

East Region Long Course Swimming Championship

HITCHIN Swimming Club sent its largest senior squad in recent times of 10 swimmers to the 15yrs and Over East Region Swimming Championships held in the University of East Anglia's 50m pool in Norwich.

The squad consisted of Philippa Amos, Alec Burchell, Hannah Currell, Jack Emerson, Alex Evens, Sam Gamble, Harry Jones, Matt McPherson, Martin Russell-Rogers and Rebecca Scott.

This year's event followed the British Olympic trials in Glasgow, and a number of swimmers performing there also competed in this East Region event. The East region attracts the large national clubs of Hatfield, Ipswich and Peterborough, so the competition for top places was extremely high. Just to qualify for this championship is a challenge in itself as most of the events have only 24 places available in each age category of 15yrs, 16yrs and 17yrs and over.

The Hitchin squad achieved 11 personal best times, breaking seven club records in the process.

Hitchin SC had a number of finalists in Harry Jones (16yrs) for 50m fly (5th in 27.75), 100m fly (6th in 1.01.09), 200m fly (6th in 2.18.39), Rebecca Scott (17yrs over) for 200m freestyle (6th in 2.12.56) and 400 freestyle (7th 4.40.28), Hannah Currell (17yrs over) for 200m butterfly (6th 2.40.21) and the top result for the club, a second place for Phillipa Amos (15yrs) in the 50m fly (30.41).

Other notable swims came from Alec Burchell in the 50m fly (11th in 27.35), Sam Gamble 100 back (12th in 1.03.22) and Matt McPherson 50m free (9th in 25.21).

These successes will spur on the 14yrs and under squad when they compete in the equivalent event at Luton Inspire pool on the last bank holiday in May.