay Wright and Matthew McKee, following on from their success as a team the day before they swam to 3<sup>rd</sup> place this time.

Jodie McMullen was the only female swimming the 200M freestyle, she made the finals and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> overall, taking an impressive 5 seconds of her entry time.

Ronan Quinn and Pearse Rice competed in the 200M butterfly. Ronan made the finals and he finished 4<sup>th</sup> overall.

Ellie Bingham and Alana Burns-Atkin swam the 100M Butterfly. Alana came 5<sup>th</sup> overall in the finals with a 3 second PB. Ellie swam well also making the finals.

Matthew McKee swam the 100M freestyle well making the finals and finished 6<sup>th</sup> overall and also achieved a new PB.

The last two events on Sunday were both heat declared with no finals; swim the girls 400IM were Rachel Blemmings, Jodie McMullen, Ellie Bingham, Katie MacFarlane, and Alana Burns-Atkin. Katie took 1<sup>st</sup> in the 11-year-old age group, Alana finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 12-year-old age group and took a massive 15 seconds of her entry time.

Niall McGeown and Finlay Wright swam the distance in the 1500M freestyle; Niall finished 2<sup>nd</sup> overall taking 9 seconds off his entry time and Finlay finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> with a great swim and adding to this weekend's medals haul.

This ended a great weekend of swimming by the Banbridge Squad on what was a very warm weekend indeed. In total the Banbridge Swimmers took home 5 gold, 12 silver and 13 bronze medals, an excellent haul of medals. As well as medals there was also plenty of PB's and additional qualification times achieved, so well-done swimmers, thank you to the coaches for their time and dedication to the various squads, the volunteers over the weekend and to the parents for their continued support to these young swimmers. Banbridge End of Season gala takes place in Banbridge on 16<sup>th</sup> June, followed by the Down Minor Gala in Bangor on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Good luck also to the Banbridge Swimmers head to Swim Ireland Division 2 in Limerick in mid-July and Swim Ireland Division 1 Championships in Dublin at the end of July.

