

Swim England Hertfordshire had twenty-seven swimmers from eleven clubs travel to the International swimming pool Ponds Forge in Sheffield to compete in the National County Team Championships on Sunday 6th October 2019.

The County Team Champs is always a fun event where swimmers paint their faces, sometimes their bodies, and dress up in fancy dress.

It kicks off the competitive short course season for many of the swimmers taking part and more than 900 swimmers compete from 36 counties with races going on in two pools at the same time.

The County Team Championships is split into two divisions, there were seventeen teams in Division 2 SE Hertfordshire finished in 10th place this year.

Nine swimmers achieved personal best times during the competition. Hatfield's **Michael Klimaszewski's** stole the show with fantastic performances in his individual events. Finishing overall 1st place in both the 100m butterfly in a personal best time of 55.15 and then later winning the 100m freestyle with another personal best time of 52.58.

Bishop's Stortford's **Millie Fields** finished in 2nd place in the her race the 100m freestyle in a time of 58.20 with team mate **Kaia Phillips** finishing in 3rd place in the 100m backstroke in a time of 1:07.74. Stortford's Alexander Catton finished in 12th place in the 100m backstroke just off his pb time (1:00.17).

Hatfield's **Valeria Giron** finished the 100m butterfly in a personal best time of 55.15 in 4th place, and team mate **Joel Pietersen** finished in 5th place in the 100m freestyle in a pb time of 59.50.

Jessica Woodward (Hatfield) swam in two individual events; finishing in 6th place in the 100m freestyle (58.12) and in 7th place in the 100m butterfly in a new personal best time of 1:04.04.

Daniel Hollis (COSTA) finished 6th in the 100m breaststroke finishing in a time of 1:14.56.

The Coaching Team supporting this SE Herts team was **Magda Klosowska** (Head Coach Stevenage SC) and **Josh White** (Head Coach Royston SC). Josh said ***"this was an amazing experience, the swimmers were a pleasure to coach and gave us some fantastic performances."***

Hatfield swimming club had a total of ten swimmers representing them: **Michael Klimaszewski, Valeria Giorn, Joel Pietersen, Jessica Woodward, Lauren Stott** (9th 100m backstroke), **Ela Norton** (9th 100m breaststroke), **Jessica Keogh** (11th 100m backstroke), **Kirsty Fuge** (11th 100m breaststroke and 13th 100m butterfly), **Jason Ho** (15th 100m butterfly), **Isabella Yeabsley** (17th 100m freestyle).

City of St. Alban's (COSTA) swimming club had a total of eight swimmers in the team: **Daniel Hollis**, **Erin O'Meara** who finished 10th in the 100m breaststroke, **Arvin Rodriguez** (11th 100m backstroke) and **Thomas Cadenhead** finished 11th in the 100m freestyle in a pb time of 53.67. **Nathaniel Mapley** finished 14th in the 100m backstroke in a new pb time of 1:10.43. **Hannah Brooke** and **Lily Merrett** competed in the relay teams. **George Williams** stepping in at the very last minute as a reserve swam the breaststroke in the 4 x 50m Medley Relay finishing in 10th place.

Watford swimming club's **Luke Flynn** who finished 15th in the 100m breaststroke. **Devesh Kapoor** (Hemel Hempstead) competed in the 100m butterfly finishing in 11th place in a time of 59.80. **Dominic McCarthy** (Hoddesdon) finished in 14th place in the 100m breaststroke in a time of 1:10.04.

Alex Twyford (Bushey SC); **Callum Cox** (Ware SC); and **Lily Blount** all travelled to the competition to swim in the relay teams.

The final event was very exciting and saw SE Hertfordshire's 6 x 50m freestyle squadron relay finish in 6th place **Isabella Yeabsley** (28.50); **Joel Pietersen** (27.60); **Millie Fields** (27.75); **Michael Klimaszewski** (24.16); **Jessica Woodward** (26.85); **Thomas Cadenhead** (24.80).

Team Managers this year were **Merja Renwick** (Bishop's Stortford SC) and **Janet Warrington** (Hoddesdon SC). Janet said ***"Thank you to everyone who helped put this event on and a special thanks to the coaches, technical officials and volunteers who without whom SE Hertfordshire swimmers would not be able to compete. It is a wonderful opportunity for them and lots of fun."***

Full set of Division 2 results can be found [here](#).

Full set of Division 1 results can be found [here](#)