

That's a wrap for the Suffolk County Swimming Championships 2025, with West Suffolk Swimming Club finishing in sixth place in the table of eleven participating clubs. Weekends three and four brought six new Championship titles (including an incredible four for Myles Turner), two age group gold medals, nine silvers and six bronze medals.

Myles Turner overcame a tight field in the 100m IM to clinch the County Title in electrifying style (and a margin of just 0.05 seconds) – his first title of the Championships. There was stiff competition in all age groups in the open category, with Samuel Chamberlain finishing just out of the medals in fourth place in the 16-year-old age group and the only other top ten finish produced by Felix Brown (ninth place). The female 200m breaststroke was another event with heat declared winners (rather than age group finals); Elizabeth Wright claimed her second title of the Championships in this event, with Kiera Broad taking fifth. India Clement took the bronze medal in the 13 years cohort, with 100m bronze medallist Thea Rees (10/11) pipped into fourth (with teammates Ella Plumb and Thea Pendleton in fifth and sixth respectively).



Myles Turner with two of his four County Championship trophies

Emiel Korstanje was the only WSSC entrant in the 200m butterfly event and, though he finished out of the medals, he was delighted to set a six second improvement relative to his time at November's Club Championships. Saturday's action culminated in finals in the female 100m freestyle and 50m butterfly and the Skins-qualifying open 50m freestyle. India Clement impressed in both female events, claiming a brace of bronze medals. In the open 50m freestyle, Jake Thomas-Mansfield took fourth place and Myles Turner eighth, both therefore qualifying for the headline Skins event on the final day (this year a freestyle-only rather than medley head-to-head race off). WSSC claimed second and third places in the 16 years age group, with Samuel Chamberlain taking the silver and Edison Lorejo the bronze. Congratulations to the other finalists in these events – Poppy Moore, Ella Plumb, Elizabeth Wright (who withdrew) and Theo Fisher.

Sunday saw the female 400m IM and open 200m IM, with both run with winners declared on posted times. Brooke Copping (15 years) and Kiera Broad (17 years and over) were both unlucky to finish in fourth place in their respective age groups. In the 200m IM there were more celebrations for Myles Turner, this time claiming the County Title with a comfortable 2.76 second victory margin.

Edison Lorejo and George Everett managed to retain their heat placings in the 100m butterfly final to win silver and bronze medals respectively. Jake Thomas-Mansfield produced a magnificent swim to drop 1.43 seconds on his heat time and claim the County Title in the open age group in this event.

There were three silver medals for the Club in the female 50m breaststroke – Thea Rees (10/11), India Clement (13) and Elizabeth Wright (17/over), with fellow finalists Ella Plumb (10/11) and Beatrice Sepanski (17/over) out of medal contention. Edison Lorejo added a gold medal to the weekend's silver and bronze in the open 50m backstroke (16 years). Jason Dalope (14) slipped from third place to an unlucky fourth in the 50m backstroke final, with George Everett (16) maintaining his age group fourth place in the final.



Elizabeth Wright, Jake Thomas-Mansfield and Beatrice Sepanski

Myles Turner took his third County Championship title of the weekend on Sunday afternoon, with a dominant performance in the 200m backstroke, winning by over 2.5 seconds. In the same event, Jason Dalope finished a fingertip behind the fourth placed swimmer in his age group to take fifth place. 13-year-old India Clement added to her medal haul with a silver in the 200m freestyle, with Poppy Moore (14) edged into fourth place. Thea Rees' busy weekend gave her an eighth place finish in this event.

The open 100m breaststroke netted the team another four medals; gold for Jason Dalope and bronze for James Everett (both 14), with silver medals for Richard Levell (15) and George Everett (16). Kudos too to Michael Angus, Sebastian Wickes and Jude Brown for qualifying for the finals in their respective age groups. Weekend 3 rounded out with the 100m backstroke final in which India Clement was unable to better her fourth place qualifying position and saw her finish out of medal contention.

The final day of competition saw eight WSSC athletes compete in the female 400m freestyle event, and six in the open event. In the 12 years category, Ethel Norton improved on her entry time by a whopping 26.23 seconds and Vanessa Ceponyte by an impressive 20.77 seconds to finish in fourteenth and fifteenth position respectively. There were no medals in the female event, with Poppy Moore taking laurels for the highest position – fourth place – in her age group and a notable improvement for Erin Stewart, who took nearly five seconds off her entry time.

The open 400m freestyle saw a slew of time improvements including 18.16 seconds for Jude Brown and 21.59 seconds for 11-year-old Oliver Ellard. Myles Turner claimed his fourth County Title in this event with a dominant swim and a winning margin of a second and a half. Enormous congratulations to him and to George Everett for his silver medal in the 16 years age group.

The Suffolk County Championships 2025 culminated on Sunday afternoon with the crowd-pleasing Skins and relay events. The Skins is composed of an exciting series of back-to-back, 50m knockout races at three-minute intervals, this year featuring freestyle only. To add to the excitement, after round one the swimmers don't enjoy a conventional 'take your marks' start but instead get a ten second warning whistle and then the buzzer for the start of the race. There were no WSSC female qualifiers for the 2025 Skins event and only two for the open event – Myles Turner and Jake Thomas-Mansfield, both unfortunately eliminated in the early rounds.

The advantage – both were still fresh for the relay events; the 17/over open team of Myles Turner (backstroke), Samuel Everett (breaststroke), Jake Thomas-Mansfield (butterfly) and Samuel Chamberlain (freestyle) won a wonderful silver in the 4 x 50m medley relay, with the team of Myles Turner, Jake Thomas-Mansfield, Samuel Chamberlain and Archie Chamberlain taking a brilliant bronze in the 4 x 50m freestyle relay. There were also two fantastic bronze medals for the female 10/11 relay teams of Isabelle Vella (backstroke), Thea Rees (breaststroke), Ella Plumb (butterfly) and Lexie Templeman-Bowes (freestyle) in the 4 x 50m medley relay and Lexie Templeman-Bowes, Ella Plumb, Thea Rees and Thea Pendleton in the 4 x 50m freestyle relay.

Congratulations to all WSSC competitors who gained invaluable racing experience and confidence and set some super new times.