

Golden Girl Harriet

Thirteen young swimmers from Darlington Amateur Swimming Club have been competing in the North-East Regional Championships held over two weekends in the 50m pool at Sunderland Aquatic Centre.

12 year old **Harriet Rogers** is the North-East Champion in her agegroup on 50m Butterfly producing a fantastic swim in the final to break through the 30 second barrier to win in 29.97 seconds. She came agonisingly close to a second gold in the 50m Freestyle event, having led all the way, just to be beaten at the finish into the silver medal position. She also competed in another 5 events, finishing 4th in the final of 100m Freestyle. Harriet is a pupil at Hummersknott School and has been a member of DASC since she was 7. As well as swimming at high level, she is also a County athlete over cross-country having represented Durham in this year's English Schools. Due to the magnitude of Harriet's performances she has qualified to compete in the British Summer Swimming Championships against swimmers up to 20 months older than herself. The British Nationals are only open to the top 24 swimmers in the country in each age-group in each event.

In the Age Group Championships, **Ryan Pepper** finished 7th in the 14 years 50m Freestyle event. **Oliver Carr** and **Ella Boyer** competed at this level for the first time with fast improving Oliver being first reserve for the 13 years 50m Freestyle final. **Molly Mooney, Alice Day and Lucy Mason** also competed in multiple events over the two weekends.

Daniel Boyer, Niamh Sweeney and Jacob Willson each stepped up to the Youth and Senior Championships for the first time, all competing very well against older opposition. Our more experienced older swimmers, **Will Beukenholdt, Richard Murray and Chloe Oliver** were all on excellent form in various sprint events. Will produced four Personal Best times in four different strokes, indicating what a versatile swimmer he is becoming. Richard, who also competes at Regional Level in water polo, sprinted to best ever times on 50m Freestyle and 50m Backstroke. Chloe competed in 50m and 100m on Freestyle, Butterfly and Backstroke lowering her previous best times in five of these events.

DASC Head Coach Glen Fenby said 'I am delighted with the levels attained by all swimmers in the last 9 months and Harriet's medals are the icing on the cake. All of this has been achieved with a lot of hard work and determination and I am confident that there is a lot more to come.'

Club Chairman Les Mooney added 'Under the expert guidance of our Head Coach the Club has had a tremendous season, and our squad's Championship performances, and Harriet in particular, have really put Darlington back on the swimming map.'