

Abbeygate Sixth Form College student Matthew Baker was once again flying the flag for West Suffolk Swimming Club, having been invited to compete with the country's fastest twenty-four swimmers in each age category and event at the British Summer Championships at Pond Forge in Sheffield at the end of July.

Matthew, who made the cut in an impressive seven events at the British Nationals, achieved some fabulous performances, posting new personal best times in almost every heat and final he competed in. In both the 100m and 200m freestyle events, Matthew qualified for the 17 years final as the fifth fastest swimmer and in both cases bettered this by finishing fourth, pipped for a medal by the narrowest of fingertip margins. Matthew finished as the seventh fastest 17 year old in the 400m freestyle event, eighth fastest in the 100m butterfly and 200m individual medley and fourteenth fastest in the two super sprint events – the 50m freestyle and butterfly.

Ponds Forge hosted the Swim England National Summer Meet the following weekend (2-6 August), an event for the twenty fastest English swimmers from each age group and event who didn't compete at British Nationals. Competing for West Suffolk were Culfordian Luka Page (17) and Myles Turner (23).

Luka, who has struggled with injury this season, competed in three events; the 50m freestyle and the 50m and 100m butterfly. Luka's best performance came in the 50m butterfly on the final day, setting a new best time and finishing in fifth place following a controversial decision that saw the final being re-swum. Also qualifying for the final in the 50m freestyle, Luka swam right on his best time for a seventh place finish, less than 0.2 seconds from the podium. Just outside his best time in the 100m fly, Luka finished in fourteenth place.

Myles Turner was in Sheffield competing in four events and produced some strong performances, doubling up with finals in three of his four events. The first day of competition saw Myles taking eighth place in the gruelling 400m individual medley final, also achieving eighth place in the 200m IM event. He was able to improve on this with a seventh place in the 18 years and over backstroke in the final day of racing. Myles also took eleventh place in the 200m breaststroke, a little off his best time.

WSSC alumnus (and Luka's elder brother) Tom Page, who trains with the club in the university holidays, swam close to his personal best and finished fifth in the 18 years and over 50m breaststroke final.



Matthew Baker



Luka Page



Myles Turner