

West Suffolk Swimming Club was delighted to host a Masters and Seniors Meet (which doubled as the Suffolk County Masters Championships) at Bury Leisure Centre on 26 February. This event was open to swimmers aged 16 and over, with seniors categories for 17 years and under and 18-24 years, and the official five year age tranches for Masters swimmers starting from 25-29. The event saw a pleasing number of competitors from across Suffolk and the wider East Region, with a number of swimmers travelling from as far afield as Boston, Lincoln, and Havant & Waterlooville.

There was strong representation across all age groups, including two gentlemen swimmers in the 80-84 years age category, with the eldest, 82 year old Michael Read of Hadleigh Swimming Club, competing in an impressive eight events, including the draining 400m freestyle and 200m IM. The accumulated points from this remarkable effort saw Michael crowned as the top male swimmer of meet and Suffolk County Masters Champion. Lucy Ryan, 50, of Team Anglia took the women's Suffolk County Masters trophy with her seven race events of the day. Stowmarket Swimming Club claimed the trophy for the top visiting club.

West Suffolk swimmers claimed a haul of medals in an exciting day of racing. In the 17 years and under category Elizabeth Wright took gold in the 50m freestyle, 200m breaststroke and 100m butterfly and Thomas Allen, who also trains in Haverhill, took home the gold medal for in the 400m freestyle, 100m freestyle and 200m backstroke events and took silver in the 50m backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle races.

In the 18-24 years category, Cerys Williams claimed the gold medals in all four of the events she entered and Ciaran Riches finishes the day with two gold medals and a silver medal from his three races. Phoebe Mousley-Hastin took home medals of all three colours for her three events and Molly Peacock claimed three golds and a silver. Harry Smart took three silver medals and a bronze while Myles Turner made it a clean sweep of gold medals across his four races. Ben Wilkinson, who has recently returned to West Suffolk after swimming at university in the United States took a gold, two silvers and a bronze and Chloe Riches claimed gold in the 50m breaststroke.

In the Masters age groups, Maya Harris (25-29) took a brace of gold and bronze medals as well as a silver and Megan Cassidy taking gold in the 100m IM in the same age class. Andrew Kimpton, who trains at Culford and Haverhill, took two gold medals in the 30-34 age class. There was a strong West Suffolk presence in the 45-49 age class, with Peter Edmunds taking two golds, three silvers and a bronze and John McKenny claiming two golds and a bronze medal. In the women's 45-49 years competition, Helen Samuel took a gold, two silvers and a bronze.



Helen Samuel with her four Suffolk County medals.

Steve Coe and John Bauer represented West Suffolk Swimming Club in the 60-64 years category with Steve claiming three gold medals, a silver and two bronzes whilst John took a trio of silver medals.

Thanks to West Suffolk Swimming Club Masters Co-ordinator Sharon Perry for organising the event as well as all of the volunteers who made the meet such a success.