

Banbridge ASC Compete at Swim Ireland McCullagh International

The 2019 McCullagh International Swimming Competition got underway on Friday 22nd February running to Sunday 24th February in Bangor Aurora Leisure Centre. Over 500 Swimmers from 80 clubs across Ireland had qualified to compete across the three days. The local club had 15 swimmers entered. Each and every one of these swimmers swam well achieving Personal Best (PB) times and more important qualification times for Swim Ireland Open Swimming Championships to be held at the end of March and the Summer National Division I and Division II Championships.

The competition was split into two groups; 1) over 14 females and over 15 males and 2) the Age Group swimmers (under 14 females and under 15 males).

First up, the Age Group swimmers. Bailey Breen (13) competed in 2 events, both were impressively well swam. His 400IM was swam in 5.34.32 a great time and he also managed to take an impressive 20 seconds of his entry time. He then went on to swim the gruelling 200M butterfly, he swam well in the heats and managed to make the finals where he finished 8th overall and again he took an impressive 23 seconds of his entry time.

Alana Burns-Atkin (13), she had an outstanding weekend. First she swam the 400IM where she finished 6th overall in a time of 6.05.91. On Saturday she was back in the water to swim the intense 200M butterfly, she swam exceptionally well in the heats to make the final where she finished first overall, taking home gold medal at this high level event, really well done. Finally on Sunday she swam 2 events the 200M free and 200M back in both events she swam well finishing the 200M free in 2.32.35 and 200M back in 2.52.25. What a great weekend for Alana.

Continuing with the younger swimmers, Daniel Crowe (14) competed in one event the 200M back on Saturday, he finished well in a time of 2.37.73, a great solid swim from Daniel.

Then swam Jack Lennon (14). He finished the 400M free in an impressive 4.45.45 a great PB time taking 7 seconds of his entry time, and finished 7th overall. On Saturday he was swimming the freestyle again and this time he PB again finished in 2.14.70 and came 12th overall.

Two of the youngest swimmers to qualify for this weekend were 12 year old Edie McCusker and 12 year old Olivia Miskelly. Edie swam well in the 200m back completing it in 2.56.62.

Last of the age group swimmers was Olivia, who competed in 2 events the 400m free and the 200m free. The 400 free was swam in 5.21.76 – taking an impressive 7 seconds of her entry time and the 200m free in 2.30.13, also a PB time.

First of the older age groups competing was Ellie Bingham (14), competing in 3 events; 400IM, 100M back and 200M back. On Friday in the 400IM was swam well finishing in 5.36.82,

Saturday saw her compete in the 100M back, again she swam well finishing in a time of 1.10.95. Her final swim of the weekend was the 200M back finishing well again in a time of 2.34.32.

Rachel Blemmings (15) swam well also in 4 events, 400IM in 5.44.71, 100M breaststroke in 1.22.43 – a PB time, 200M breaststroke in 2.58.05. She then finished her weekend swimming the distance event 800M free in a time of 10.37.29.

Julia Knox (16) competed in 2 events, the 100M breast and 200IM. In the heats she swam well in the 100M breast, were, she made the 'A' final and finished 6th overall in a fast time of 1.15.21. On Sunday she swam the 200IM, and again she made the 'A' final and this time she finished in the medals taking 3rd Place overall in a great time of 2.21.35. Outstanding swimming from Julia.

Declan McGeown (17) was swimming the two backstroke events. First was the 50M event were he finishing in 32.04 and the 100M event in 1.13.13. Good solid swimming from Declan.

Niall McGeown (15) swam two of the distance events 800M free and the 400IM. He swam the 800 free in 10.21.89 and then on Saturday he swam the 400IM finishing in 5.32.59.

Matthew McKee (15) competed in the gruelling butterfly events. First up was the 200M fly which he swam in 2.33.81, then on Saturday he same the 50M fly in a speedy time of 29.70 seconds. Finally was the 100m fly were he finished in 1.06.32.

Jessica McMullan competed well in the 100m fly were she finishing in 1.09.69. Jodie McMullan (14) swam 4 events. The 100m free in 1.03.75, 100m breast in 1.22.60 and 50M free in 29.38. Her final event was the 200IM were she made the 'B' final finishing 19th overall in a time of 2.32.71.

Final swimmer of the weekend was 16 year old Adam Wilson who swam 200 free, 100m breast, 400IM and 400m free. He swam the 200m free in 2.23.71, 100M breast in 1.17.30. In both the 400IM and 400m free he made the 'B' finals – in the 400IM he finished 20th overall in a time of 4.58.32 and 400 free in 4.31.86 were he finished 18th overall. Great swimming from Adam also.

This completed the completion for Banbridge. Lots of qualification times achieved for both Summer Nationals. Good luck to those swimmers who will be travelling to Dublin – Julia Knox, Ellie Bingham, Rachel Blemmings, Adam Wilson, Niall McGeown, Jodie McMullan, Jessica McMullan – these swimmers have all qualified for the Irish Open Swimming Championships at the end of March, a great achievement. Next qualifying gala takes place 8th to 10th March in Bangor Aurora.