

## David Robinson Suffolk Development Meet 2023

Another brilliant weekend of racing, targeting those swimmers who working towards gaining county level times.

The weekend itself ran very smoothly and I would like to thank the team who supported the weekend, from Sarah, John and Ian to officials and volunteers.

The weekend did come with further ideas to help develop the meet going forwards and one issue that we needed to address for future meets.

One of the reasons we moved the County Developments to October, was so swimmers could use the meet as part of their pathway that season, in their goal of gaining County Championship times.

This year we changed the age to 'age at end of year' and removed the 9-year-old age group. We also used the draft County Championship times for 2024 to set the times for this meet, but unfortunately a slight change needed to be made to the County Championship times, at a point where we couldn't then amend the County Development times to reflect this. This did lead to some upset and frustration for a few swimmers, coaches and parents and I apologise for this.

Going forward, the plan is to use the previous County Championship times, in away that no one will miss out.

For 2024 County Developments, we will use a percentage model from the County Championship 2024 qualifying times. This will be done by setting the 'no faster than time' 5% quicker and the 'no slower than time' 20% slower than the final published County Championship times that year. Meaning that even if a time needed to be changed last minute for the County Championships, no swimmer will miss out.

Also going forwards we are looking to introduce the following:

- 400m freestyle and 400m IM events
- Top club award in the form of a David Robinson trophy.

Hope these 3 changes and additions will bring a more competitive County Developments and offer more to our county swimmers.

Many thanks

Tim