

BRITISH GAS SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Session 1 & 2 Report

Suffolk County Amateur Swimming Association in partnership with British Gas began their annual championships. The long distance events, 800m and 1500m freestyle, were swum over two weekends in February at the long course pool at UEA. The first weekend, 13th of February, had the girls swimming the 800m freestyle. St Felix swimmer, Ellis Jackson, 15 years, nudged out Teamipswich swimmer, Alice Tennant, 16 years, for the overall county champion in a time of 9:10.23. Tennant did take first place for her age band in a time of 9:12.76.

The meet started with the youngest swimmers taking part and many facing a 800m in a long course pool for the first time. Teamipswich swimmer, Lucy Oxbrow, 10 years, started the meet off with a convincing win in her age band with a time of 11:42.79. Sudbury swimmer, Emily Dowding, 11 years, edged out Lowestoft swimmer, Isobelle Berrey for the win in a time of 10:49.32. St Felix swimmers Josephine Blade, 12 years, and Katie Rumsey, 13 years, took wins in their age bands with times of 10:02.23, and 9:54.55, respectively.

Next fifteen boys took part in the 1500m freestyle, a grueling event in the long course pool. Teamipswich Swimmer, Ryan Tomkins, 15 years, proved himself an overall county champion breaking a county junior record in a time of 16:36.18. The evening session started with Teamipswich swimmer, Jake Tyson, 12 years, taking gold in a time of 18.42.62. George Stannard, 13 years, from St Felix won his age band in a time of 17:36.12 while teammate, Jordan Purdy, 14 years, won his age band in a time of 17:06.18. West Suffolk swimmers, Andrew Kimpton, 17 years, swam to gold in his age band with a time of 18:02.28.

The following Saturday, 20th of February, saw the programme reversed for the boys and girls and the boys began the afternoon competing in the 800m freestyle. Teamipswich swimmer, Lewis Coleman, 17 years, took a convincing overall county win in a time of 8:36.23. Calvin Coe, 11 years, from Stowmarket began the gold medal wins by out touching Teamipswich swimmer, Jack Pickering, in a time of 10:55.88. In the next age band of 12 year olds, Teamipswich found the top three places with a win from Philip Dowding Young in a time of 9:34.71. St Felix swimmer George Stannard, 13 years, had another great weekend with a gold, in a time of 9:22.85. Teamipswich swimmers, Charlie Smith, 14 years and Ryan Tomkins, 15 years both took gold in their age bands in times of 9:07.08 and 8:45.23 respectively.

The girls then took to the grueling 1500m. St Felix swimmer, Sophie Chamberlain, 17 years, took the overall win for the county in a time of 17:43.86. St Felix swimmers dominated the 1500m races with four more gold medals. Arna Tolliday, 10 years, in a time of 22.57.78; Josephine Blades, 12 years, in a time of 19:35.12; Tasha Lizak-Naikauskas, 13 years in a time of 19.06.99; and Charlotte Hicks, 14 years, in a time of 17:50.18. Emily Dowding, 11 years, from Sudbury broke the St Felix streak and took her second gold in a time of 20:20.89.

After the first two sessions of the long distance events St Felix leads in team points with 248. Teamipswich follows with 208 and West Suffolk third with 104 points. There are still 13 sessions of swimming over three weekends in March to go with lots of opportunity for fabulous swims!

Team Points:

St Felix	248
Teamipswich	208
West Suffolk	104
LOBSC	71
Deben	28
Felixstowe	28
Stowmarket	19
Sudbury	16
Newmarket	4
Mildenhall	3

