

There were forty-three West Suffolk swimmers among the two hundred and sixty-five athletes who converged on Abbeycroft Leisure Centre, Newmarket for the Newmarket & District Swimming Club December Open Meet this past weekend (2- 3 December).

Eleven-year-old Sybil Andrews Academy pupil India Clement had yet another outstanding weekend in the pool, being awarded the prize for Top Girl in the competition, with eleven gold medals and two silvers from her thirteen races. Emiel Korstanje (15) also enjoyed a stellar meet, taking home five gold medals and a brace of both silver and bronze, with Haverhill training colleague Elizabeth Wright taking five golds and a silver from her six events. Age group Skins Winners at last month's Club Championships, Samuel Chamberlain took four golds and a silver from his five races and Kiera Broad won top spot on the podium four times over the course of the weekend.



Freya Reed (11) was on impressive form, taking two gold medals, six silvers and one bronze, with brother Jacob (10) close behind with two golds, four silver and one bronze medal. Poppy Moore took two medals of each colour with fellow U14 Skins finalists Jason Dalope (12) winning two golds and two silvers and George Everett (14) taking home two golds, one silver and four bronzes.

Congratulations also go to medal winners Faye Basham (12) (one gold, two silvers and a bronze), Rosie Perry (12) and Charlotte Creasy (15) (one gold, two silvers) and Isabel Moore (15), who won a gold, a silver and four bronze medals.

West Suffolk's youngest competitor at the meet, Thea Pendleton (9) took a thrilling gold medal in the 100m individual medley, a silver in the 50m breaststroke and bronzes in the 50m backstroke and freestyle. Close behind with his tally of one medal of each colour was Harry Vidal-Greenwood (11). Sisters Erin and Ella Stewart (12 and 14 respectively) each took one gold and two bronze medals.

Brooke Copping (13) and Eloise Manton (16) each won three silver places, with Brooke taking two bronzes and Eloise one. Matthew Blackwell (11) returned home with two silver medals; older brother Samuel also took silver for the 200m freestyle, bested on this occasion by teammate Samuel Chamberlain. Zach Broad (14) won silver in the 100m backstroke and bronze in the 50m butterfly and Albie Widdicks (11) matched this tally with silver in the 200m backstroke and bronze in the 200m freestyle.

Abigail McWattie (12) took the silver medal in the 200m breaststroke , with Katy Gilbrook (16) winning five bronze medals and Coco Palfrey (11) and David Lupsa (13) winning one bronze medal apiece.

Head Coach Dan Pilbrow was delighted with the performance of all of the swimmers, with many new personal best times posted in addition to the medals won.

