

Ipswich's Crown Pools hosted the Grand Final of the Suffolk Swimming League on Saturday 29 June, with selected swimmers from eight clubs converging from across the county to compete for the trophies for Suffolk League Winners, Overall Girls Winners and Overall Boys Winners.

The event saw athletes from Deben, Felixstowe, Hadleigh & Sudbury, Leiston, Newmarket, Stowmarket, Team Waveney and West Suffolk swimming clubs compete in 49 individual and team events in 11 and under, 13 and under, 15 and under and open age categories.

Matthew Baker gave a masterclass in the 100m open IM, winning the race by nearly four seconds and, thanks to the judicious use of one of the team's two available Joker cards, doubling the points scored for the win. Samuel Chamberlain took an impressive first place in the 15 and under 50m freestyle race, with Matthew Baker swimming to victory in the same race in the open age group. Matthew also claimed top points in the 50m open backstroke, with Edison Lorejo repeating the win in the 15 and under age class.

The second Joker card was used for Elizabeth Wright's 50m open breaststroke race, a race which saw her win by a margin of nearly two seconds and record a super new pb ahead of the English National Championships. Edison Lorejo claimed victory (and top points) in the 50m butterfly in the 15 and under category with Jake Thomas-Mansfield storming to first place in the open age group event.

Team WSSC also scored top points in two relay events; Myles Turner (backstroke), George Everett (breaststroke), Jake Thomas-Mansfield (butterfly) and Samuel Chamberlain (freestyle) for the boys open age group 4 x 50m medley relay and Myles Turner, Edison Lorejo, Samuel Chamberlain and Matthew Baker for the boys open 4 x 50m freestyle relay.

Congratulations also go to the other swimmers selected, many of whom achieved new pbs as well as scoring vital points for the competition: Becca Brown, India Clement, Brooke Copping, Mia Copping, Charlotte Creasy, Oliver Creasy, Jason Dalope, Abbie Dockerill, Theo Fisher, Richard Levell, Poppy Moore, Molly Peacock, Thea Rees and Isaac Vella.

Head Coach Dan Pilbrow was assisted by Team Manager Caroline Wright in supporting the 21 WSSC swimmers for the finals, with Coach Sharon Perry and Caroline Wright supporting the team in rounds 1 and 2, held in Newmarket on 13 April and Stowmarket on 18 May respectively.

Stowmarket received the Suffolk Swimming League trophy for Overall Winners as well placing top of the points board in the Grand Final. West Suffolk came fourth in the Grand Final, just behind Newmarket and Deben were third overall behind Stowmarket and Newmarket. Deben won the trophy for Overall Girls Winner and Stowmarket were Overall Boys Winners, with WSSC coming fourth and second respectively.

Enormous thanks to Debs Greenhalgh for organising the teams, to the coaches, officials and other volunteers and, of course, to the swimmers who participated in all three rounds and their parents and supporters.



Some of the WSSC swimmers who participated in the Suffolk League Final on 29 June 2024