

Rushmoor Royals take honours at County Champs



Picture: Simon Wright / GBswimstars.com

Rushmoor Royals swimmers excelled at the final weekend of the Hampshire County Championships in Portsmouth.

Michael Harris, 16, was on blistering form, achieving two new regional times in 50m and 100m butterfly events.

He came first in the 16-year old freestyle 50m, 100m and 200m events and he won the final of the 200m Backstroke.

Although he won 100m backstroke heats in his age group, he faced Royals teammates Chris Rowley and Ben Artis in the Mens Open Final. Rowley came first, Harris second and Artis 5th in a nail biting race. Artis was awarded gold in the junior category for this swim.

In the 50m backstroke events, Harris was the fastest in the heats for his age group, and came second in the open final.

Teammate Justin Hanson, 15, achieved a regional time and a personal best in the 50m breaststroke heats, and came second in the Junior finals in the same event. He came third in the 15 year olds 200m Breaststroke event.

Five other Royals swimmers achieved regional times in their events: Millie Rice in the Age 14 50m Breaststroke (3rd place); Alice Lim in the Age 14 50m Freestyle (5th); Rowley in the Age 19 & Over 200m Breaststroke (2nd); Adam Cotton in the Age 17/18 100m Butterfly (3rd) and Ellie Walton in the Age 16 100m Backstroke (2nd).

Niamh McDonagh, 15, came first in her age group in the 50m and 200m Freestyle heats. She came 3rd in the junior finals in both events. She came 2nd in 50 and 100m breaststroke junior finals, and in the 200m Individual Medley heats.

In the 16 year old girls category, there was some friendly rivalry between Faline Chapman and Victoria Lim in the freestyle events. Chapman won the heats in the 50m, 100m and 200m events, with Lim coming in second in the 100m and 200m and 3rd in the 50m. Chapman came 3rd in the Women's 100m Open Final.

Victoria Lim did take top honours in the 16 year old 100m Butterfly heats, but was beaten in the Open Final by baby sister Alice, who came 3rd overall. Victoria had her revenge in the 50m Butterfly Final, where she came 3rd to Alice's 5th place.

Rowley came first in the Age 19 & Over 50m Backstroke and freestyle heats, and gained a silver medal in the finals.

Robert Griffiths swam very well in the Mens Open 100m backstroke, and came in second.

With such talented young swimmers, the Royals relay teams dominated.

In the Boys Open 400m Freestyle Relay, the Royals team of Harris, Rowley, Hanson and Tom Litten came first in the heats, but were disappointed to get second place in the finals.

In the Open 400m Medley Relay, Royals team of Harris, Litten, Cotton and Rowley were outstanding, winning heats and final convincingly.

The girls team for the 400m Freestyle Relay – Chapman, McDonagh, plus the Lim sisters – came up tops in both heats and the Final.

The girls' Open 400m Medley Relay team - Walton, McDonagh, Victoria Lim and Chapman, came third overall in the final.

In the Junior section, the girls 200m Medley Relay team of Alice Lim, McDonagh, Jessica Granville and Angharad Eburne came first in Heats and Junior final events

The girls Junior 200m Freestyle Relay team (Alice Lim, Louise Fox, McDonagh and Nicole Ryan) came second in the heats and a frustrating 3rd in the final.

The Boys Junior 200m Freestyle Relay team (Artis, Hanson, William Fuller and Matthew Lee) came 5th in their event.

Head Coach Emma Collings said: "This has been an outstanding championship for all Rushmoor Royals competitors. We have won an amazing number of medals, and have had swimmers in virtually all the finals over the last three weekends. We've had a lot of fun getting here and we hope to repeat these brilliant performances in the Regionals later this year."