

London Area Meet at Luton

Hitchin Swimming Club competed against a number of local clubs and some of the top clubs from the London area in a top-class open meet at the Inspire Pool in Luton.

This event was designed to attract swimmers trying hard to improve their national rankings in the hope that they will be eligible for their own national competitions in the summer. Although final rankings are not taken until the end of May, Hitchin Swimming Club are hopeful that four swimmers will be going to their respective nationals in the summer: Alec Burchell (Scotland), Daniel English and Matthew McPherson (Wales) and Rebecca Scott (Belgium).

At the Luton meet top 10 places were achieved by Adam Evens (14 yrs 400m free), Alec Burchell (16/over 50m fly), Alfie Warnock (13 yrs 50m fly, 100m free), Ashleigh Cooper (12 yrs 50m breast, 200IM, 50/100m free), Daniel English (14 yrs 400m free, 200m fly), Hannah Currell (16/over 200m fly), Harry Jones (16/over 100m fly), Jasmine Brakenbury (11 yrs 50m breast, 100m free), Jayke Smith (15 yrs 200m free), Jude Gould (14 yrs 50/100/200 free), Megan Jones (12 yrs 50m breast), Oliver Owen (14 yrs 50m free) and Sonja Lowdon (14 yrs 50/100/200m breast).

Other Hitchin swimmers - Sonja Lowdon, Daniel English, Oliver Owen, and Alfie Warnock - all competed in this meet while in heavy training for the East of England Regional Championship on the last bank holiday weekend in May, but Sonja still managed personal best times for all her swims, raising hopes for a successful regional championship.

Most improved swimmer of the weekend for Hitchin Swimming Club was Jude Gould, who since his move to the club's top training squad, has seen a rapid improvement in his best times in freestyle events, none more so than a 13-sec improvement in his 200m freestyle time.

The club's next trip is to Biggleswade for their open meet in June.