

## The Hitchin Swimming Club squad in the East of England Regional Swimming Championships

Hitchin Swimming Club had their largest ever representation at the East of England Regional Swimming Championships over the first bank holiday weekend in May.

This event attracts swimmers from Watford to Ipswich, some of whom only two weeks before were competing at British Nationals for places to represent team GB at European and World competitions.

Hitchin's 15-strong team of senior swimmers competed in 36 events over the weekend.

The club's main success came in the butterfly events with Hannah Currell making the 200m finals in a club record of 2.36.24 and Alec Burchell the 50m finals with a personal best of 26.62.

Mark Evens achieved a European Down Syndrome record in the 400m freestyle in a time of 5.35.06.

Alex Evens, Daniel English, Glenn Harrison, Harry Jones, Jamie Brackston, Jessica Turley, Jude Gould, Martin Russell-Rogers, Oliver Owen, Sam Gamble, Sonja Lowdon and Victoria Brakenbury all helped bring the total of personal best times to 15, breaking eight club records on the way.

The swimmers' achievements were down to many hours of training by the coaching team, led by head coach Lee Portingale.

This event is the first in a busy month of May for the club - competing at a Level 1 meet at Luton for Regional/National swimmers, then Cheshunt for the County swimmers and finally the Junior Regional squad will travel to Norwich to compete.