

County Championships- Weekend 2

Once again Taunton Swimmers did the county town proud winning over 50 medals as the clubs total medal haul for the year topped 140!

The 100IM was strong for TDS with the young ladies all performing well. Emma Clarke took the gold here in the 10's, medals were also won by Emily Yap in the 9's and Charlotte Rogers in the 11's. The boys struggled with only Jacob Greenow taking a medal with another impressive gold to add to his increasing tally.

The girls 200 Fly has always been a strong event for the club and again the medals were to come. Emily Yap still to get the better of the Weston Super Mare swimmer picked up another second place. Gold went to Georgia Ardren in 10's with Emma Clarke hot on her heels in second and the clean sweep made by Alice Bluffield for the Taunton Club. Niobe Reed picked up a 2nd in the 11's with Kirstie Manning winning the 12's, injury and illness ruled out the Taunton flyers in the 13's. However, it was the irrepressible Libby Mitchell who without question swam the performance of the meet winning her age group by 23 seconds, over a length, and 8 seconds ahead of the very good Stacey Tadd in the championship final. This swim may turn out to be the best performance of a Somerset swimmer all year and narrowly missed the British Junior Record by 1.2 seconds and ranks her 5th in Europe this season. Libby took out the oldest record in our books beating the previous best time, a 25 year old senior record held by an Olympian, the Millfield Coach Helen Goulby, by over 3 seconds. Helen was on hand to hand over the record with kind words to the Taunton starlet.

As ever the relays performed well with the girls open team moving their record from last year on a little bit but also loosing their other record to Millfield.

Taunton go into the last weekend of the championships still trailing Millfield but almost trebling the next highest points score of the other clubs. This is down to the hard work and time spent by our coach's working with our young developing swimmers to make them amongst the best skilled in the county. If you would like to be part of our next generation of swimmers please ring Heather Beale on 01823 352765.